

## CONDUCIED BYEBRIAN YOUNGBLOOD

DECEMBER 4, 2017
TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY


## J.R.

by Kevin Day

## Instrumentation

Version 4.0, Edition 2023
Edited by Harrison J. Collins
Piccolo
Flute 1-2
Oboe 1-2
Bassoon 1-2
Eb Clarinet
Bb Clarinet 1-3
Bb Bass Clarinet
Bb Soprano Saxophone
Eb Alto Saxophone
Bb Tenor Saxophone
Eb Baritone Saxophone

Bb Trumpet 1-4 (straight mutes needed)
F Horn 1-4
Trombone 1-3
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

Double Bass

Piano

## Percussion

1. Timpani
2. Xylophone, Crotales
3. Glockenspiel
4. Sleigh Bells
5. Tambourine, Triangle
6. Cymbals Setup (China, Suspended, Hi-hat, Splash)

Grade: 5
7. Snare Drum
8. Bass Drum, Impact Drum

Duration: ca. 9:00

## About the Piece - from Commissioner, Brian Youngblood

It has been a many decades dream for me to commission a work for concert band in memory of my father. I have thought about it for many years and was always waiting to find the right composer. There has been many times I thought about utilizing an established composer but the thought of assembling a consortium and doing the fundraising required made it something that I did not really ever want to pursue. I was concerned that there might be too many voices and demands attached to the money coming from so many sources.

As chance would have it I would meet Kevin Day and record a set of his variations a few years back with the TCU Symphonic Band. I immediately noticed that his works contained a musical drama that appealed to me. After performing more of his works, I began to think about commissioning Mr. Day to write a concert band work in memory of my father.

The idea for the commission combines two events in my life that have altered its course in dramatic ways. First, the passing of my father caused family upheaval and much moving during my childhood. It would cause me to end up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area eventually and participate in the high level public school bands of Hurst- Euless-Bedford I.S.D. Secondly, participating in public schootband would alter the course of my life. It would cause a lifelong involvement with music and cause me to meet my wife and many of the people I am close with today.

As I considered my family's history, it just seemed natural to combine these two events into one moment and commission a piece of music that would commemorate the legacy and the memory of my father. I am so pleased with the work Mr. Day has done to realize in music the images that were in my mind. He graciously met with me and had discussion regarding how the work should proceed. We both arrived at the idea of creating it in three main sections. First section would be about the beginning of life with his presence. The second section would be involved with learning about him through stories from family members as I grew up because he was not there. And the third section would finally be an acceptance of the reality of how life turns and a celebration of his life and the legacy of all the J.R.'s that have led to this point.

My father was a song leader in the church of Christ. I have two of his old hymnals and the hymnals have notations and stars by his favorite hymns. His notations make it clear that "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" was one of his favorite hymns. Mr. Day has expertly woven this hymn throughout the entirety of the work. Once again, I cannot express my gratitude to Mr. Day for his work on this project! It is a wonderful feeling to have a project like this completed and my dream realized.

I must also thank my family, many of whom were at the premiere concert, for their support through the years for the many endeavors they supported me in. Their love and support have always been inspiring. I also want to thank the TCU symphonic band for their participation in the creation of the premiere and the recording sessions that led to my premiere recording. They have been a joy to rehearse this music with.

I hope that everyone enjoys this music as much as I have enjoyed participating in the creative process with Mr. Day.

About the Piece - From Composer, Kevin Day

J.R. is a work for concert band that was commissioned by Associate Director of Bands at TCU, Mr. Brian Youngblood. I was astonished to receive this commission back in May and ultimately, I did not know how to approach writing a piece that was so emotional and personal to Mr. Youngblood. After meeting with him and taking notes, I really took the summer to plan the piece and ended up finishing it in late August. I wanted to capture the essence of who J.R. was and who Mr. Youngblood is and how he has dealt with the sadness and, later, acceptance of his father's passing. The piece starts somber and sad but later becomes epic, triumphant, and filled with hope and life. I hope this piece is as inspirational to the audience as it is for me to have gotten the opportunity to write this and to see Mr. Youngblood's dream finally realized.

## About the Composer

An American whose music has been characterized by "propulsive, syncopated rhythms, colorful orchestration, and instrumental virtuosity," (Robert Kirzinger, Boston Symphony) Composer Kevin Day has quickly emerged as one of the leading young voices in the world of music composition today, whose music ranges from powerful introspection to joyous exuberance. Kevin Day is an internationally acclaimed composer, conductor, and pianist, whose music often intersects between the worlds of jazz, minimalism, Latin music, fusion, and contemporary classical idioms. Day serves as the Vice President of the Millennium Composers Initiative, a collective of more than 120 composers from several countries around the world.

A winner of the BMI Student Composer Award, a three-time finalist for the ASCAP Morton Gould Young Composer Award, and considered for the 2022 Pulitzer Prize for his Concerto for Wind Ensemble, Day has composed over 200 works, and has had numerous performances throughout the United States, Russia, Austria, Australia, Tarwan, South Africa, and Japan. His works have been programmed by the symphonies of Boston, San Francisco, Detroit, Indianapolis, Houston, and more, as well as several top professional and collegiate wind ensembles. His works have been performed at Carnegie Hall, Rachmaninov Hall (Russia), The Midwest Clinic, and other major venues, and recently he had his Carnegie Hall Conducting Debut at the 2022 New York International Music Festival.

Day has collaborated with the likes of David Childs, Nicki Roman, James Markey, Wendy Richman, Jens Lindemann, Demondrae Thurman, Hiram Diaz, Steven Cohen, Jeremy Lewis, and more on works for their respective instruments, as well as chamber ensembles like One Found Sound, Axiom Brass, Ensemble Dal Niente, The Sheffield Chamber Players, The Puerto Rican Trombone Ensemble, The Zenith Saxophone Quartet, The Tesla Quartet, and the Boston Symphony Orchestra Low Brass Section.

Day is currently Assistant Professor of Composition at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada. He is pursuing his DMA in Composition from the University of Miami Frost School of Music, where he studies with Charles Norman Mason, Dorothy Hindman, and Lansing McCloskey. He holds a MM in Composition from the University of Georgia, and BM in Performance from Texas Christian University (TCU). He is alumnus of Kappa Kappa Psi National Honorary Band Fraternity and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity of America.




















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