Concert Band

Grade 3.5



Aisling Gaelach

(Irish Fantasy)

William G. Harbinson

CPS108 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score1
Flute 1 4
Flute 2 4
Oboe
Clarinet 1 in Bb4
Clarinet 2 in B
Clarinet 3 in B
Bass Clarinet in B
Bassoon
Alto Saxophone 1 in E
Alto Saxophone 2 in Eb
Tenor Saxophone in B
Baritone Saxophone in Eb
Trumpet 1 in B
Trumpet 2 in B
Trumpet 3 in B
Horn 1 in F
Horn 2 in F
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3
Euphonium T.C. in B
Euphonium B.C
Tuba4
Mallet Percussion
Chimes, Bells, Xylophone
Timpani
Percussion 1
Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Snare Drum, Bass Drum
Percussion 2
Crash Cymbals, Tambourine

Program Notes

Aisling Gaelach is based on two traditional Irish tunes: The Merry Priest, and Mo Ghile Mear. The first is a traditional barndance in common time that includes a "hornpipe skip" (or triplet figure) throughout. The second is a lyrical ballad in honor of Bonnie Prince Charlie, the descendant of Mary Stewart, Queen of Scots who had ambitions to the throne of Britain. His loyal followers fought for him to take possession of the crown and to put an end to religious persecution in Ireland. The rebellion was put down, hundreds of thousands died in battle, and the prince fled and died in exile.

The composition opens with a fanfare based on the head motive of *Mo Ghile Mear*. The ensuing section (*Moderato*) introduces *The Merry Priest*. The barndance, in ABA form, is presented sometimes in its traditional harmonic and melodic format, and sometimes with chromatic accompaniment figures and melodic interplay between the instruments. A brief transition based on the chromatic accompaniment motive leads to *Mo Ghile Mear (Maestoso)*. Also in ABA form, the ballad is scored for brass choir (A), woodwind choir (B), and full ensemble (recap of A). A development section leads to a *tutti* passage that combines the ballad (augmented statement by the brass and low reeds) and the barndance (woodwind *obbligato* based on the head motive). A brief coda brings the composition to a close.

About the Composer

Dr. William Harbinson, composer and professor of music theory at Appalachian State University (NC), has received eight Editor's Choice Awards (Pepper Music Catalog) that identify "the very best of the new music available." His works for band appear on the contest/festival literature lists of many states and are performed around the world. His symphonic work, *Kallalanta* won the national Merle J. Isaac Senior Composition Competition in 2007. His concert band work, *All The Starry Band* was awarded the 2006 Hinda Honigman Cup from the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs, and his composition for brass and percussion, *The Maestro's Flourish* won the national Dallas Wind Symphony Fanfare Competition in 2005. He received the 100 Scholars Award from Appalachian State University (2008) recognizing his sustained record of excellence as a composer.























































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