

# Antique Holiday Wish

Jeffrey T. Parthun Sr. (ASCAP)

When growing up, my father liked to collect antiques. He was especially interested in kerosene lamps and I remember spending time looking at his collection and thinking how old-fashioned they were. I tried to imagine what life would be like if I lived in a time when I would have to use these lamps. What kind of clothes would I wear? What would my house look like? What would music sound like?

In writing *Antique Holiday Wish*, I tried to set the traditional song *We Wish You a Merry Christmas* in a way that would sound old-fashioned or “classical” to my students today, realizing that this would be one of their first exposures to performing “serious” music. The harmonic structure and part-writing, especially the bass part at 29, are reminiscent of an older age.

Every wind part gets a piece of the melody and also a piece of the accompaniment. The arrangement gives the director an opportunity to teach young players about their changing roles in the ensemble. The percussion writing harkens back to Renaissance era dance rhythms and traditional period instruments. Directors may experiment with using a hand drum or frame drum as a substitute for the tom-tom part.



**Jeffrey T. Parthun, Sr.** lives in Lafayette, Indiana with his wife Kim and four children. He is a band director in the Lafayette (IN) School Corporation where he currently directs the concert and jazz bands at Tecumseh Middle School and is an assistant director at Jefferson High School. During his 20+ years as a public school teacher he has taught instrumental music at every level from elementary band and orchestra through teaching applied percussion at Purdue University. Jeff holds degrees from Butler University and Northwestern University where he studied band arranging with John P. Paynter, Don Owens and Don Casey. In addition to a busy teaching schedule he is active as a freelance percussionist with many regional jazz and concert groups. He is an experienced adjudicator/clinician/arranger for concert, jazz, marching and percussion ensembles and is a member of the Central States Judges Association. He can be seen (briefly!) as the band director in the Paramount Pictures movie "Blue Chips" with Shaquille O'Neal and Nick Nolte.