# Whirlwind

FIRST PRIZE WINNER – THE FRANK TICHELI COMPOSITION CONTEST

for Concert Band

# Jodie Blackshaw

www.ManhattanBeachMusic.com

# WHIRLWIND

### FOR CONCERT BAND

# JODIE BLACKSHAW

### I N S T R U M E N T A T I O N

- I Full Score
- 8 Flute
- I Oboe
- I Bassoon
- 12 Bb Clarinet
- 3 Bb Bass Clarinet
- 5 Eb Alto Saxophone
- 2 Bb Tenor Saxophone
- I Eb Baritone Saxophone
- 8 Bb Trumpet
- 3 F Horn
- 4 Trombone
- 3 Euphonium B.C.
- 2 Euphonium T.C.

- 4 Tuba
- I Double Bass
- I Keyboard (opt.)
- 2 Drone (any bass instrument)
- 2 Glockenspiel
- 2 Snare Drum (and Whirly)
- 2 Medium Tom (and Whirly)
- 2 Bass Drum (and Whirly)
- 2 Suspended Cymbal (and Whirly)
- 2 Timpani

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## MANHATTAN BEACH MUSIC

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### DEDICATION

For my loving parents. Thank you for believing in me.

...and to David, for finding out about the competition in the first place.

A number of unusual musical devices are used in *Whirlwind*, which distinguish it from other young band repertoire. The use of soundscape sections at the beginning and end of the piece introduce students to cueing from a conductor, free time, and an increased aural awareness of other players' contributions to the work.

Through its simple structural concepts such as using only four notes and a repeated melody in unison or loosely canonically, the work encourages the young player to focus not on pitch and harmony, but rather, on sound, tone color, form and expression.

The theatrical nature created by the soundscapes and the unusual percussion—handmade waterglass and rattle instruments, whirling tubes—allows each student to listen, watch and contribute in order to understand what's happening. As a result, each student gains a sense of empowerment through belonging; the reason for playing in band.

*Whirlwind* is the First Prize Winner of *The Frank Ticheli Composition Contest* (Category 1—Beginning Band).

#### ABOUT THE SPECIAL INSTRUMENTS

#### And now, the star of our piece, the whirlies:

Do you already own a whirly? What is it? It is simply a length of corrugated (ribbed) irrigation hose (if you are offered a choice between the slotted and unslotted variety, you want the unslotted kind). This hose is similar to (but not quite the same as) the hose used in many above-ground swimming pools (the pool kind of hose is often a light blue color in the USA). However, the swimming pool kind of hose is made of a softer sort of plastic, and does not have as good a sound as hose made of a harder plastic. (The harder and better sounding hose is often a darker color, but not necessarily.) So, you are looking for a plastic irrigation hose that is made of a fairly hard plastic. By the way, at a pool supply, the "pressure hose" (also called "return hose') will probably sound better, as it is a stronger plastic. Plumbing supply shops should also carry the right kind of hose. But the diameter is of some importance (see later).

When we say that the hose is corrugated, we mean that it is ribbed around its diameter. You can easily see the ribbing, which looks like a series of adjacent rings around the hose. How to tell whether the hose will sound good? If you thunk the hose with your knuckle, it will resound with a "conk!" sound (at a specific pitch, its fundamental). If (and here, you will need room, both above head and all around you) you spin the hose overhead, it will begin to sing.

Why does it sing? This is a chance for you to integrate science into the music class. The singing (caused, as with all wind instruments, by vibrating air) has to do with the *Bernoulli Principle*. Suffice it to say that when you spin the hose, the end near you moves slowly, the far end moves more quickly, there is a difference in air pressure, and air is pulled through the hose by the difference in air pressure between the ends. (It's the same principle by which lift occurs in airplane wings: faster air vs. slower air.) Air flowing over ribbing equals vibrations, and sound.

The faster you spin the hose, the higher the pitch: you'll probably be able to hear the overtone series ascend as you increase the speed.

The sound is quite unearthly. It's a bit like a bass flute (although it also has vocal quality to it), and four whirlies together might be the sound of a flying saucer (as the pitches interact, the effect is eerie and beautiful).

The best-sounding hose is usually not the 1 1/2 inch variety, but the wider diameter hose (2 inches to 2 1/2 inches in diameter). The wider hose often "speaks" more easily. You should cut the hose into varying lengths (for different fundamental pitches), from about five feet to about seven feet.

