NITRO

FOR CONCERT BAND

FRANK TICHELI

INSTRUMENTATION

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- 1	Haal	l Score

I Bassoon 2

2 Trombone 3

I Piccolo

2 Eb Alto Saxophone I

3 Euphonium B.C.

4 Flute I

2 Eb Alto Saxophone 2

2 Euphonium T.C.

4 Flute 2

I Bb Tenor Saxophone

4 Tuba

I Oboe I

I Oboe 2

I Eb Baritone Saxophone

I Timpani (also playing medium Triangle)

3 Bb Clarinet I

3 Bb Trumpet I

3 Percussion I

3 Bb Clarinet 2

3 Bb Trumpet 23 Bb Trumpet 3

Xylophone, large Triangle, large Slapstick

3 Bb Clarinet 3

2 F Horn I

3 Percussion 2

3 Bb Clarinet 4

2 F Horn 2

Glockenspiel, Snare Drum, medium-large Susp. Cymbal, Crash Cymbals (share with Perc 3)

2 Bb Bass Clarinet

I Bassoon I

2 Trombone I

3 Percussion 3
Tambourine, Bongos, small TomTom, Crash Cymbals (share with

2 Trombone 2

Tom, Crash Cymbals (sh: Perc. 2), large Bass Drum

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MANHATTAN BEACH MUSIC

itro, an energy-charged three-minute fanfare for band, was commissioned by the Northshore Concert Band, Mallory Thompson, music director, in celebration of their 50th anniversary season, and received its premiere performance by them on April 9th, 2006.

Nitrogen is the most abundant component of the Earth's atmosphere (78 per cent by volume), and is present in the tissues of every living thing. It is the fifth most abundant element in the universe, created by the fusion deep within stars; it has recently been detected in interstellar space. The sheer prevalence of nitrogen in all of nature, and the infinite range of compounds it is part of — life-giving, energizing, healing, cleansing, explosive — all appealed to me, and served as the inspiration for my music.

The main musical idea for *Nitro* is a powerful, angular theme, first announced by the trombones and horns, and then imitated in the trumpets. Trumpet fanfare calls and a busy and relentless chattering in the woodwinds enhance the bright, festive mood.

The middle section is based on a woodwind theme that is partly fanfare-like, partly dance-like. This contrasting theme is built from intervals occurring in the natural overtone series (octave and twelfth), giving it an expansive, open-air quality. The main theme reappears, growing in power and density all the while, building to a thunderous conclusion.

Frank Ticheli

R E H E A R S A L N O T E S

A-SECTION

(MEASURES 1 to 46)

Measures 1 to 15: The trombone/horn theme, based on five notes (B-flat, F, D, E-flat, A-flat), is angular and powerful. The chattering woodwind accompaniment is based on the same five notes, and should be played with great energy, and in a crisp, *staccato* style. The woodwinds can not overstate the indicated accents in measures 8 and 10. These accented notes answer the brasses. Shout them out!

Measures 15 to 32: The tongued woodwind triplets are transformed into slurred, more whirlwind-like 16th-notes. The brass theme continues, now in imitation among the trumpets, horns and trombones, and with one note altered (E-flat becomes E-natural). Strive to achieve fairly equal balance among the various brass statements in this section.

Measures 33 to 46: The A-section concludes with a new fanfare idea, sounded in close imitation between the trumpets and horns. The woodwinds, triangle, and glockenspiel add a bright, sometimes percussive edge to the attack points of the brass fanfare. In order to achieve this quality, the notated dynamics should be observed carefully.

B-SECTION (DANCE AND DEVELOPMENT) (MEASURES 47 to 95)

Measures 47 to 53: The woodwinds take over the foreground in this contrasting section. The dotted rhythms, accents, and mixed meter scheme have a dance-like quality, but the theme itself is more fanfare-like, shouted by the alto saxophone along with the oboes and first clarinet at the octave and twelfth respectively (forming the first three harmonics of the natural overtone series). This theme is rudely interrupted by the low woodwinds and their raucous flourish of 16th-notes. The two forces exchange blows — the slapstick serving as a kind of referee —until finally the dance-like theme wins out.

Measures 54 to 71: The theme is extended and passed around the ensemble (measures 54 to 69). It should always sound crisp and rhythmic, light but confident, and with strong accents.

Measures 72 to 80: Measures 72 to 76 serve as an episode. A line rises by step for more than three octaves, beginning in horn 1, passing to the first clarinet, and finally to the piccolo. At the bottom, the main theme from the work's beginning is sounded in the low brass and woodwinds. The structure is that of a wedge both in terms of pitch and dynamics. At measure 77, a ferocious *tutti* climax is sounded. Be sure to observe the indication, *"marcato, slightly detached"*, as it will enhance the distinction between the upper and lower halves of the ensemble.

Measures 81 to 95 The main theme returns, and is developed and passed around the ensemble at many different transposition levels, accompanied by rising triads in the low brasses and woodwinds. A strong cadence is reached at measure 90, and the woodwinds' dance-like theme is briefly recalled, only to be extinguished by the brasses at measure 93. These brasses bring back the harmonic language of the work's beginning as they wedge inward to a concert F at measure 96, ushering in the recapitulation.

RECAPITULATION (Greatly shortened) (MEASURES 96 to 105)

The woodwind chatter returns, sounding over brass fanfares and one final, full-throated statement of the main brass theme. An abrupt, explosive cadence ends the work.

Frank Ticheli

FRANK TICHELI

WORKS FOR CONCERT BAND

Frank Ticheli's works for concert band are published exclusively by Manhattan Beach Music

Abracadabra (5 minutes, grade 3)

Amazing Grace (5 minutes, grade 3)

An American Elegy (11 minutes, grade 4)

Ave Maria / Schubert (4 1/2 minutes, grade 3)

Blue Shades (10 minutes, grade 5)

Cajun Folk Songs (6 ¾ minutes, grade 3)

Cajun Folk Songs II (10 ½ minutes, grade 4)

Fortress (5 ½ minutes, grade 3)

Gaian Visions (9 ½ minutes, grade 6)

Joy (2 ½ minutes, grade 2)

Joy Revisited (3 ½ minutes, grade 3)

Loch Lomond (6 ½ minutes, grade 3)

Nitro (3 minutes, grade 4)

Pacific Fanfare (5 ½ minutes, grade 5)

Portrait of a Clown (2 3/4 minutes, grade 2)

Postcard (5 ¼ minutes, grade 5)

Sanctuary (12 minutes, grade 5)

A Shaker Gift Song (2 minutes, grade 2)

This work is a separate publication of the third song from Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs

Shenandoah (6 ½ minutes, grade 3)

Simple Gifts: Four Shaker Songs (9 minutes, grade 3)

Sun Dance (5 minutes, grade 3)

Symphony No. 2 (21 minutes; mvts. 1 & 2 are grade 6, mvt. 3 is grade 5)

Movement 1, "Shooting Stars," Movement 2, "Dreams Under a New Moon," and Movement 3, "Apollo Unleashed" may be separately performed

Vesuvius (9 minutes, grade 4)

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NITRO FOR CONERT BAND FRANK TICHELI = c. 144+Oboe Bb Clarinet Bb Bass Clarinet Bassoon 2 Eb Alto Saxophone Bb Tenor Saxophone Eb Baritone Saxophone Bb Trumpet 2 (at least 2 players per part) F Horn Trombone Euphonium Tuba initial settings Timpani (also plays Medium Triangle) Percussion 2

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