Music for Youth Orchestra II

Craig Bakalian

Two Flutes, Two Oboes, Two Clarinets, Two Bassoons, F Horn, Trumpet, and Strings

Foreword

Music for Youth Orchestra is music for young advanced musicians at a maturity level of high school or college. It was written as a study in tonality, meter, and phrasing. Music for Youth Orchestra II is part of a series of eight pieces each organized by tonality; Major, Dorian, Phrygian, Lydian, Mixolydian, Aeolian, Locrian, and Minor. Each of the eight pieces includes the development of a variety of meter; Duple, Triple, Unusual Paired, Unusual Unpaired, and Combined. The phrasing was written with the thought of young musicans in mind. The phrasing is clear, simple, and primarily even (four or eight bars). However, often in the development sections, a phrase may be varied with unusual harmonic motion with shifts (substitution) in tonics, dominants, and subdominants. It should be noted that there is nothing simple about this music. It requires rigorous study and considerable rehearsal effort.

Music for Youth Orchestra II is based upon Dorian tonality and Triple meter. This piece is also a study in tempo changes; from slow to fast, slowing (ritard), and getting faster (accelerando). At measure 45 there is a direct change to Lydian tonality. The Lydian theme can be audiated as a bridge to variations of the main Dorian theme as stated rehearsal letter B. However, at rehearsal letter C, the main E Dorian theme is harmonically altered to A Dorian, which can be considered a keyal variation. There is a requirement of dividing parts in the string sections similar to Music for Youth Orchestra I. So, a generous amount of students is required in the string sections. It may also be noted that the slower sections require a soloist. The director of this music may use these sections as an opportunity to teach true music independence.

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