## FANTASY for Euphonium and Piano





## FANTASY for Euphonium and Piano by Hiroshi Hoshina

Hiroshi Hoshina was born in Tokyo in 1936 and is currently a university music professor in Osaka. He studied composition with Yoshio Hasegawa and conducting with Akeo Watanabe. In 1960 he won first prize in the Mainichi Music Competition in Tokyo with his *Passacaglia for Orchestra*. He has been very active as a composer and is particularly well-known in Japan as a band composer. Some of his famous works for band included *Caprice for Band* and *Symphonic Moment*. Hoshina is considered to be "the Alfred Reed of Japan."

Nobuyoshi Yasuda, Conductor of Orchestras and Assistant Professor of Violin at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, describes Hoshina as a person with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm that comes across in his teaching as well as his music. Yasuda studied with him in Tokyo and stated that Hoshina was one of his greatest influences as a teacher of music in his career. He stated that it was impossible to describe his impact as a musician because "this man is music."

Fantasy for Euphonium and Piano was one of two commissioned works by Toru Miura, solo euphoniumist for the Kosei Wind Orchestra of Tokyo, for the Third International Tuba-Euphonium Conference that was held in Austin, Texas in 1986. This tone poem-like composition has a beautiful melody which is developed harmonically and melodically. The piece begins with a very unique accompaniment and the composer describes the opening euphonium melody as "nostalgic" in nature and in a style that is "familiar" to most listeners. He also describes the work as having a distinctly "Japanese flavor." Several sections of the work are for unaccompanied euphonium.

Roger Behrend, principal euphoniumist for the United States Navy Band, states that while listening to **Fantasy**, one can imagine a sunrise over a picturesque Japanese countryside.

(Notes by Toru Miura, Nobuyoshi Yasuda and Roger Behrend; Compiled by Luis Maldonado.)