We plan to upload a video of the composer playing a whirly on the Manhattan Beach Music website (www.ManhattanBeachMusic.com), so you can see and hear for yourself.

#### The waterglass chimes:

How to create: Fill various sized glass jars and/or tumblers with water. Create different sounds by varying the amount of water in each glass and size of container. Experiment with different types of glass containers; wine glasses work well, as do glass bowls.

To play: Gently hit glass with a teaspoon, or drop a large, smooth pebble into the water.

#### The rattles:

Some ideas:

Thread 5 old cassette tapes together with strong string;
Try a set of old (or new) keys on a large round key ring;
Use aluminum foil trays with a handful of rice or split peas or lentils.

To play: (1) & (2) hold by string/keyring and rattle high above your head; (3) Hold tray by the corner and gently swirl around the rice/split peas/lentils...

That concludes the home-made instruments. We need next to discuss the "drone," the purpose of which is to provide your young musicians with an anchor point. This will provide each player with the opportunity to listen to the long notes at the end of each phrase of the melody and attempt to match their intonation. The drone part can be played either by an electronic keyboard, bass string instrument with a bow (such as a 'Cello or Double Bass), or alternatively, you could use a didgeridoo pitched in A.

This drone part will not only provide a strong reinforcement of the tonic, but will surely also add a very interesting color and hence new dimension to your piece. If interested in using a didgeridoo pitched in A, they are available from Alex Murchison in Australia. See his website for purchases and playing tutorials: www.echotree.com.au; there are also shops in the USA that specialize in unusual instruments and sell didgeridoos, such as Lark in The Morning (www.larkinthemorning.com).

#### TEACHING THE MUSIC

Goal: To encourage all students to listen, not only to themselves, but to each other.

Focus on:

- 1. 3/4 time signature
- 2. Free time

3. Interpreting and understanding a conductor's cue.

4. Tone color: through percussion highlights and home made instruments.

5. Tonal centre: students are to match pitch with tonic drone at end of each phrase.

6. Texture: through round, solos, and soundscapes.

7. Minor key.

8. *mf* and *mp* and inviting students to create a difference between them.

#### Sections A, & I: Soundscape (Free time. Play on cue.)

The score represents an idea of how this section may sound. The notation of waterglass chimes and rattles is only meant as a guide. Although each entrance is notated by a single note, a single sound is not necessarily intended. A large section (e.g., clarinets) may have many players, each with a waterglass. The conductor should cue each section, and the players should stagger their entrances to produce the most interesting soundscape. This holds true equally for the rattles.

It is best if every band member has a home-made instrument (see discussion on prior page) and that each individual is cued to play at the conductor's discretion.

#### Section B: Solo with whirlies

Every instrument has the solo written in their part. (On the score, cue size notation is used in all parts.) This gives you the flexibility to select your own soloist, and if you prefer, you may choose more than one for different occasions. Here's how to go about it:

1. The conductor announces that students can try out for the solo.

2. Those keen to try out perform the melody for their peers in rehearsal. Not only is this a chance for the conductor to hear various players on their own, it is also an excellent performance opportunity for students in a relaxed, supportive environment. The students in the band hear the soloists and are welcome to become involved in the selection process (if the conductor wishes).

3. The conductor makes the final decision and chooses up to three soloists for the part and alternates between them for various performances. Not only will this change the color of Section B, it also provides a back-up if your all too important soloist is sick on the day of an important performance.

#### Section C: Soundscape

Once again the score is only meant as a guide. To achieve what is printed with ease simply:

1. encourage all students to learn the last phrase of the melody off by heart;

2. as with the home-made instruments, cue each individual to play the last phrase only;

3. each will hold the last note (breathing as they need to) until everyone has played; and

4. the conductor directs the ensemble to decresendo and to cease playing by measure 6.

Some questions you may have:

"I have a band of 75 members, if everyone plays the last phrase on their own it will go too long!"

You may follow these guides for different sized ensembles: A group of 25 students or less - everyone plays the last phrase on their own;

A group of 26-50 students—pair off the students to play together on cue;

A group of 51+ students—create teams of 3-5 students and elect a leader of each team. All leaders are standing up from the beginning. The conductor cues them to sit and then counts in the team they are the leader of, they play the last phrase together;

A group of 100+ students—you must be kidding, please get a life!

Why Concert A minor?

Many beginning band pieces are in common time and are based on Concert B flat, Concert E flat or Concert F major.

