

Dear Honors Band Finalists:

Congratulations on your selection to the High School Honors Band! I am excited to work with each of you in Australia in just over two months. To assist in your preparations, I have prepared some rehearsal notes below. Please use these notes to guide you as you rehearse for our unforgettable Sydney Opera House performance.

See you soon,

H. Robert Reynolds

Stamp - “Gvorkna Fanfare”

Percussion are VERY important in this short composition. It calls for Tympani and a whole big assortment of wonderful percussion instruments.

Trumpets, Trumpets, and Euphonium (Baritone) will have to double tongue the 16th notes. If double tonguing is impossible, just play short 8th notes instead of 16ths.

Horns and Saxophones have some very important parts beginning at #26.

2 compositions by Bach, “Fervent is My Longing: and Little Fugue in G Minor”

The first one, “Fervent . . .” is VERY slow, about 8th note (NOT ¼ note) = 70 beats per minute. Also, it should be VERY expressive.

The 2nd one, “Little Fugue in G Minor” begins with 1st Clarinets, then adds Alto Saxophone and 2nd Clarinets, then gradually all enter to leading up to a wonderful climax when the Horns take over the melody at #6. This is a composition to love for the rest of your life – I do.

Holst – “1st Suite in E Flat”

The opening of the 1st movement with just Tuba and Euphonium is the foundation of the entire composition. It then goes through a series of variations until in turns upside down to the end. The 2nd movement is a happy and sparkling intermezzo with wonderful solos for Clarinet, Flute, Trumpet and finally Piccolo. The 3rd movement is stately British March. The entire Suite is one of the most significant compositions in the band repertoire

Ticheli – “Blue Shades”

25 Years ago, Frank Ticheli composed “Blue Shades”, and it has become a classic. Now 25 years later, he has made an updated 25th Anniversary Edition, and we will be the 1st band to perform it. Quite an honor. It is filled with “jazzy harmonies” and a flashy Clarinet solo, and solos for Flute and Bass Clarinet. Percussion get a workout as well as the brass section with the Trombone section playing wild glisses. Toward the end, it revs up to a Gospel Jazz climax that I always want to shout “Amen” when it ends. You’ll love playing this, and the audience will love the performance.