

Daybreak March

by Randall Standridge

About the piece...

Daybreak March is a march for young band, written in a somewhat combined style of American and German marches. Its title stems from the fact that, one morning, I woke up with the whole piece in my head, completed. I sat down to write it at 6:00 AM; by noon, I had a march ready to go. Rarely has my muse delivered so quickly and so completely.

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.
- The tempo should not go much above 128 bpm; a rushed march never sounds good.
- Strive to create a very dramatic "rise and fall" feel at measures 22-24.

- Conductors should feel free to add a slight ritardando at measure 102, creating a grandioso feeling at 106
- This piece contains many accidentals; make sure your students know the proper finger positions BEFORE they attempt to learn a section. Remember, practice does not make perfect, it makes *permanent!* They need to get it right the first time; you must exercise the patience and forethought necessary to make sure this happens. It will eliminate many problems for you later! Take the sections with accidentals slow at first; **it is better to play it slowly and correctly than fast and wrong!**
- Make sure students understand their role as melody, harmony, countermelody, and accompaniment.
- Teach students the structure of the march:

ms.1-8	Introduction
ms.9-40	1st Strain
m.41-61	2nd Strain
ms.62-93	Trio
ms.94-105	Dogfight
ms.106-End	Final Strain

- This piece is in the keys of B-Flat and E-Flat. Students should practice these scales everyday to facilitate faster learning (and more accurate playing)!



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.