Score

An American Fanfare

from

"Concerto for Brass and Orchestra"

"Portrait on a Wall"

Commissioned by the Indianapolis Symphony, Krzysztof Urbański; Co-commissioned by the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, Toshiyuki Shimada; Evansville Philharmonic, Alfred Savia: Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Joel Levine; and the Omaha Symphony, Thomas Wilkins

Dedicated to Krzysztof Urbański, 7th Music Director of the ISO, in memory of Linda DePue

by James A. Beckel Jr.

Orchestration for "An American Fanfare"

Piccolo 4 Trumpets in C (4th Trp. Optional)

2 Flutes 2 Tenor Trombones 2 Oboes 1 Bass Trombone

English Horn

2 Bassoons

Tuba

Timpani

2 Bb Clarinets

3 Percussion

Bass Clarinet Harp

4 Horns in F 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 released 10,000 copies of this work on one of their CD's. Mr. Beckel's Concerto for Tuba and Percussion was composed in 2003. One of many performances of this Tuba/Percussion Concerto occurred at the 2004 Indiana MENC Convention in Indianapolis. Another recent work by Mr. Beckel, Fantasy after Schubert, was premiered in September of 2004 by the Indianapolis Symphony with Mario Venzago conducting. It was commissioned for the ISO's 75th anniversary season.

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. To hear Mr. Beckel's "In the Mind's Eye," Konzertstuck for Horns and Orchestra, go to http://www.instantencore.com/music/details.aspx?Pld=5063993

About the Work "An Amerian Fanfare"

The "Concerto for Brass and Orchestra" was written in 2014 to celebrate the Indianapolis Symphony's 7th Music Director, Krzysztof Urbański. The work was commissioned by the Indianapolis Symphony and co-commissioned by the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, Toshiyuki Shimada, Music Director; the Evansville Philharmonic, Alfred Savia, Music Director; the Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Joel Levine, Music Director; and the Omaha Symphony, Thomas Wilkins, Music Director.

The premiere of this work occurred on March 20, 2015 with the Indianapolis Symphony with Maestro Krzysztof Urbański conducting. The "An American Fanfare" originated in the third movement of this brass concerto and was rearranged from this work in 2016 for the Kansas City Symphony who premeired the fanfare.

"Concerto for Brass and Orchestra" has two main components. The composition was composed to feature the brass section of a symphony orchestra. The work is also in memory of the ISO concertmaster's mother, Linda DePue, who died tragically when our concertmaster, Zach DePue, was only 6 years old. A melody that Zach DePue wrote as a child in dedication to his mother is included in the "Concerto for Brass and Orchestra." The composer was introduced to this melody when he saw its hand written manuscript version hanging on DePue's wall at an post concert party in 2012. A subtitle for this brass concerto from which the fanfare is derived was figuratively subtitled, "Portrait on a Wall," as DePue's childhood melody was the seed that generated the music from which the entire concerto is based. This adds a programmatic dimension to this concerto and this fanfare.

Duration: 1 minute 45 seconds

An American Fanfare "Concerto for Brass and Orchestra" "Portrait on a Wall"

James A. Beckel Jr.

Commissioned by the Indianapolis Symphony, Krzysztof Urbański; Co-commissioned by the Eastern Connecticut Symphony Orchestra, Toshiyuki Shimada; Evansville Philharmonic, Alfred Savia: Oklahoma City Philharmonic, Joel Levine;



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Revised 2023

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