

Knoppers Ford

Concert March

Performance Time 1:50

By John R. Fultz

Performance Notes:

Knoppers Ford is a stately military style march to be performed at a quarter note = 112 beats per minute. It is composed in a modified march form. This piece offers several opportunities for students to learn about how a march is structured. Each section of the piece contrasts a crisp *marcato* style with a smooth *legato* style when each thematic element is introduced. Make sure the students are aware of the musical contrast between these two styles. The students are also introduced to *marcato* accents near the end of the piece, so at that point you will have an opportunity to explain the “short and hard” *marcato* accent.

Even though the dynamic level is *f* for the trumpets, at their first statement of the theme, please explain to the students the primary volume of any line is determined by its relative melodic importance. *Forte* is not a specific volume level, it is only a guideline used by the conductor for balancing between all the instruments in the group. To better involve them in the musical process, show them the major melodic motifs in the composition. Have them identify and play the many contrapuntal themes that occur throughout this wonderful march.

When you put all these musical melodies and ideas together, it forms a whole composition. Reinforce the concept that when each one of these melodic elements presents itself to the listener, the musician should make a conscious effort to bring out that line. Showcasing the different melodies within the music is the primary objective your young musicians should have.