

Entry March

by Kyle McKinzey

Entry March is unique for small bands in several ways, the first obvious being a march in the key of C minor. This will help train their ears to minor keys (with no accidentals) while still playing in a comfortable key signature for young players.

The name of the piece came from a student (they often do). To them it sounded like Roman soldiers coming back from war. It has a percussion and bass line obligato that starts soft and builds throughout. We always said the soldiers were getting closer.

When the melody enters, it should be understated at first. The long notes should have full value and the eighth notes should be very separated. Both the melody and bass line have a syncopated part on beats 3 & 4 that the full band can count out together. Though they have this common rhythm, they have it at different times.

The woodwind runs came out of a scale exercise I wrote when teaching the minor scale. I taught this pattern to the whole band. Kept them busy while the woodwinds were learning their part and everyone got some minor scale patterns under their fingers.

While the percussion does have a lot of repetition, I usually try and write a small ensemble feature for them in my pieces. The parts are more linear than a traditional march. If you can get them on their own, getting them to learn to listen to the other parts and make their part go to the others will really intrigue them.

Good luck and I would appreciate any comments, suggestions, complaints, etc. about any of my pieces. kylemactx@sbcglobal.net

Kyle McKinzey



Kyle McKinzey is a middle school band director at Bowie Middle School in Irving, Texas. He has been teaching since 1982 at both the middle school and the high school levels in East Texas, and the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He is a 1982 graduate of Henderson State University, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. At Henderson, he studied composition with Dr. Bill Underwood, and was also influenced by his percussion instructor, Doug DeMorrow.

Through the years, Kyle has written many arrangements for friends, as well as compositions and arrangements for marching band, concert band, jazz band, and percussion ensembles. In addition to these pieces, he has done numerous arrangements for church praise bands, orchestras and choirs. He has also orchestrated and conducted many pieces for orchestra and choir. His most recent endeavor was a benefit for Zoe Ministries where he worked with the largest mass choir production ever performed at Bass Hall in Fort Worth, Texas.

Kyle has performed with the Arkansas and South Arkansas Symphonies as a percussionist. He played piano and drums with the Greenville Big Band Jazz Orchestra. He is a charter member of the Mansfield Wind Symphony of Mansfield, Texas, and he currently plays percussion with them. He is an active member of Texas Music Educators Association, ASCAP, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He lives in Mansfield with his wife Charlene and two wonderful children, Johnna and Brandt.