First Plus Band



Grade 1.5

Promised Land

Sean O'Loughlin

FPS81 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score1
Flute
Oboe (opt. Flute 2)2
Clarinet 1 in Bb4
Clarinet 2 in Bb4
Bass Clarinet in Bb
Alto Saxophone in Eb
Tenor Saxophone in Bb
Baritone Saxophone in Eb
Trumpet 1 in $\mathbf{B}_{p}^{\dot{q}}$ 4
Trumpet 2 in B
Horn in F
Trombone, Euphonium B.C., Bassoon6
Euphonium T.C. in Bb
Tuba3
Mallet Percussion
Chimes
Timpani
Percussion 12
Snare Drum, Bass Drum
Percussion 2
Tam-tam, Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Brake Drum, Tom-toms

Program Notes

Promised Land is an energetic piece for the developing concert band that was commissioned by the Oneida City School District Music Department for the 2010 All-City Elementary Band, Marjorie and David Hawthorne, directors. The title has its roots in the ideals of John Humphrey Noyes, who founded the Oneida community in the late 1840s. He built a thriving agricultural and spiritual community that became his "promised land."

The music depicts the struggles and triumph of those first settlers in the area. They worked the land and fought for their ideals through much persecution. The opening statement in the brass previews the melody to come later on. It is a plaintive statement to mirror the journey of the people of Oneida. The fast section at m. 12 provides some good rhythm teaching opportunities. The melody at m. 19 should be direct and aggressive, then turn more legato in mm. 27-28, then return to the articulated style as before. The brass take over at m. 35 the woodwinds bring back the rhythmic elements at the beginning of the fast section. A dialog between the percussion and the rest of the ensemble follows at m. 50. The melody is truncated to short bursts, but play them to full quarter-note values. Some development of melody fragments at m. 56 builds to a final presentation of the melody at m. 67. Keep the energy high all the way to the resounding ending.

About the Composer

Sean O'Loughlin (b.1972) is a fresh voice and a rising name in the music world. His music is characterized by vibrant rhythms, passionate melodies, and colorful scoring. Commissions from the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra highlight and showcase his diverse musical abilities. As a conductor, he has led performances with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Grant Park Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra. He was the conductor and arranger for a recent orchestral tour with the band The Decemberists.

As an arranger and orchestrator, he has worked with such artists as Natalie Merchant, Chris Isaak, Feist, Blue Man Group, Pink Martini, Christian McBride, Belle and Sebastian, Josh Ritter, and others. The Los Angeles Times calls his orchestrations "...colorful" while adding "...even more dimension..." to the compositions. Daily Variety heralds Sean's writing as "most impressive ..." with a "wide range of coloring in the orchestra..." that "...adds heft and rolling energy."

Growing up in Syracuse, NY, Sean displayed a passion for music and showed musical talent at an early age. Sean benefitted from loving parents who supported his musical aspirations and challenged him to explore music as a career. During his undergraduate years at Syracuse University, Sean's musical career began to take shape with the guidance of Larry Clark. As Vice-President at Carl Fischer Music, Larry continues to be a major influence in Sean's professional career as mentor and friend.

An avid supporter of music education, Sean frequently writes for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's youth concert series. Through his growing number of commissions and published works, Sean is excited to continue contributing to the rich history of orchestral and wind band literature. An annual ASCAP Special Awards winner, Sean was a composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, and holds degrees from New England Conservatory and Syracuse University. His music is published exclusively by Carl Fischer. Sean and his wife Dena reside in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit Sean's web-site at www.grayslacks.com.







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