

Perspectives

Three Sketches of One Theme

By Michael Kamuf



PROGRAM NOTES

The three movements of *Perspectives* were composed using a 16-measure idea as the source material. Within each movement, the melodic content of this theme is explored by altering and embellishing the melody as well as changing the mood by varying the tempo, time signature, harmonic structure, and orchestration. In addition to being a suite, each movement may be played on its own as a separate work.



NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

In composing *Perspectives*, I made the decision to explore the theme and variations form, but by organizing the statements in individual movements. The source material is a 16-measure original idea that can be broken down into A and B themes of 8 measures each. I set out to create three unique statements of this idea that would be engaging and expressive for young musicians to study and perform.

Movement 1 is entitled "Celebration," and the overall mood and feel should be one of joy! A strong subdivision of the beat will need to be internalized by all players to help create this mood. Players should also be mindful of articulations, particularly staccato and tenuto markings, to help ensure proper style. At measure 7, the A Theme (in E major) is played by alto saxophone and trumpet 1, with all other instruments accompanying. The B Theme (in C minor) is presented at measure 16 with flute, oboe, clarinet 1, and mallets stating the melody (trumpets join at measure 19). Low woodwinds and brass state the first phrase of the A Theme at measure 24, before clarinet 1 and trumpet 1 play the final phrase at measure 28.

Movement 2 is entitled "Skyline at Midnight," and the feel should be one of wonder and awe. While this movement should be played in a legato style, the tempo should be at 120 bpm, and there should be a sense of forward motion. Again, a strong subdivision will aid in achieving this feel. There are printed dynamics throughout, but feel free to shape not only when the melody rises and falls but also within the accompaniment figures as well. The A Theme (in C minor) is stated in the flute at measure 5, with alto saxophone and mallets joining at measure 12. The B Theme (in E^J major) is stated by bassoon, tenor saxophone, trombone, and baritone at measure 21. A re-statement of this idea occurs at measure 29 (now in C minor) with flute, oboe, trumpets, and mallets playing the melody, and a countermelody is introduced by clarinet 1, alto saxophone, and horn. The movement should peak in volume and intensity in measure 36 at the fortissimo and gradually fade away until the pianissimo in measure 47.

Movement 3 is entitled "New Horizons," and the prevailing mood should be hope! The movement opens with a strong pulse from the bass drum and timpani before a variation of the B Theme (in C minor) begins at measure 3. At measure 11, an ostinato figure is introduced in the clarinets, alto and tenor saxophones, and horn, with percussion laying down a groove figure. Accents and articulations are extremely important throughout this passage. At measure 19, the flute, oboe, and trumpets state a variation of the A Theme's first phrase (in E major) over the aforementioned ostinato. Measure 27 begins a final melodic statement based on the second phrase of the A Theme. Accurately performing the subito piano in measure 33 and the crescendo in measures 34 through 36 will be exciting for both the players and the audience. The moment should peak dynamically at the fortissimo in measure 39.

Ireally enjoyed composing *Perspectives*, and I hope you and your students really enjoy studying and performing the



Perspectives

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By Michael Kamuf (ASCAP) Duration - 3:45 I. Celebration Joyfully! $\downarrow = 126$ Flute mp f Oboe 0 -0 mp f 0 Bassoon mp 1 1 $f^{>}$ **B**^b Clarinets mp 2 Ś 0 mp f **B**^b Bass Clarinet . • mpE♭ Alto Saxophone 0 6 > > > f mp > B♭ Tenor Saxophone C 6 . mp **E**^b Baritone (6 Saxophone mp Joyfully $\overline{!} = 126$ 1 **B**^b Trumpets mp 2 mp f F Horn mp Trombone mp 9: Baritone mp Tuba mp lells Mallet Percussion (Bells/Xylophone) H.H. (closed) S.D. Percussion 1 (Snare Drum/ Hi-Hat Cymbals, Bass Drum) f :/. % B.D. mp ſ Percussion 2 (Suspended Cymbal/ Crash Cymbals, Woodblock/ Triangle/Tambourine) Sus. Cym. (w/mallets) Wb. mp (w/hard mallets) 9:,⊳, Ì Timpani Tune: Ab, Bb, Eb mf mp f 3 2 4 1

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FULL SCORE





















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III. New Horizons

















