Please note that not all pages are included. This is purposely done in

order to protect our property and the work of our esteemed composers.

If you would like to see this work in its entirety, please order online or

call us at 800-647-2117.

Composer's Note

Of Fire and Ice is a tone poem and is the most tonal of my compositions for symphonic band. It is a musical translation of dramatically contrasted states of being into textures which fluctuate between a cool translucence and intense spiritual kindling.

It was written to commemorate the untimely passing of a good friend. It does so through a fusion of elegaic modality with harmonic chromaticism and balladlike qualities vaguely reminiscent of traditional popular and folksong idioms. Large-scale plateaus of tension and repose are evident in its juxtaposition of moments such as measures 47 and 85 are most effective when played very softly and with a fluid beat.

Although a harp is not necessary for a performance of this composition, it can enhance the color, articulation, and texture of several soft passages. If desired, a piano may be substituted, in which case liberal use of the *una corda* ("soft") pedal is recommended for a more transparent timbral quality and a lower dynamic level. This work may also be performed without harp (or piano) since the harp has been carefully doubled in the band parts.

Performance Suggestions

Tempo markings can be interpreted somewhat freely and the movement from one tempo to another should be flexible and gradual.

Forte should be interpreted rather strictly and should never be interpreted as a double forte unless a section is substantially understaffed. The loudest dynamics of brass parts (double and triple forte) should be interpreted in the context of the lyrical nature of the work. Trumpets are easily and comfortably prominent in several climactic passages, but should avoid the projection of a harsh edge in such passages.

A few tutti passages require subdued dynamics and

massive opaque blocks of tutti sonority with the delicate and highly individual timbres of chamber music. The central pitch of G is omnipresent and approaches the status of an underlying pedal point: a constantly re-emerging tonal center which acts as a plaintive drone.

Of Fire and Ice attempts throughout to balance serenity and a sense of rage with nostalgic flashbacks. It ends in a grandiose celebration of the eternal life of the spirit.

Instrumentation

Piccolo

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

E-flat Clarinet

3 B-flat Clarinets

E-flat Alto Clarinet

B-flat Bass Clarinet

B-flat Contrabass Clarinet

2 Bassoons

2 E-flat Alto Saxophones B-flat Tenor Saxophone E-flat Baritone Saxophone

3 B-flat Trumpets

4 F Horns

3 Trombones
Baritone (Euphonium)
Tuba
Harp (or piano)—optional

Timpani (Percussion I)
Percussion (three players):

Vibraphone
Xylophone
Bells
Chimes
Triangles (3)
Snare Drum
Tenor Drum
Bass Drum
Large Tam-Tam

Performance duration: ca. 10' 30"

Of Fire and Ice is recorded on Golden Crest Records Authenticated Composers Series No. ATH5072

* See performance note regarding harp.

Bells

2574

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