

Deeds not Words

Ralph Hultgren

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Program notes:

Don't tell me what to do, show me!

Often the actions of individuals and groups speak more powerfully than any message delivered by word. The hand extended in friendship, the drink of water given to a wounded enemy, the loving embrace in a time of trial – these actions speak in a way that tells the story more potently than any number of speeches.

“Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you” is part of our culture. It is still a greater measure of the qualities of humanity than what comes from our mouths.

Rehearsal notes:

This is a celebratory work and it should be played with a sense of tribute and majesty. The way to ensure that happens is to play without dragging or melodrama and to approach the playing with vigour and energy.

The opening canonic imitation should prepare the way for all instruments to play in the style of the piece. Endeavour to have the various lines display their stylistic qualities and show how they link across the ensemble. This will both reinforce the style and the attribute of intent listening.

Though the voicing at 9 is low the quality of tone here needs projection. This section allows for solid training of tonal focus.

The section from 25 has some high flute parts but added secondary parts are available. Please use what will sound best for your group but ensure that both octaves are presented when possible.

The lyricism at 41 should not give way to a slowing of tempo. The underpinning harmonic rhythms will provide forward impetus here.

The bridge section at 57 should be resonant and the simple dissonances should be taught methodically with a sense of what they are achieving musically. The accents that lead into 65 must be bold and vibrant!

The reiteration of the tutti melodic material 65 should be acquitted as before with an assertive approach to the canonic imitation that presents itself at 79. The last three bars are an extended three two bar and should be approached with a commitment to the syncopation inherent in that situation. Energise to the end!

Thank you

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