*Whirlwind* not only introduces 'new' ears to the haunting sounds of a minor key, it also introduces flautists and oboists to E natural! Experience has shown that many students on these instruments think that the 'B' and 'E' they play are the 'natural' ones (simply because flat keys dominate virtually all beginner band methods and charts). It can be very confusing for these players in their second or even third year of playing when they are finally introduced the real 'B natural' or 'E natural' (and quite a surprise to the Director!).

Whether we like to admit it or not, many percussionists can go through their entire band life without ever learning to read pitch. Whirlwind allows all of your percussionists to learn the melody on melodic instruments with the rest of the band without the need for confusing sharps and flats (the 'black' keys).

A minor also allows any string players that you have at your school to get involved!

"I don't have the time to teach my band all of these new notes!!"

You won't have to! It's all been done for you. On the Manhattan Beach Music website you will find the score and parts to 'Know your stuff' and best of all, it's a free download! The exercises have been composed carefully to introduce all students to the different rhythmic patterns and note combinations used in the Whirlwind melodic line. Once they can play all of the exercises in 'Know you Stuff' they will have no trouble playing all of Whirlwind.

You can be assured that EVERY student in your band will be able to:

play ALL of the notes in the melody;

play them in different combinations;

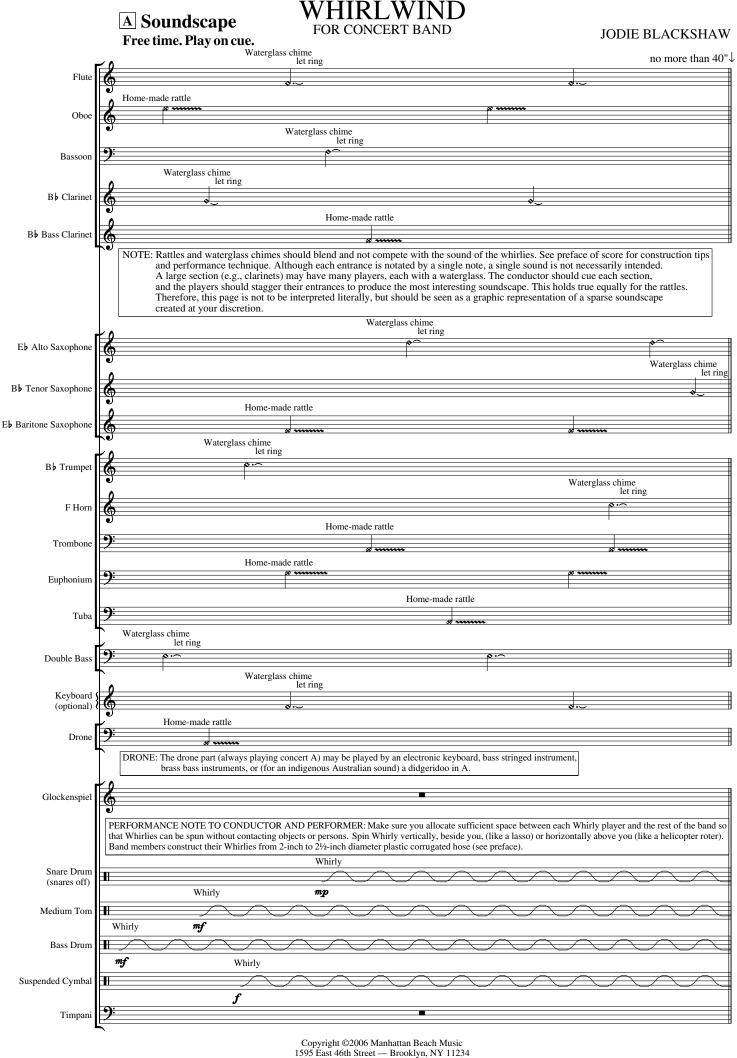
UNDERSTAND the different rhythmic patterns used; feel comfortable with triple meter.

When students think a piece is easy, they love it! It boosts their self esteem and they are prepared for new challenges.

