A Peaceful Journey

Ryan Meeboer

A Peaceful Journey is the perfect description of what this piece is all about: calming, simple, and enjoyable to perform and listen to. This selection was composed with the intention to introduce very young musicians to lyrical music and help them develop tone control and air support.

Set in an ABA form, the music only uses the first seven notes learned in most method books. The A theme, introduced at bar 5, was composed using chorale techniques to make the music easy enough for musicians to learn so that the other elements of lyrical music can be the focus while rehearsing this piece: long, legato phrases, staggered breathing to ensure consistently smooth sound, and adding shape to the lines. The concept of shape, in particular, can be the focus of section 21 through 35 (the B theme), where the 2 bar segments have the perfect shape to teach this to students.

At the end of the piece, really concentrate on making sure the note in bar 52 has a clean ending and is not too abrupt.

Ryan Meeboer is a music educator, who obtained his degree through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. As a composer, he has written and arranged many pieces for concert band, jazz band, and small ensembles. His young band piece, *Last Voyage of the Queen Anne's Revenge*, has been well received by performers, educators, and audiences, and his pieces are starting to be found on festival and contest lists. As a performer, he has had experience in several groups, including concert and stage bands, chamber choir, vocal jazz ensemble, acoustic duets, and the Hamilton based swing group, "The Main Swing Connection".

Ryan began studying music at the age of seven through private guitar lessons. During his years in elementary and secondary school, he gained experience in several families of instruments. Focusing on music education and theory (including composition and orchestration), he attended McMaster University to achieve his honours degree in music. Ryan is currently a teacher for the Halton District School Board in Ontario, where he continues to compose and arrange.

Please contact the composer if you require any further information about this piece or his availability for commissioning new works and appearances.

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