for Flex Band

Brian W. Jagger

Instrumentation

Any 4 instruments from the following list: (interesting combinations are encouraged):

Flute
Oboe
Bassoon
Clarinet (Bb)
Bass Clarinet
Alto Saxophone
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone
Trumpet (Bb)
French Horn (F)
Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

Plus the following percussion:

Glockenspiel
Xylophone
Triangle
Tambourine
Sleigh Bells
Temple Blocks



Program Notes

Western is a flexible ensemble piece for four wind instruments and percussion. It is meant to invoke images of the early days of Western North American culture. Ranchers riding under the open skies of the prairies and foot hills, and sleeping under the stars.

The main theme in Western is a simple, hummable tune that is gradually developed each time it is presented. A 4-note motif is interspersed throughout the piece, and represents the horses the ranchers ride. The slower middle section summons images of night time, with the glockenspiel creating a starry sky. A return to the main theme and the 4-note motif rounds out the piece.

As a flex piece, I encourage everyone to try interesting instrumental combinations.

About the Composer

Brian W. Jagger is a Canadian composer born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario. Growing up, he was exposed to many styles of music; from "Classical" to "Pop" to "Jazz". As a choir member, he learned to hear the harmonies and relationships of the different voices, and as a tuba player, he learned to appreciate the importance of the lower realms of the music world.

Brian started his musical journey as a pianist, working his way through the Royal Conservatory and into university. While at university, he studied piano performance and composition, earning his Bachelor of Music degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. From there, he continued studying composition at the University of British Columbia and the University of Michigan, earning his Master of Music and Doctor of the Musical Arts. Over the years, Brian studied composition with John Burge and Clifford Crawley (Queen's), Keith Hamel (UBC), and George Wilson, Leslie Bassett and William Albright (U of M).

As a composer for many different ensembles, including orchestra, string quartet, concert band, solo piano, and electronics, Brian has won two CBC Young Composer awards and one SOCAN Young Composers award.

Apart from composing, Brian teaches piano and theory lessons, and is the Music Director and Conductor for the Top Hat Marching Orchestra, the Albertones Senior Men's Choir and the Pinetones Senior's Choir. Brian and his wife Leah reside in Burlington, Ontario, where he enjoys playing in the best band in the area, Bliss.

Commissions

For commission inquiries, please contact Brian through his website at bwjmusic.com or email him directly at brianwjagger@gmail.com

























