

Montgomery Philharmonic

Intersecting with the Community

HOME

ABOUT

CONTRIBUTE

CONTACT

GALLERY

MEMBERS

Montgomery Philharmonic 2016 - 17 Our 11th Season – Inspired by...

Concert 3, February 2, 2017– Inspired by Youth

Williams | Meyer | Balmages | Newbold | Stalter | Swearingen | Márquez | Gershwin | Diemer

Blue Ridge Saga – James Swearingen (WMHS Band & MP winds and percussion combined)

Instrumentation – Piccolo, flute, oboe, 3 clarinet, alto clarinet, bass clarinet, 2 alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax, 3 trumpet, 4 F horn, 2 trombone, euphonium, tuba, double bass, mallet percussion – bells and chimes, xylophone, percussion 1 – snare drum and bass drum, percussion 2 –cymbals, timpani

This folk setting composition reflects on the beauty and history of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina and is excellent for junior high/high school festival and contest performances.

Eminent composer James Swearingen shows the reason for his exceptional popularity as a writer for school bands! This offering uses a folk setting that reflects on the beauty and history of the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. He has written and masterfully scored some of his best themes to date in this composition, which is certain to be considered a significant work. This work has all of the musical qualities you have grown accustomed to hearing and is perfectly suited for high school/junior high festival and contest performances.

Like most of Mr. Swearingen’s music, this is packed with teachable concepts. First is switching between a duple and triple meter. Next, the piece is constantly changing style from staccato to accented, marcato, and legato. This piece gives directors an opportunity to teach the difference between > and ^ accents. There are also duple notes printed in the 6/8 sections, which may be a new concept for some players. Finally, this piece will take quite a bit of endurance and will help to teach players to rely on air instead of their chops alone to make it through.

Five players will be required to cover every part in *Blue Ridge Saga*. If you do not have enough players, keep in mind that the mallets are playing with the upper woodwinds though the majority of the piece. The snare drum and bass drum are crucial to this piece and will need to be covered.

James Swearingen’s talents as a performer, composer/arranger, and educator include a background of extensive training and experience. He has earned degrees from Bowling Green State University and The Ohio State University. In recognition of distinguished contributions, Mr. Swearingen was recently accorded the title of Professor Emeritus from Capital University located in Columbus, Ohio. Prior to his appointment at Capital in 1987, he spent 18 years teaching instrumental music in the public schools of central Ohio. His first teaching assignment took him to the community of Sunbury, Ohio. He then spent 14 years as Director of Instrumental Music at Grove City High School, where his marching, concert, and jazz bands all received acclaim for their high standards of performing excellence.

Mr. Swearingen currently serves as a staff arranger for the famed Ohio State University Marching Band. In addition to his arranging responsibilities, he manages to be very active as a guest conductor, adjudicator, and educational clinician. Appearances have included trips throughout the United States, as well as to Australia, Canada, Europe, Japan, Norway, the Republic of China, and Singapore.

School directors, student performers and audiences worldwide have enthusiastically received Mr. Swearingen’s numerous contributions for band. With nearly 600 published works, he has written band compositions and arrangements that reflect a variety of musical forms and styles. Many of his pieces, including 113 commissioned works, have been chosen for contest and festival lists. He is the recipient of several ASCAP awards for published compositions and in 1992 was selected as an Accomplished Graduate of the Fine and Performing Arts from Bowling Green State University. In March 2000, he was invited to join The American Bandmasters Association, considered to be the most prestigious bandmaster organization in the world. Mr. Swearingen received the 2002 Community Music Educator Award given annually by the Columbus Symphony Orchestra. That same year, he became conductor of the Grove City Community Winds. This highly talented ensemble consists of many fine musicians from the central Ohio area. On June 20, 2009, The American School Band Directors Association presented Mr. Swearingen with the A. Austin Harding Award. This prestigious award is presented annually by the organization and is reflective of valuable and dedicated service to the school bands of America. In 2011, he received the Hall of Fame Award presented by the Ohio Chapter (Mu) of Phi Beta Mu. The OMEA Distinguished Service Award was presented to him at the 2014 OMEA Professional Development Conference. Later that year, he was presented with the Signature Sinfonian Award by Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. On April 21, 2015, The Ohio State School of Music honored Mr. Swearingen with its Distinguished Alumnus Award. It should be noted that he is also a member of numerous professional and honorary organizations, including NAFME, ASBDA, Phi Beta Mu and Pi Kappa Lambda.

Many of Mr. Swearingen’s most popular band compositions have been recorded by the prestigious Washington Winds and are available on Walking Frog Records compact discs: His recordings include “In All Its Glory,” “Exaltation,” “Celebration for Winds and Percussion,” “The Light of Dawn,” and the newest release, “Flight of Valor.”

YouTube Videos –

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mII3NOgULg0>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq_z2RImmII