## Score

Revised 5/10/23

Commissioned by Price Waterhouse & Dedicated to Mr. & Mrs. Charles O'Drobinak

# The American Dream

From "Night Visions" for Symphony Orchestra

#### Orchestration for "The American Dream"

Piccolo 2 Trumpets in C
2 Flutes 2 Tenor Trombones
2 Oboes 1 Bass Trombone

2 Bb Clarinets

Bass Clarinet

Timpani

2 Bassoons

4 Horns in F

1 Tuba

Timpani

3 Percussion

1 Harp

Full Strings

### **About James Beckel, Composer**

James Beckel graduated from the Indiana University School of Music and has been the Principal Trombonist with the Indianapolis Symphony since 1969. He is also on the music faculty at DePauw University. In addition to these responsibilities he has been a very active composer and arranger. Hal Leonard Music publishes several of his works. He was born in Marion, Ohio in 1948.

Many original works have been performed by several professional orchestras such as Minneapolis, Boston, St. Louis, Atlanta, Houston, Cincinnati, Baltimore, Detroit, Milwaukee, Indianapolis, Rochester, Charlotte, Fort Wayne, Springfield, Evansville, Tampa, Arkansas, Oklahoma City, Phoenix, New Mexico, Chautauqua, Terre Haute, South Bend, Omaha, Knoxville, Delaware, West Virginia, Jacksonville, etc. His works have been broadcast nationwide via television and radio by groups including the Cincinnati Symphony, the Rochester Philharmonic, the Nashville Symphony, and the U.S. Coast Guard Band.

Beckel's works have been recorded by the Indianapolis Brass Ensemble, the Houston Symphony, and the Indianapolis Symphony. In addition, some of his works for band have been recorded by the Coast Guard Band, the Marine Band, and the DePauw University Band. Greg Hustis and members of the Dallas Symphony recorded The Glass Bead Game horn concerto for a CD released in November of 2004 and Velvet Brown recorded Concerto for Tuba and Percussion, which was released early in 2007. The Texas Horns recorded a work, Portraits of the American West, which was especially commissioned for a CD released in 2008.

Mr. Beckel has received many composition grants. He has been an Individual Arts Fellow through the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts, and was one of 50 composers chosen nationwide to be part of the Continental Harmony Project. Liberty for All was written for that commission from Composers Forum in 2000 and has been broadcast multiple times on national television with the Nashville Symphony performing. The Glass Bead Game: Concerto for Horn and Orchestra was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize. The Glass Bead Game was premiered by the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra on November 10, 1997. Kent Leslie was the horn soloist. The Glass Bead Game is now available with orchestra, wind ensemble, piano, and chamber ensemble. The wind ensemble version of this concerto, written in 1999 was nominated for the Grawemeyer Award in that same year and was recorded by the DePauw University Band in 2000.

Liberty for All and another patriotic work entitled The American Dream were featured works on a national A&E TV broadcast in the summer of 2003 with the Nashville Symphony Orchestra. Over 27 million people watched that program. The band version of this work was completed in 2002 and the United States Coast Guard Band has

Another work, a three-movement sonata for Trumpet and Organ was completed in 2005. Mr. Beckel has also written several works for brass choir and brass quintet. In June of 2006, James completed a commission by the Air Force Band of Flight for a narrated patriotic work entitled Gardens of Stone. Later that year, the Indianapolis Chamber Winds performed the world premiere of his work, Music for Winds, Percussion, and Piano. And in March of 2007 two more world premieres took place. The Indianapolis Symphony premiered Toccata for Orchestra and the Peaceful Valley Chamber players premiered a work for string quartet, percussion, and trombone entitled Musical Masque (for the Seasons). In 2014 Joe Alessi, principal trombonist with the New York Philharmonic, premiered the composer's "Concerto for Trombone and Orchestra" with the Gulf Coast Symphony.

Visit the composer's website at www.jimbeckelmusic.com.

# About the Work "The Amerian Dream"

"Night Visions" was written in 1992 to celebrate the retirement of Charles O'Drobinak from Price Waterhouse. He was a beloved CEO of the Indianapolis Regional Office of this world renowned accounting firm. The work was commissioned by Price Waterhouse in his honor. The work is a four movement piece about dreams. "Night Visions" begins with a children's prayer which leads to slumber and the first dream which is entitled "Flying." This first movement ends with the sound of a clock striking midnight that leads us into the second dream entitled "Gates of the Unknown." This second dream turns into a nightmare and ends with our sleeper waking up in a cold sweat as the clock strikes 3 A.M. As our frightened dreamer returns to sleep, we hear the third dream which is entitled "Visions of a Lost Friend." This slow, beautiful third movement references the idea that we can still see our lost friend in our dreams if not on Earth. The heroic, final movement is entitled The American Dream," which is meant to represent Mr. O'Drobinak's rise to fame and success from humble beginnings.

The final movement of "Night Visions," "The American Dream," has taken on a life of its own. "The American Dream" has been published for band by Hal Leonard Music and recorded often by Military and College bands. The original orchestra version has been played by orchestras all over the United States of America and has appeared on several nationally broadcast programs for July 4th including the Nashville Symphony Orchestra.

**Duration: 3 minute 45 seconds** 

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James A. Beckel Jr.



























