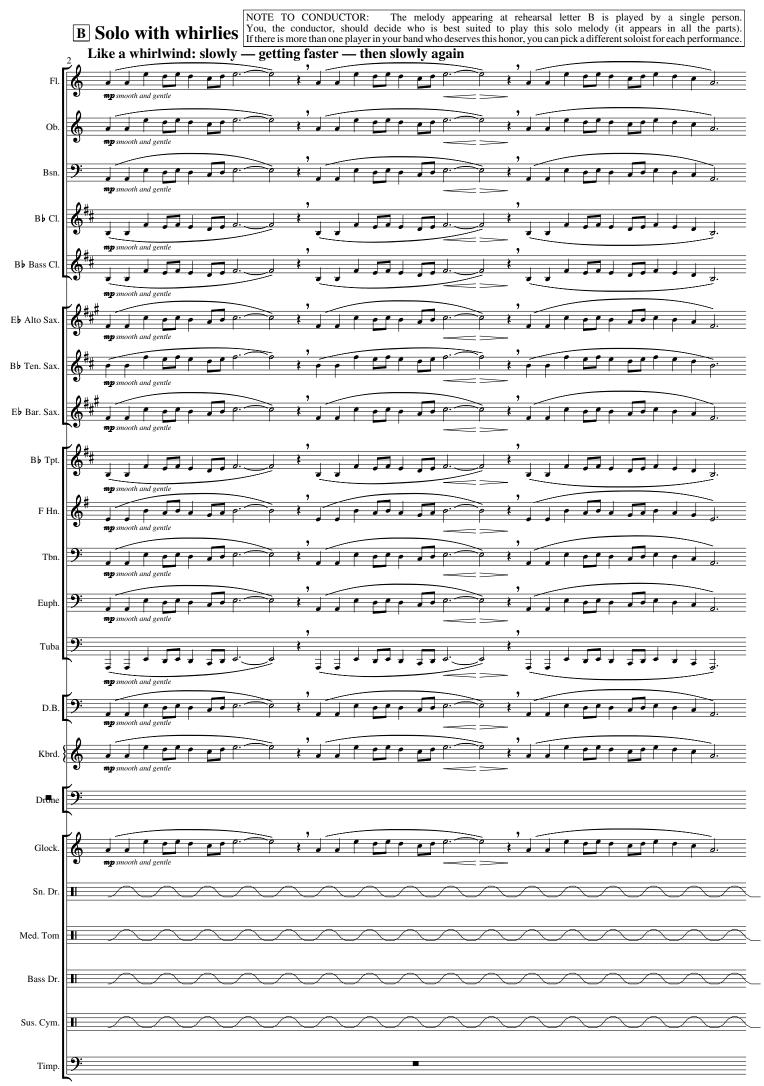
Hence....

Confident & happy students = a confident & happy band = a confident & happy Band Director!

