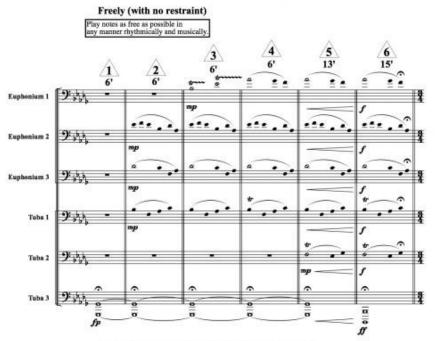
IN MEMORIAM

Kevin Day

The idea for in Memoriam came to me on December 11, 2015. Each year, for the past 20 years, the TCU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble students play Christmas carols around the university campus. In 2015 our day for caroling, December 11 also happened to be my father's birthday. I thought about him all morning and after our noon caroling session I decided to approach my talented tuba, euphonium, composer student, Kevin Day, about writing a long overdue piece to honor my father. We sat down for about an hour when I told Kevin about the very difficult life that my dad had experienced. I think Kevin has captured the feelings I expressed to him about the experiences of a little 5 year old boy who had to leave his home because of financial difficulties around 1919 or 1920. He went to live with a wonderful foster family who gave him a home, food, and clothes. Things were still not easy, it was the 1920's and the Great Depression was Iooming over everyone's head. I know that there were many things in life that he was never comfortable discussing, I also saw in him a profound loyalty to the family who took him in while never forgetting his birth family. The decision that his birth father had to make must have been unimaginably difficult and I know that in spite of the love and care my dad received from his foster family there was always a whole left and feelings that he simply could not discuss. I rest easy knowing that he now has found peace with both his birth family members and most of his foster family. I hope that through this musical tribute he somehow knows that he is greatly missed, but not forgotten here on earth!

Richard Murrow



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