

# COURTLY AIRS AND DANCES

I. Intrada; II. Basse Danse (France); III. Pavane (England);  
IV. Saltarello (Italy); V. Sarabande (Spain); VI. Allemande (Germany)

**RON NELSON**  
(b. 1929)

**FOR CONCERT BAND**

## Instrumentation

1 Full Score	1 B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	1 Euphonium B.C. 1
1 Piccolo	1 E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone	1 Euphonium B.C. 2
2 Flute 1	2 B $\flat$ Trumpet 1	5 Tuba
2 Flute 2	2 B $\flat$ Trumpet 2	1 Timpani
2 Flute 3	2 B $\flat$ Trumpet 3	1 Percussion 1 (Marimba, Chimes, Tambourine)
1 Oboe 1	2 B $\flat$ Trumpet 4	2 Percussion 2 (Vibraphone, Castanets, Triangle, Crash Cymbals, Sleighbells)
1 Oboe 2	2 B $\flat$ Trumpet 5	1 Percussion 3 (Orchestra Bells, Suspended Cymbal)
2 B $\flat$ Clarinet 1	2 B $\flat$ Trumpet 6	1 Percussion 4 (Snare Drum, Tenor Drum, Triangle)
2 B $\flat$ Clarinet 2	1 F Horn 1	1 Percussion 5 (Bass Drum with attached Cymbal)
2 B $\flat$ Clarinet 3	1 F Horn 2	
2 B $\flat$ Clarinet 4	1 F Horn 3	
2 B $\flat$ Clarinet 5	1 F Horn 4	
2 B $\flat$ Clarinet 6	2 Trombone 1	
2 B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	2 Trombone 2	
1 Bassoon 1	2 Trombone 3	
1 Bassoon 2	2 Trombone 4	
1 E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone 1	1 Euphonium T.C. 1	
1 E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone 2	1 Euphonium T.C. 2	

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## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

**Ron Nelson**, a native of Joliet, Illinois, received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1952, Master's degree in 1953, and Doctor of Music Arts degree in 1956 from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester. He studied in France at the Ecole Normale de Musique and the Paris Conservatory under a Fulbright Grant in 1955. Dr. Nelson joined the Brown University faculty the following year as an assistant professor in 1960, and full professor in 1968. He served as Chairman of the Department of Music from 1963 to 1973, and was named professor emeritus in 1993. In 1991 he was awarded the Acuff Chair of Excellence in the Creative Arts—the first musician to hold the chair. He has gained wide recognition as a composer of choral, band and orchestral works.

Dr. Nelson has received commissions from the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the United States Air Force Band and Chorus, the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra, and numerous choral organizations, colleges and universities, including the University of Minnesota, Dartmouth, Western Michigan and Lawrence, as well as the Classic Chorale Brevard Music Center and Aspen Music Festival. He has also received grants and awards from the Howard Foundation, ASCAP, Brown University, and several from the National Endowment for the Arts. Dr. Nelson is the distinguished winner of the 1993 ABA/Ostwald, the NBA Composition Contest, and the Sudler International Wind Band Composition Competition (The John Philip Sousa Foundation), for his work *Passacaglia (Homage on B-A-C-H)*.

## PROGRAM NOTES

*Courtly Airs and Dances* is a suite of Renaissance dances which were characteristic to five European countries during the 1500s. Three of the dances (*Basse Danse*, *Pavane*, and *Allemande*) are meant to emulate the music of Claude Gervaise by drawing on the style of his music as well as the characteristics of other compositions from that period.

The festival opens with a fanfare-like *Intrada* followed by *Basse Danse* (France), *Pavane* (England), *Saltarello* (Italy), *Sarabande* (Spain) and *Allemande* (Germany).

## PERFORMANCE SUGGESTIONS

Ample cues have been included throughout the suite to enable the conductor to adapt the instrumentation to the needs and capabilities of his/her ensemble. The conductor may wish to

perform parts of the suite; for example, *Intrada* may be useful for functions where a short fanfare is needed.

