

Program Notes for Symphony for Band

Symphony for Band could be easily subtitled "Passages", as this work represents the passages of life that most of us travel through during our lifetimes. The first movement is representative of the carefree nature of childhood and is in the normal *sonata allegro* form.

The second movement is more somber in nature and represents the loss of a loved one. The famous sonnet by John Donne entitled "Death, Be Not Proud" embodies the tone of this second movement. The opening theme of this movement is the death theme and the music that follows portrays the emotions and memories of the loved ones left behind. The death these occurs three times in this movement, always slightly different with the final statement being the most defiant. The composer dedicates this movement to the memory of his parents.

The final movement of this work is by far the most intense. In everyone's life there are moments that challenge us to our core beliefs. The opening section to this final movement represents such challenges and threats with the opening unison trumpet theme. The form of this final movement is basically a *theme and variations* and culminates in one's triumph over life with a major tonality statement.

This work was commissioned by a Consortium of Bands organized by Robert Grechesky, Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Butler University. In addition to Butler's participation the commission included the following individuals and their organizations: Harvey Benstein, Campolindo High School; Gary Ciepluch, Case Western Reserve University; Craig Paré, DePauw University; Mike Niemec, Hamilton Southeastern High School; Stephen Pratt, Indiana University; Frank Tracz, Kansas State University; Randy Greenwell and Matt James, Lawrence Central High School; Thomas McCauley, Montclair State University; Russ Mikkelson, Ohio State University; Jay Gephart, Purdue University; James Spinazzola, University of Indianapolis; Carolyn Barber, University of Nebraska; and Scott Teeple, University of Wisconsin-Madison.