

Flourish Intermezzo and March

Ralph Hultgren

Commissioned by the Northern Sydney Region,
New South Wales Department of Education and Training
for the 2009 Primary School Band Festival,
hosted by Chatswood High School,
Gavin Staines, Festival Coordinator

Flourish, Intermezzo and March

Program Note:

Flourish, Intermezzo and March is the first in a series of works for young musicians where the composer's aim is to introduce them to music which is composed for music's sake and not as a means of portraying something, such as in a narrative work.

The Flourish is a simple fanfare like statement in a modal style written for brass and percussion.

The Intermezzo is not only the work that comes 'in between' but one that allows the woodwinds to display their idiosyncratic tone colour without being in competition with the heavier brass sounds.

Finally, the March provides the canvas on which the concert band can paint its full and rich tones set in the combination of the styles of a spritely parade ground march and the more ceremonial style of reflective of Elgar and Walton.

Conductors notes:

The music's tempi are very important. No section of the work should be rushed; there should be a sense of taking time to allow the music to speak.

Never try to play the softer sections so softly that control is lost and balance and contrast are compromised.

The use of two snare drums is not licence to be loud but more another impetus to momentum and controlled propulsion. The delicate colours of triangle and glockenspiel should be considered more seriously than are often done. Consider the size of both the triangle and the beater to make the sound which best fits with your ensemble. Also consider the mallets used for the glockenspiel to ensure clarity and sonority, as appropriate.

Please inform your students of what the various sections are and listen to examples of such music with them.