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## **CARPATHIA** William Owens



FJH is now using a high-speed sorting system for parts. As a result, all single page parts are collated before multiple page parts.



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#### The Composer

William Owens (b. 1963) is a native of Gary, Indiana and a 1985 graduate of VanderCook College of Music in Chicago. A seasoned music educator, Mr. Owens is active as a composer, conductor and clinician throughout the United States and Canada. Mr. Owens has written nearly 200 commissioned and published works for concert band and string orchestra. His music has been programmed at prestigious venues such as the Midwest Clinic and appears on required music lists both nationally and abroad. Principal commissions include those from the California Band Directors Association, the Chicago Public Schools Bureau of Cultural Arts, the South Plains College Dept. of Fine Arts and the Texas University Interscholastic League. He is a consistent winner of the ASCAPlus award and a two-time recipient of the Forrest L. Buchtel Citation for Excellence in Composition. Professional memberships include ASCAP, the American Composers Forum and the Texas MEA. William resides in Fort Worth, TX with his wife, Georgia.

#### **About the Series**

The FJH Flex Series serves as a bridge between The Reimagine Initiative (fully-adaptable works for absolutely any possible instrumentation) and concert band music with standard instrumentation. Designed to work extremely well for smaller bands and groups with instrumentation challenges, the FJH Flex Series will also work with percussion and any of the following combinations:

Bands with incomplete instrumentation • Woodwind quintet • Brass quintet • Clarinet choir • Saxophone choir • Brass ensemble • Strings • Full orchestra • Countless additional combinations!

Featuring some of the most popular FJH pieces of all time, the FJH Flex Series opens a world of opportunity to smaller programs that are still looking for big musical experiences.

#### About the Music

The *RMS Carpathia* was sailing from New York City when her wireless operator received a distress signal from the *RMS Titanic*. She immediately set course at maximum speed toward the last known position of the *Titanic*. Her captain managed to squeeze 17 knots out of a supposed 14-knot vessel, an amazing and dangerous feat, due to the risk of structural damage from excessive vibration and boiler explosion from excess pressure. After working her way through treacherous ice fields, *Carpathia* arrived on the scene at 4 o'clock in the morning, and was able to rescue 706 people.

The beginning of the work is slow and tense, signifying the distress call from *Titanic*. The music suddenly quickens, marking the beginning of the perilous and historic rescue mission. Rumbling feet depict the vessel's massive vibrations, while hissing sounds represent the rapidly overheating boiler. A boisterous ship's bell loudly beckons throughout. The music relinquishes its fast pace to a slow, mournful hymn as *Carpathia* arrives on the terrible scene. After a brief moment of tranquility, the music intensifies as the rescue ship embarks on her triumphant yet tragic return voyage to safety.

The rumbling and hissing sounds add greatly to the drama of the work, but may be omitted to accommodate specific performance situations. If a ship's bell is unavailable, an anvil or brake drum may be substituted. Insist on great tone quality, especially with dissonances. At measure 8, accompaniment must avoid playing heavily while complementing the melodic line. At measure 20, allow the countermelody in flute and oboe to be heard. The hymnlike dirge at measure 34 must be smooth and rich in tone. Measure 40 resumes the fast tempo and is performed as before. Avoid overplaying measure 53, while stressing the dynamic in measure 57 for a great dramatic effect.





### CARPATHIA



MP3

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