Arrival at the Agora

David Marlatt

In ancient Greece an agora was a central meeting place to discuss affairs of state, where business was conducted and people could listen to philosophers. It later evolved into a marketplace where merchants and artisans would sell their wares. In modern times this has transformed into farmers markets and outdoor/street markets such as Portobello Road in London, England and the famous leather market in Florence, Italy.

This piece captures the various sights, sounds and smells of a traveler wandering through an open air market in either ancient times or more modern.

Students can contribute their own ideas to which section of the band or section of the music represents which vendor or good being sold. There is no right answer - only creativity and open minds.

There are some moments in this short piece to feature a trumpet player (or section) as well as opportunity for the lower voices to have some extended time with the melody line. Balance is key to allow these voices to be clearly heard.

Dynamic contrast will help to add excitement, variety and interest to this piece so be aware of the softer dynamics and try to maintain good sound quality while keeping the volume as quiet as possible.

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 1200 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 6 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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