BEGINNER BAND SERIES

BALDUR'S DREAM

by

MARTIN WEST

DURATION: 2'21"

LEVEL: 0.5

INSTRUMENTATION



Band Music

by Australian Composers

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Duration: 2'21"

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Program Notes:

Baldur, son of Odin, is known in Norse mythology as the god of beauty and light, peace and righteousness. Through the treachery of Loki, the trickster and god of fire and magic, Baldur is slain by his own twin brother with a spear made from mistletoe. He is condemned to reside in the Realm of the Dead until Ragnarök, the apocalyptic battle at the end of the world when the skies darken over and the destroyed earth will submerge under the sea. According to the legends, the earth will then re-surface and the innocent Baldur will return from the dead with the surviving just and true gods. A new era will begin on earth.

In Baldur's Dream, we share memories and fragments of the life he once knew.

Rehearsal Notes:

The opening crescendos and diminuendos should be clearly brought out, maintaining an even balance through the band. Take as much time as needed with the *rit*. at [9] to achieve a strong crescendo from the low brass and woodwind.

[14] has trumpets and alto saxes stating the main theme. Allow them to pley boldly but ensure control and matched phrasing. Take care with the background reythnic figure in the ensemble. It should be played with precision and accurate note length. With similar phrases from [32 to 35] and at the ending, watch that the band prays with rhythmic precision and clean articulation.

Make the *rall*. at [48] move quickly to a slower speed and ensure the percussion section watches carefully at [51 - 52] to keep the quarter notes in time with the conductor. Not the other way around!

The suggested tempi marked are just that, suggestions only, but as with most music at this level the speed should be adjusted to suit the ensemble. There is a large amount of percussion scored in Baldur's Dream and for smaller ensembles the minimum would be 3 performers; 1 playing snare drum, the 2nd on either timpani or bass drum and the 3rd player on either percussion 2 or percussion 3. Of course, for the full musical affect it is desirable that all percussion parts are covered.

About the Composer:

Martin studied Music and Education at Monash and Melbourne Universities and has worked for the Victorian Education Department for over thirty years teaching instrumental, classroom and ensemble music and has been Instrumental Music Coordinator for the Southern Metropolitan Region. He has also taught for both the Faculty of Music and the Institute of Education at the University of Melbourne and currently holds the position of Head of Instrumental Music at McKinnon Secondary College.

Martin performs regularly as a woodwind musician in stage bands, cover bands, chamber groups and theatre orchestras and has composed or arranged music for all these diverse ensembles.

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Baldur's Dream

Martin West



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