

Reflection and Celebration

by

David F. Wilborn

Raymond Conklin was a beloved professor of low brass at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. His 45 year teaching career resulted in numerous accolades and administrative positions including: The Murray State University Board of Regents Teaching Excellence Award, the Dr. Charles and Marlene Johnson Outstanding Music Faculty Award, President of the Murray State University Senate, and Chair of the Department of Music. He was an accomplished trombonist who performed with the Evansville (IN) Philharmonic Orchestra, Owensboro (KY) Symphony Orchestra and numerous regional orchestras. As a freelance commercial artist, he got to perform with Mel Tormé, Doc Severinson, Clark Terry, Marvin Hamlisch, Jamey Aebersold, Sim Flora, and David Baker.

Conklin's enduring legacy is his accomplishments as a teacher. His former students currently teach and perform in college university programs public schools, and symphony orchestras throughout the United States and Europe. *Reflection and Celebration* is a musical homage to a man who was revered for his mentorship, musical intellect and delightful humor. The work opens with a somber melodic solo, capturing the noble spirit of this great mentor. Several repetitive 5-note ascending motives follow which is a symbolic reference to students learning and accomplishing under Conklin's mentorship. The bold fanfare style (in measure 32) is presented to capture the presence and tall stature of Conklin. Finally, Conklin's down-to-earth personality and his infectious humor is referenced (in measure 83). Even the fanfare theme returns in a faster tempo, thus highlighting the frivolity, lightheartedness, and wisdom of this adored music teacher.

David F. Wilborn (b.1961)

David Wilborn is Associate Professor of Music at Texas A&M University in College Station, where he teaches the low brass studio and coordinates small ensembles, Wilborn studied composition with Donald Grantham and trombone with Donald Knaub and John Marcellus. He holds the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin, the Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas.

Wilborn is the composer of several award-winning works for brass instruments. His *Excursions for Six Trombones* was selected as the winner of the 2003 Allen E. Ostrander Trombone Choir Composition Prize; his brass quintet entitled *Escapades* was selected as one of the winning compositions at the Appalachian State 2004 Brass Chamber Music Festival Composition Contest; and his *Three Movements for Brass Sextet* won second place at the 2005 Humboldt Composition Contest for Brass Chamber Music. In February 2008, Wilborn performed the solo bass trombone part in the New York premiere of *Concertante Caprice* with the Texas A&M University Wind Symphony in Carnegie Hall. Rorianne Schrade, music critic for the *New York Concert Review*, praised the work for its "freshness and excitement." Wilborn's compositions are published by the International Trombone Association Press, Warwick Music, Kagarice Brass Editions, Grand Mesa Music, Wehr Music House and Cherry Classics Music.

Wilborn has served as a conductor, trombonist, lecturer, and clinician throughout the United States, Europe, and Puerto Rico. He is the author of numerous articles dealing with low brass and band pedagogy. His professional affiliations include the International Trombone Association, College Music Society, National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, and American Society of Composers Authors, and Publishers.

6.5 mins

Reflection and Celebration

for 8-part Trombone Ensemble

David F. Wilborn (ASCAP)

Moderate tempo with a solemn spirit (♩ = 84-86)

* Solo

The score is for an 8-part trombone ensemble. Trombone 1 has a solo part starting with a melodic line in bass clef, 4/4 time, marked *mp*. The solo is marked with a star and the word "Solo". The melody consists of a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. Trombones 2 through 6 and Bass Trombones 1 and 2 have rests throughout the piece.

* If the 1st trombone part is doubled, it is suggested that the soloist performs the first 12 measures either offstage or behind the audience. Doing so achieves an ethereal effect - an effect that reflects and celebrates the spirit and memory of Professor Raymond Conklin.

7

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Tbn. 5

Tbn. 6

B. Tbn. 1

B. Tbn. 2

A

Tutti

pp

mp

mp

14

The musical score consists of eight staves, each with a double bar line and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The staves are labeled on the left as follows: Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, Tbn. 4, Tbn. 5, Tbn. 6, B. Tbn. 1, and B. Tbn. 2. The first measure (measure 14) begins with a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) and a fermata over the first note. Tbn. 1 and Tbn. 2 play a melodic line with a slur over the first four notes and a fermata over the fifth. Tbn. 5 and Tbn. 6 play a similar melodic line, also starting with a *p* dynamic. Tbn. 3 and Tbn. 4 play a sustained low note, indicated by a horizontal line with a square note head. B. Tbn. 1 and B. Tbn. 2 also play a sustained low note. In measure 15, the melodic lines continue. In measure 16, the melodic lines continue. In measure 17, the melodic lines continue. In measure 18, the melodic lines conclude with a fermata. Tbn. 3 has a single note in measure 18 with a dynamic marking of *p* and a fermata. Tbn. 5 and Tbn. 6 have a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 18. Tbn. 1 and Tbn. 2 have a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 18. Tbn. 3 and Tbn. 4 have a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 18. B. Tbn. 1 and B. Tbn. 2 have a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 18.

I
With spirit (♩ = 96)

98

Tbn. 1
ff

Tbn. 2
ff

Tbn. 3
ff

Tbn. 4
ff

Tbn. 5
ff

Tbn. 6
ff

B. Tbn. 1
ff

B. Tbn. 2
ff

rit.

138

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Tbn. 5

Tbn. 6

B. Tbn. 1

B. Tbn. 2

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

niente

niente

niente

niente

niente

niente

niente

niente