

Note to Conductor

It must be stressed that although brilliance is the key effect to be achieved in any performance of this music, the tempi in the opening and closing sections should only be taken as fast as every performer in the group can play his part clearly and cleanly at all times. The conductor is urged to consider carefully the overall size and playing ability of the group as a whole, as well as the acoustical conditions under which the performance is to take place, in determining his tempi, in order to achieve the best combination of speed and clarity which this music calls for.

Careful attention to balance should be given in the intertwining of themes in the middle section, particularly from 197 to 238, where the main melodic line passes from one instrument or section to another, and is usually accompanied by at least one counter-melody at all times. It may be necessary here (and in other passages as well) to

reduce or increase the number of players on any one line or more, depending on the size of the performing group and the acoustical conditions of the concert room. The conductor should not hesitate to make use of the cues and cross-cues provided in order to achieve such balances wherever necessary.

Crispness in playing the two-step rhythms in the fast sections is essential to a proper interpretation of the music at these points; all eighth notes should be cut slightly short, leaving a little "air" around them, wherever indicated by dots over them. Quarter notes, on the other hand, even when accented, should always be played with their full value.

Careful attention to dynamics, attack and phrasing, in combination with the proper templ, will result in a brilliant interpretation of this colorful and lively music.

Program Note

This brilliant work, combining elements of the symphonic variation form with those of the large theater pit orchestra styling, was written for the Western Illinois Symphonic Wind Ensemble and its conductor, Christopher Izzo. The first performance took place on November 14th, 1973, at Macomb, Illinois, at one of their Fall concerts on campus.

The music is in the traditional three-part overture form (fast-slow-fast) with a warm, lyrical middle section set off by a brilliant opening and closing group of themes that are constantly developed with all of the resources of the modern

integrated wind ensemble. Although there is no program, nor is the music conceived in terms of any specific play, story or film, some listeners may just perhaps find a touch of nostalgia in the long, singing line of the middle section, or in the exciting theater two-step rhythms in the final portion. The only real clue as to what the music is all about may be found in its sub-title: Overture to a Romantic Comedy...and the elements of both romance and comedy have indeed always remained the same, and, hopefully, will continue to be so!

The Composer

ALFRED REED is a native New Yorker — born in Manhattan on January 25, 1921. His parents loved good music and made it part of their daily lives; as a result, he was well acquainted with most of the standard symphonic and operatic repertoire while still in elementary school.

Beginning formal music training at the age of ten, he studied trumpet and was playing professionally while still in High School. He worked on theory and harmony with John Sacco, and continued later as a scholarship student of Paul Yartin.

After three years at the Radio Workshop in New York, he enlisted in the Air Force during World War II, and was assigned to the 529th Army Air Force Band, under the direction of Warrant Officer Robert L. Landers (later Captain Landers, the conductor of the Air Force Singing Sergeants). During his three and a half years with this organization, Alfred Reed became deeply interested in the Concert Band and its music. He produced nearly 100 works for band before leaving the Service.

Following his release, he enrolled at the Juliard School of Music as a student of Vittorio Giannini. In 1948 he became a staff composer and arranger with NBC and, subsequently, ABC in New York, where he wrote and arranged music for radio and television, as well as for record albums and films.

in 1953 Mr. Reed became conductor of the Baylor Symphony Orchestra at Baylor University In Waco, Texas, at the same time completing his interrupted academic work. His Master's thesis was the RHAPSODY FOR VIOLA AND ORCHESTRA, which later was to win the Luria Prize. It received its first performance in 1959, and was published in 1966. During the two years at Baylor he also became interested in the problems of educational music at all levels, especially in the development of repertoire material for band, orchestra and chorus. This led, in 1955, to his accepting the post of editor in a major publishing firm. He left this position in September, 1966, to join the faculty of the School of Music at the University of Miami, as Associate Professor of Music, holding a joint appointment in the Theory-Composition and Music Education Departments.

With over 200 published works for band orchestra and chorus to his credit, many of which have been on required performance lists for the past ten years, Alfred Reed is one of the nation's most prolific and frequently performed composers. His work as a clinician and guest composer has taken him to nearly every part of the country. He left New York in 1960 for Miami, Florida, where he makes his home at present.

PUNCHINELLO Overture to a Romantic Comedy















































































