# Courtly Airs and Dances

Ron Nelson

With pomp ♩ = 68 - 70

## I. Intrada

The score is for a 4/4 piece in B-flat major. It begins with a tempo of 68-70 bpm. The woodwinds (Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, Bassoon) and strings (Trumpets, Horns, Trombones, Euphonium, Tuba) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The percussion includes snare drum (S.D.), tom-tom drum (T.D.), and bass drum (B.D.). The score is divided into five measures, with dynamics ranging from *sfz* to *mf*.

# II. Basse Danse (France)

In a stately manner  $\text{♩} = 58 - 62$

This musical score is for the second movement, "II. Basse Danse (France)", in a stately manner with a tempo of 58-62 beats per minute. The score is written for a large orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Flute (Fl.):** 1, 2, 3 parts. The first part has a dynamic marking of *mf*.
- Piccobello (Picc.):** 1 part.
- Oboe (Ob.):** 1, 2 parts. Both parts have a dynamic marking of *mf*.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** 1, 2 parts. The first part has a dynamic marking of *mf*.
- Clarinet in B-flat (B♭ Cl.):** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 parts. The first part has a dynamic marking of *mf*.
- Clarinet in B (B. Cl.):** 1 part. The first part has a dynamic marking of *mf*.
- Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.):** 1, 2 parts. The first part has a dynamic marking of *mf*.
- Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.):** 1 part.
- Baritone Saxophone (Bar. Sax.):** 1 part.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 parts.
- Horn (Hn.):** 1, 2, 3, 4 parts. The first part has a dynamic marking of *mf*.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** 1, 2, 3, 4 parts.
- Euphonium (Euph.):** 1, 2 parts. The first part has a dynamic marking of *mf*.
- Tuba (Tba.):** 1 part.
- Timpani (Timp.):** 1, 2 parts.
- Drum Set (Perc.):** 3, 4, 5 parts. The snare drum (S. D.) is marked "snare off" and the bass drum part starts with a dynamic marking of *p*.

The score is divided into six measures, numbered 1 through 6 at the bottom of the page. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 3/4.

# III. Pavane (England)

Gently ♩ = 76

1 *mp*  
*dolce*

Fl. 1 2 3  
2, 3 *ppp* stagger breathing no breath

Picc.

Ob. 1 2  
*mp*  
*soli dolce*

Bsn. 1 2  
*p* *molto sost.* stagger breathing

B♭ Cl. 1 2 3 4  
*mp* *dolce*

5 6  
*ppp*

B. Cl.  
*p*

A. Sax. 1 2  
*ppp*

T. Sax.  
Bsn. 1 *p* *molto sost.*

Bar. Sax.  
Bsn. 2 *p* *molto sost.*

1 2 3 4 5 6 7  
Ob. *soli* straight mute *mp*

1 2  
Tpt. 3 4

5 6

1 2  
Hn. 3 4  
*p*

1 2 3 4  
Tbn.

Euph. 1 2  
*pp*

Tba.

Timp.  
*pppp*

Mba. roll all notes *molto sost.*

1 soft mallets *p* soft murmur

Vib. roll all notes *molto sost.*

2 soft mallets *pp* soft murmur

Perc. slow motor *ppp*

Bells *ppp*

3 4 5

# IV. Saltarello (Italy)

Very precisely ♩. = ca. 120

9

solo *mp* non-legato

Fl. 1 2 3

Picc.

Ob. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

B<sup>b</sup> Cl. 1 2 3 4 5 6

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Tpt. 1 2 3 4 5 6

Hn. 1 2 3 4

Tbn. 1 2 3 4

Euph. 1 2

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1 2 3 4 5

Tamb. Tap rim Palm in center etc.

*pp* distant

S. D. snares off

T. D. *pp* distant



