

Listen!

Ralph Hultgren

Commissioned by the Northern Sydney Region, New South Wales
Department of Education and Training for the Artsnorth Regional Wind
Ensemble. World premiere at the Sydney Opera House,
27th of August 2007, Gavin Staines, Conductor.

Listen!

Program note:

How often do you sit and listen to your child playing in a concert but not to other people's children? Do you sit and talk as the young musicians strive, after weeks of intense rehearsal and individual practice, to give of their best?

Have you thought about what it means to give of yourself so fully in playing an instrument or do you see it all just as a diversion? Is your interest only in *seeing* your child, whatever it sounds like? Or, are you there to celebrate with them and their musical peers the wonder of making music together and the joy that can be discovered in being immersed in that art of?

If your joy is shared with them, then please sit back and listen. If you are there only to *notice* your child and not join in the celebration we urge you to consider what a pleasure it might be to sit back, be quiet and LISTEN!

(This work is dedicated to the hard working musicians who conduct and play in high level school and community ensembles)

Notes for the conductor:

Please be sure not to rush this. The work is about gaining attention not inducing fear as the tempo stampedes toward calamity!

Let the fanfare figures resonate and allow the melodic strains to ring. This is music of joy, energy and intensity so rushing will hamper security, imprecision will diminish clarity and lack of energy will deny joy.

The opening drum statement is *taiko* like. The fanfares are to be ebullient and strong. The sounds at bar 111 should be chamber music like and a complete contrast to the sounds of the rest of the work.

Define the colours.

Do not let the percussion dominate. They energise to begin and shout occasionally but they are part of the ensemble colour as well as being distinct.

The brasses resonate and occasionally sing vibrantly but often punctuate. Connect them with energy building and with statement making.

The winds zing! Allow for the fluency in the lines and the energetic leaps in melodic figures.

Make them sit back, be quiet and Listen!

Ralph Hultgren
27th of August 2007