

Masque, Kenneth Hesketh

The Masque has had a varied history, certainly a varied spelling (masque, maske, even maskeling). However the historian E.K. Chambers in his book *The Medieval Stage* defines the word in the following way: "A form of revel in which mummers or masked folk or masked folk come, with torches blazing, into the festive hall uninvited and call upon the company to dance and dice."

The above description, I think, can also serve as a description to the piece. The main theme is certainly bravura and is often present, disguised, in the background. The form of the piece is a simple scherzo-trio-scherzo. Colourful scoring (upper wind solos, trumpet and horn solos alternating with full bodied tutti) with a dash of wildness is the character of the piece – I hope it may tease both player and listener to let their hair down a little!

- *Program note by composer*

Be Thou My Vision, David Gillingham

It was an honor and privilege to compose this work for Ray and Molly Cramer in honor of their parents. The work is heartfelt, expressive and hopefully inspiring. The hymn tune *Slane* is one of my favorites and inspired me to compose a countermelody which is likened to an old Irish ballad. Since *Slane* is, in fact, an old Irish ballad, the two tunes share this unique camaraderie.

The work opens with a medieval-like flavor of reverence leading to the first presentation of *Slane* (*Be Thou My Vision*) in D-minor stated in chant-like somberness by the euphonium. Following, the newly composed Irish ballad is sung by the flute, which leads to a dramatic statement of *Be Thou My Vision* by the full ensemble in A-major. The work is interrupted by a prayerful interlude. Following is the marriage of the two Irish tunes in D-flat major which grows to a glorious climax and then subsides. A heavenly benediction closes the work.

- *Program note by composer*

Traveler, David Maslanka

Traveler was commissioned in 2003 by the University of Texas at Arlington Band Alumni Association, the Delta Sigma chapter of Kapa Kappa Psi and the Gamma Nu chapter of Tau Beta Sigma, in honor of the career contributions of Ray C. Lichtenwalter (b. 1940), retiring director of bands at UT Arlington. Ray has been a close friend and champion of my music for many years, and it was a great pleasure for me to write this piece for his final concert.

The idea for *Traveler* came from the feeling of a big life movement as I contemplated my friend's retirement. *Traveler* begins with an assertive statement of the chorale melody *Nicht so traurig*,

nicht so sehr (Not so sad, not so much). The chorale was not chosen for its title, although in retrospect it seems quite appropriate. The last part of a life need not be sad. It is the accumulation of all that has gone before, and a powerful projection into the future -- the potential for a tremendous gift of life and joy. And so the music begins with energy and movement, depicting an engaged life in full stride. At the halfway point, a meditative quiet settles in. Life's battles are largely done; the soul is preparing for its next big step.

*In our hearts, our minds, our souls
We travel from life to life to life
In time and eternity.*

- Program Note by composer