

## **About the Composition**

*Prayer* for 12-part trombone ensemble by Howard J. Buss. This beautiful, meditative work is designed to be performed in a concert venue or as a musical offering in a house of worship. Its reverent quality is enhanced by the rich sonority and organ-like quality of the large trombone ensemble.

The musical language of *Prayer* is sophisticated, yet audience-friendly. It begins with a lyrical 12-tone melody that is symbolic of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. The dodecaphonic reference also relates to the instrumentation: From the pickup to measure 70 to the end, the twelve pitches of the opening melody are presented with each player assigned to one pitch. When performing this closing passage it is important that the 12 players shape the 12 separate pitches into one lyrical melody (as it was presented at the beginning of the piece by player one).

This composition is accessible to amateur and high school-level players. It may be performed with ten tenor and two bass trombones. Parts 11 and 12 are specifically notated for bass trombones. If an additional bass trombone is available it may be used on part 6. Other parts easily playable on a bass trombone are 4, 5, and 10. Part 6 has a low E-flat which may be facilitated with an F-attachment if no bass trombone is available to cover the part.

Duration: 5'10"

## **About the Composer**

Howard J. Buss (b. 1951) is recognized internationally as a composer of contemporary classical music. His compositions have received critical acclaim and have been performed in more than 50 countries. His music is widely performed and frequently featured at national and international music conventions and festivals. Faculty musicians from major universities as well as current and former members of prestigious organizations such as The Boston Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Vancouver Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, etc have performed them. A copy of his patriotic composition *Fanfares* is included in the Presidential Collection of Ronald Reagan. Buss' more than 160 published works include instrumental solos, chamber music, symphonic, choral, and band works. They are fast becoming part of the standard repertoire in concert halls.

Buss has received numerous awards and his commissioned works include original compositions as well as arrangements. His works are frequently included and analyzed in doctoral dissertations, lectures, professional music journals, and music literature bibliographies. They have been recorded on the Albany, Bottega Discantica (Italy), Crystal, Capstone, DUX (Poland), Equilibrium, HoneyRock, IBS Classical (Spain), PL Productions, C. Alan Publications, and Ravello labels.

Howard J. Buss received his B.A. in Applied Music from West Chester University, M.M. in Performance and M.M. in Composition from Michigan State University, and D.M.A. in Composition from the University of Illinois. He is the founder and editor of Brixton Publications (ASCAP) and Buss Publications (BMI), which publish contemporary American concert music.

*Cover design and graphics by Judy E. Buss*

# Prayer

for 12-part trombone choir

Duration: @ 5:10

Howard J. Buss (ASCAP)

Trbn. 1 *mp* *mf* *mp*

Trbn. 2 *mp*

Trbn. 3 *mp*

Trbn. 4 *mp*

Trbn. 5 *mp*

Trbn. 6 *mp*

Trbn. 7

Trbn. 8

Trbn. 9

Trbn. 10

Trbn. 11 (bass)

Trbn. 12 (bass)

*www.hickeys.com*

11

(h)  $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{mp}$   $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$

(b)  $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$

12  $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$

Musical score for measures 11-19. The score consists of 12 staves. Measure 11 starts with a circled 'A' above the first staff. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *mf*, and *mp*. There are slurs and accents throughout. A circled 'h' is above the first staff in measure 11, and a circled 'b' is above the fourth staff in measure 12. A large watermark 'www.hickeys.com' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

20

$\text{mf}$   $\text{f}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{f}$   $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{f}$   $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{f}$   $\text{mp}$   $\text{mf}$   $\text{mp}$

Musical score for measures 20-28. The score consists of 12 staves. Measure 20 starts with a circled 'A' above the first staff. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *mf*. There are slurs and accents throughout. A large watermark 'www.hickeys.com' is overlaid diagonally across the score.