

Wind Ensemble Consortium Opportunity

Café Bleu

COMPOSER / BROOKE PIERSON / WIND ENSEMBLE

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute 1-2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet in Bb 1-3, Bass Clarinet, Contrabass Clarinet in Bb (cross cued as necessary), Soprano Saxophone (cross cued as necessary and regularly doubled), Alto Sax 1-2, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet 1-3, Horn in F 1-2, Trombone 1-3, Euphonium, Tuba, 6 Percussion

DIFFICULTY LEVEL and LENGTH

Grade 4, approx. 6-7 minutes

Thin scoring at times with ample soloist opportunities throughout the instrumentation.

PIECE CONCEPT

From the composer:

During the last several years, my wife and I have created an evening ritual of playing cards and listening to music on spotify. Originally beginning with a station centered around Postmodern Jukebox, we transitioned to New Orleans Jazz and eventually to 1920s jazz style band music (both instrumental and also some of the great artists of the time). My wife had just discovered Josephine Baker and over the last 4 months we have spent much time with Baker's music, as well as the musical style of other great artists such as Édith Piaf. As a music teacher, I also recently spent several years studying *An American in Paris* by George Gershwin as part of my instruction with the International Baccalaureate coursework. Now listening to the music of Baker and Piaf on a regular basis (among other French style jazz singers) I have come to appreciate just how well crafted the work by Gershwin truly is. When approached to write another work I knew I wanted to pay homage to the time I've spent experiencing this great music; writing a work which infuses elements from both singers, Gershwin, and my compositional language, seemed a great fit for wind ensemble.

The work will include 3 primary sections: An opening “bang” to a sultry orchestra, then a sweet and big band style with brushes (very Gershwin inspires with some altered quotation), followed by an energetic finale utilizing the motif presented earlier.

PROPOSED COMPLETION

AUGUST 2022

The consortium lead commissioning groups have rights to the first performances. All other consortium premieres will follow (with a year before the piece is publicly available).

Contributing organizations will have their name bylined/engraved on the work.

COMPOSER SHORT BIO

Brooke Pierson is a composer of all musical styles, although specializing in music for wind ensemble. He writes music for all skill levels, a range exemplified by his most recent accomplishments include winning the 2020 NBA/Alfred Young Band Composition Competition for his work *The Lighthouse Keeps Watch* and a 2021 commission by the US Army and West Point Band for his work *Symphony No. 2 “West Point”* (premiered February 2022).

www.brookepierson.com

