Chinese Dragon Parade

David Marlatt

The dragon dance is often part of a parade during Chinese New Year and other special events. It is performed by a team of skilled dancers using poles to manipulate a long flexible figure of a dragon. The colorful display combined with driving percussive music is a truly amazing spectacle to see. There are 4 different dragons represented here - each with a unique character and personality, then are combined in different ways musically.

The dragons could be named or drawn by the students allowing for the music to form images in their minds.

Using the pentatonic scale (just the black keys on a piano) melodies and harmonies with distinctly Asian feel have been created. The range and rhythms are straight forward and the use of several percussion colors also contributes to this sonority.

The personality of each of the dragons is created with the appropriate dynamic and articulations. Some of are more accented and some are smoother in character.

PREVIEW ONLY

David Marlatt (b. 1973) is an accomplished Canadian composer, arranger and publisher. He writes music for concert band, string orchestra and a wide variety of chamber groups. Since the creation of Eighth Note Publications in 1996, he has composed over 200 works and arranged more than 1100 pieces ranging from the Baroque era to the Romantic era. Mr. Marlatt primarily writes for the educational market where he is regularly commissioned by elementary schools and high schools in both Canada and the United States. He regularly makes guest appearances and conducts workshops with ensembles at schools, community groups and professional ensembles and adjudicates at both local and provincial festivals. In 2019 Mr. Marlatt received the Canadian Band Association's Canadian Composer Award for his contributions to wind band repertoire, an award which has only been given to six other composers since its inception.

Please contact the composer if you require any further information about this piece or his availability for commissioning new works and appearances.

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