


Courtly Walk

by Kyle McKinzey

Courtly Walk is a fantastic new educational piece for beginning band students. The range fits comfortably for any 1st year player. The style, however, is closer to an “older” band using traditional European style melody and accompaniment.

Every section has the melody, or featured part, using only the 1st six notes normally taught on their respective instrument. There are plenty of tutti articulation and dynamic contrasts for the most effective use of teaching and rehearsal time. Rhythmically, there is one constant unison theme of  for all wind players. Some percussion parts include 4 straight 8th notes.

Wind parts are also heavily doubled to help out with sections that are still developing. Low brass and woodwind parts are entirely unison helping to increase the fullness of their sound. There are no split parts. The comfortable ranges make this unnecessary.

As a percussionist, I spent much of my band experience with little to do during concert season and got into a lot of trouble. Therefore, I try and write plenty of parts to add excitement and honestly, keep them busy. I also try to include a mini-ensemble section. This section, at measure 25, can be omitted and still work musically. Many of the parts are optional if you are short on players. It will sound full with 2 players, and will still hold their interest if you have 7 players. Of course, if you have more, there are many parts that can be doubled.

Good luck and I would appreciate any comments, suggestions, complaints, etc. about any of my pieces. kylemactx@sbcglobal.net

Kyle McKinzey



Kyle McKinzey is a middle school band director at Bowie Middle School in Irving, Texas. He has been teaching since 1982 at both the middle school and the high school levels in East Texas, and the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He is a 1982 graduate of Henderson State University, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. At Henderson, he studied composition with Dr. Bill Underwood, and was also influenced by his percussion instructor, Doug DeMorrow.

Through the years, Kyle has written many arrangements for friends, as well as compositions and arrangements for marching band, concert band, jazz band, and percussion ensembles. In addition to these pieces, he has done numerous arrangements for church praise bands, orchestras and choirs. He has also orchestrated and conducted many pieces for orchestra and choir. His most recent endeavor was a benefit for Zoe Ministries where he worked with the largest mass choir production ever performed at Bass Hall in Fort Worth, Texas.

Kyle has performed with the Arkansas and South Arkansas Symphonies as a percussionist. He played piano and drums with the Greenville Big Band Jazz Orchestra. He is a charter member of the Mansfield Wind Symphony of Mansfield, Texas, and he currently plays percussion with them. He is an active member of Texas Music Educators Association, ASCAP, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He lives in Mansfield with his wife Charlene and two wonderful children, Johnna and Brandt.