> JODIE BLACKSHAW CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA



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**G** Four-part round



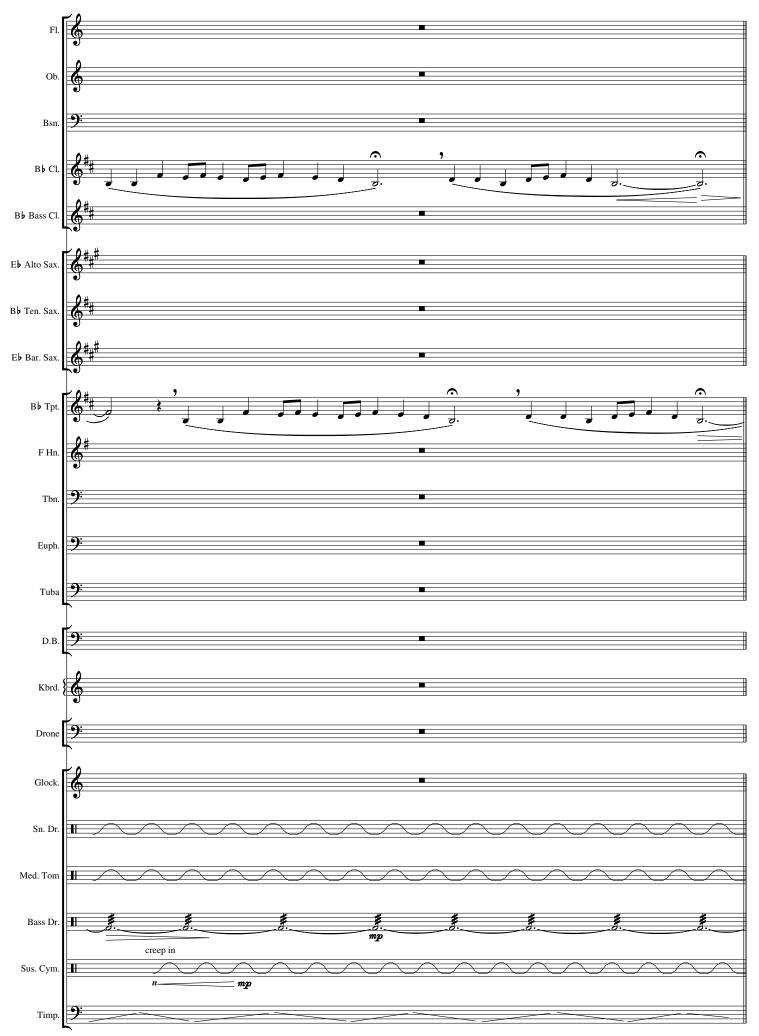


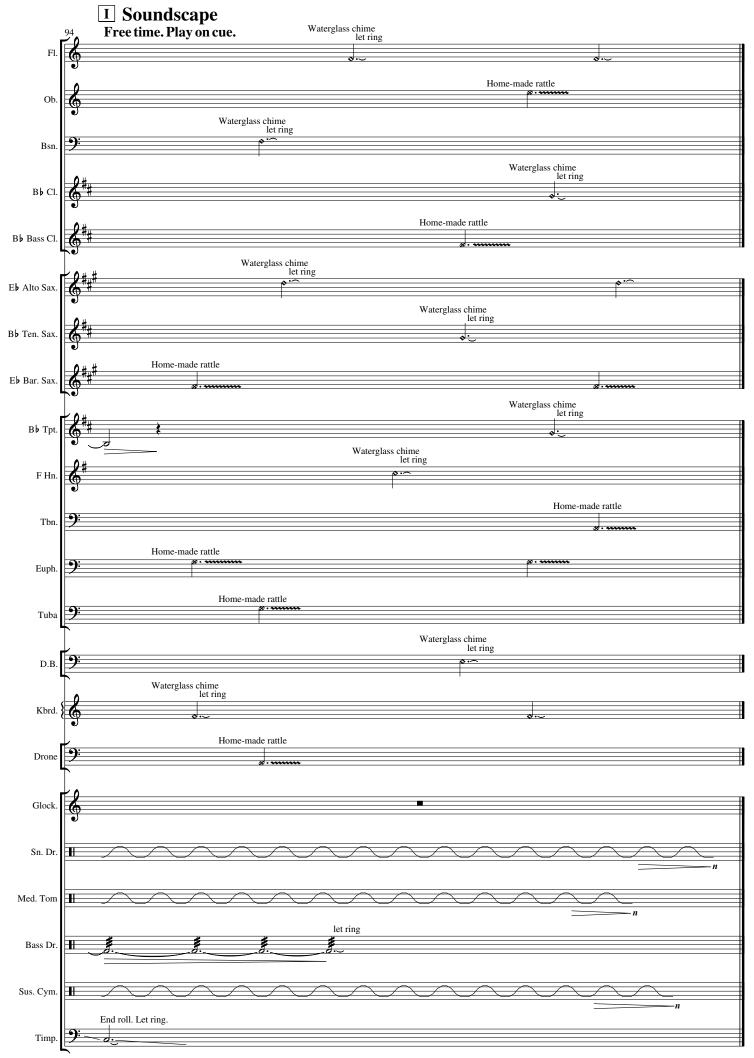












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It was with this thinking that Manhattan Beach Music in 1988 first addressed the needs of the archivist by printing all of its concert band music on acid-free paper that met the standards specified in the American National Standard for Information Sciences — Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials (ANSI Z39.48-1984). The standard was revised on October 26, 1992 to include coated papers; all of our new editions and reprints of older editions meet this revised standard. With proper care and under proper environmental conditions, this paper should last for at least several hundred years.

Technical notes: Paper permanence is related to several factors: The acidity or alkalinity (pH) of the paper is perhaps the most critical criterion. Archival paper (also known as acid-free paper, alkaline paper, and permanent paper) is acid-free, has a pH between 7.5 and 10, is tear resistant, has an alkaline reserve equivalent to 2% calcium carbonate (to neutralize any acid that might arise from natural aging of the paper or from environmental pollution), and contains no unbleached pulp or groundwood (no more than 1% lignin by weight). The specific standards summarized here are set forth in detail by the National Information Standards Organization in American National Standard Z39.48-1992. For more information, contact: NISO, 4733 Bethesda Avenue, Suite 300, Bethesda, MD 20814, http://www.niso.org/

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