

# Iceland Caps

Based on a melody by Sheridan Steiner  
**Jeffrey T. Parthun, Sr. (ASCAP)**

*Iceland Caps* came about as the solution to a predicament created by a group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade saxophone players. These musicians were excited about performing an ensemble at the annual solo/ensemble contest. One of the members happened to own a bass saxophone and was dying to play the horn for something at school. I decided to look for an ensemble that used a bass sax or an ensemble that I could edit to include the instrument. After looking for a while and with the entry deadline for the contest quickly approaching, another member of the group, Sheridan Steiner, asked me if I would like to hear a melody that she had written. When she picked up her sax and played the tune I sensed that this would be the answer I was looking for. I harmonized and arranged *Iceland Caps* for this great 7<sup>th</sup> grade sax section as a quintet: two alto parts, tenor, baritone and bass. Since most band programs do not have access to a bass saxophone, the published version was re-arranged for a traditional saxophone quartet of two alto parts, tenor and baritone.

Sheridan is a wonderful student who is talented musically, academically and athletically. She was inspired to write her melody after looking at pictures of Icelandic mountains during her social studies class at Lafayette (IN) Tecumseh Junior High School.

This piece works as well as a saxophone choir with multiple players on each part as it does as a quartet. Directors are encouraged to train their players to perform with the concepts of good balance, intonation, phrasing and rhythmic stability regardless of the size of the ensemble. Any player, regardless of experience, will be challenged by the independence written into each part. With adequate preparation this piece will be very satisfying to players and directors. It accomplishes what chamber music does so well: promote excellent personal technique and develop musical communication among players.



**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 and 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.