

Program Notes

Although the Concert Band owes its origins to the performance of marches, today, after over one hundred years of repertoire to study from, I found myself asking what exactly makes a march, a march? Composers these days freely cross boundaries without apology, as they should – after all, art and music must move forward. So, after reviewing typical characteristics of traditional marches, with their trios, break strains, lively snare and bass drum parts and many melodies, I decided to let myself write uninhibited by past formula, but with a clear homage to the genre of march.

March of the Shadows is my resulting creation for young band, whose title refers to the idea of following (as in my case, following the many composers of march who have come before me). Specifically, the work “borrows” the melody from Hale Vandercook’s *Centaurus*, used by permission of Hal Leonard. Finally, the title is also fitting as it refers to the overall dark, minor mood of the work.

Performance Notes

To the Director: There are many articulations written in to the score. The staccato markings generally indicate traditional “march length” of quarter notes. The trill is an important element of the work and should be played aggressively to contribute to the “threatening manner”. The first instance of optional flutter tonguing appears in Line A in m.36, and is highly preferred, even if only some of the players from the section play.

I have also put the melody and all the “fun lines” into one part, and then copy and pasted that part into all the instruments. Find these parts on my [website](#) for downloadable parts and YouTube video backing tracks.

This adaptable version in response to COVID-19 includes the following parts:

Line A Flute/Oboe/Clarinet/Trumpet/Mallets

Line B Flute/Oboe/Clarinet/Alto Saxophone/Tenor Saxophone/Trumpet/Mallets

Line C Alto Saxophone/Tenor Saxophone/Horn

Line D Bassoon/Bass Clarinet/Baritone Saxophone/Trombone/Euphonium T.C. and B.C.

Line E Bassoon/Bass Clarinet/Baritone Saxophone/Euphonium T.C. and B.C./Tuba

Percussion Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Timpani, Cymbals/Triangle, Glock./Xylophone