Duration: 4:30 GRADE 3

CB2485 \$62.00

Ships With Sails Unfurled

Vince Gassi





Instrumentation:

Flute 1 - 4 Flute 2 - 4

Olpe 2

Bb Clari let 1 - 4

Bb Bass Clarinet - 1

Bassoon - 2

Eb Alto Saxophone 1 - 2

Eb Alto Saxophone 2 - 2

Bb Tenor Saxophone - 1

Eb Baritone Saxophone - 1

Bb Trumpet 1 - 2

Bb Trumpet 2 - 2

Bb Trumpet 3 - 2

F Horn 1,2 - 2

F Horn 3,4 - 2

Trombone 1,2 - 2

Bass Trombone - 2

Baritone Bass Clef - 1

Baritone Treble Clef - 1

Tuba - 2

Timpani - 1

Xylophone, Ĉhimes, Bells - 2

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum) - 1

Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals, Claves, Triangle Suspended Cymbal) - 2

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In the early morning of August 3rd 1492, Christopher Columbus went aboard the Santa Maria and gave the command to unfurl the sails. When the wind caught the sails, the three caravels were off and, in time, they had an uncharted ocean all to themselves.

In the opening section, Atlantic Crossing, I have tried to capture the sense of adventure that he must have felt at the outset of such an epic journey. The triplet figures in the woodwinds must be played very accurately against the even eighth notes to give the effect of the wind in the sails. The sonorous brass chords should be strong and balanced. Notice the crescendos at the end of each phrase.

The second main theme, First Contact, recalls the good will and free exchange of gifts and ideas, the attempt to understand a foreign language, whenever two diverse cultures first meet. Pay good attention to the articulations that are marked.

In Caravels of Doom, the sound of waves gently rolling up onto a tropical beach at sunset establishes the somber mood as we imagine the terrible effects of the disease that the Europeans brought with them. Much of the native population was decimated by small pox and later enslaved. Balance in the accompaniment figures is extremely important in this section so as not to overpower the soloists.

The cosing secon, The Great Migratic 1, recaps the opening theme but this time has not Columbus crossing the open but the hun reds of thousand of immigrant, the tembarked on the same cold a lventure ome 400 years later. Unlike Columbus, many did not ever return to their homeland. Again, pay close attention to the articulations and dynamics as they are very specifically marked. In some phrases the quarter notes are marked staccato while in a similar phrase later on they are marked legato.

Written for and dedicated to the Mary Ward C.S.S. Senior Band (Toronto, Canada) on the occasion of their concert tour of Austria and Germany Richard Jatiouk, Director

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