

Brighton Camp

(Regimental March)

setting by Randall Standridge

About the piece...

I have always loved "folk song" marches that use familiar old tunes as their basis. Holst and Vaughn Williams used this style to spectacular effect, creating some of the most memorable band music of all time. *Brighton Camp* follows this proud tradition, drawing on three folk songs to create its themes. The flutes begin in measure 9 with *Brighton Camp* (also known as *The Girl I Left Behind Me*), a tune that has been used in regiments as a marching song for many years. The counter-melody, introduced in measure 61, is *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon*. For the trio (measure 81), the lovely and little-heard *Cruel War* is matched with *Brighton Camp*. I hope you and your students will enjoy this as a march and as an introduction to these wonderful examples of our folk heritage.

Lyrics to Brighton Camp

*I'm lonesome since I crossed the hill and o'er the moor and valley
Such grievous thoughts my heart do fill since parting with my Sally
I seek no more the fine or gay for each doth but remind me
How swift the hours did pass away with the girl I left behind me*

*Oh, ne'er shall I forget the night the stars were bright above me
And gently lent their silv'ry light when first she vowed to love me
But now I'm bound to Brighton camp kind Heaven thence pray guide me
And send me safely back again to the girl I left behind me*

Rehearsal Notes...

- March style should be taught to students, making sure that the notes have a detached (but not "staccato") quality to them. Dynamics should be exaggerated.
- Too often, march style is too short; make sure you have a correct, "long" staccato.
- The Keys of E-Flat and A-Flat major should be reviewed everyday.
- It is recommended that the director begin rehearsing at measure 29, as this is the first moment where the full band plays. Because the flutes play the same melody there as they do in the beginning, starting here will save you rehearsal time!
- The tempo is recommended at 110 beats per minute. Going too much faster will make the folk songs lose their melodic flavor.



Randall Standridge was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended college at Arkansas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education. During this time, he also studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor. Randall Standridge is currently the Director of Bands at Harrisburg Public Schools in northeast Arkansas, where he is in charge of band instruction for grades 6-12. Randall is co-owner of Jon Ross Music (www.pdfband.com). He lives in Jonesboro, AR, and is in demand in the northeast Arkansas area as a composer, arranger, clinician, and designer.

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