

New World

Arranged by Larry Norred

Performance Notes:

The “New World” Symphony is one of the most awe inspiring compositions of the Czech composer Antonin Dvorak. The piece is based on the Largo section of this monumental orchestral masterpiece.

The writers in the movie “Patriot Games” employed this haunting melody in the airport scene where the fallen soldiers were coming home to their final resting place.

The musical effect of this piece is not to be achieved by technically difficult passages and extreme ranges. Each and every dynamic marking throughout the piece is extremely important in creating the right mood. You simply can’t be too dramatic in interpreting these markings. All crescendos and decrescendos provide the drama and excitement that every student will feel as they play this masterwork by one of the most prolific composers of the 20th century.

In the late 19th century, music was typically associated with blatant nationalism and Old World politics. American music was mired in Old World styles. There were quite a few patrons of original American music who took a stand to encourage American composers to establish their own styles and traditions. One such voice was Jeanette Thurber, who founded the National Conservatory of Music which opened its doors in 1888 to talented African-American musicians. They needed a strong leader and she chose Dvorak as the first dean of the school.

Dvorak was born and raised a Bohemian peasant. He never strayed from his musical roots. He once proclaimed, "I am convinced that the future music of this country must be founded on what are called Negro melodies. These can be the foundation of a serious and original school of composition, to be developed in the United States. These beautiful and varied themes are the product of the soil. They are the folk songs of America and your composers must turn to them."

One of his students, Henry Burleigh, sang these melodies to him in his home. He recalled that Dvorak "saturated himself in the spirit of these old tunes." It is believed that the "New World" Symphony is based on these melodies and; of course, the Largo that you are playing is a direct result of these influences. The "New World" was America, where he chose to continue writing until his death in 1904.



Larry Norred is a professional keyboardist, composer, arranger and former Vice-President of Production for Jenson Publications in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He has over 300 published arrangements for jazz ensemble, concert band, choral ensemble and marching band in distribution throughout the United States, Canada, the Far East and Europe.

While at Jenson in the early 1980's he designed the first totally integrated publishing software in use in a major music publisher. The system and the people who ran it, made possible the print production of over 2500 publications annually for Jenson Publications.

Larry's commercial jazz improvisation software, **Changes** is available on the world wide web <http://www.changes98.com> and is currently in use in scores of Jr. High, High School and College jazz programs all over the world.

He is an owner and managing editor for Jon Ross Music, LLC. This site is a direct result of his publishing experiences with 6 different major world-wide music publishing firms. He is one of the first graduates of Alfred Reed's Music Merchandising program at the University of Miami. Throughout his professional career he has been the editor for composers from Sammy Nestico to John Higgins and has been privileged to work with some of the best writers in the world.