

# A Joyful Noise

Ralph Hultgren

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**Duration:** 6'30"

**Level:** 3

## **Program Notes:**

The composer writes:

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth”, declares the Psalmist. So I collected musical ideas from a variety of traditions to make my “joyful noise”. West African chant that became the joyful noise of an imprisoned people; the contemplative song of a monastery; an incessant and irresistible Indian tabla rhythm; the pulsing of indigenous dance and the fervour of hand clapping in praise and worship. This is my “joyful noise” from “all the earth”. Listen to what the psalmist says:

*Sing unto the Lord a new song: for He hath done marvellous things: His right hand and His holy arm have given Him the victory. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth; make a loud noise and rejoice and sing praise.*

*Sing unto the Lord with the harp; with the harp and the voice of a psalm;*

*With trumpets, and sound of cornet, make a joyful noise before the Lord, the King. Let the sea roar, and the fullness therein; the world and they that dwell therein. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills be joyful together before the Lord.*

## **Rehearsal Notes:**

At all times the pulse must be steady and around 108 beats per minute. The chant that opens and permeates the piece is a hallelujah and should be presented that way. The table rhythm should be articulated: long; long, short; long, long, short; long, long, long, short etc. That rhythm should never be placed as separated quavers except at 135-138; it should then return to the articulations notes above. Clapping should be precise, yet boisterous when demanded.

There is a vocal sheet included which you might like to use to add massed voices to a performance. Please don't rush this piece.

## **About the Composer:**

Ralph Hultgren began his professional music career as a trumpet player, performing with the Central Band of the Royal Australian Air Force, the Australian Brass Choir and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. From 1979 until 1990, Mr. Hultgren was composer/arranger-in-residence for the Queensland Department of Education's Instrumental Music Program, during which time he produced 185 works and established himself as a leader in the field of composition for young musicians. Mr. Hultgren is Head of Pre-Tertiary Studies at the Queensland Conservatorium of Music, Griffith University.

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