

## **About the Composition**

Reflections on a German Folk Song is based on the traditional round "Himmel und Erde," which directly translated means "Heaven and Earth," however the common English title is "Music Alone Shall Live." While teaching music for Saydel Community School District in Des Moines, Iowa, I taught the round to elementary students and concluded that the folk tune would lend itself well to young instrumentalists. Consequently, I set out to arrange the round for emerging band.

After an introduction based on motives and rhythms of the round, the tune is initially played by an alto saxophone solo (or oboe). After a transition from the key of F Major to E-Flat Major, the band divides into three groups to play the three-voice round. The entire round is repeated twice, exhibiting a lengthy crescendo and eventual diminuendo caused by the three instrument groupings ending their voices in the round.

Having students perform a simple, yet lyrical round provides for a variety of educational opportunities. Similar to young vocal ensembles, performing a round helps students to securely play with a group that is doing something different than other sections of the ensemble, which ultimately assists in the transition to playing within a smaller, individual section or independent part. *Reflections on a German Folksong* contains simplistic rhythms, which allows students to primarily focus on phrasing, articulation, tone quality and dynamics.

## **About the Composer**

Daniel Jones is an educator, trumpeter, conductor and composer/arranger in Central Iowa. Jones currently teaches German and English at Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, IA. From 2008-2013 Jones taught instrumental music at Woodside Middle School (Saydel CSD) in Des Moines. Previously, he was the high school band director at Southeast Webster-Grand CSD in Burnside, Iowa. His students and ensembles have consistently earned high ratings at festivals and contests. Additionally, Jones is the orchestra director at the Ankeny First United Methodist Church.

Jones has performed with the Des Moines Symphony, Des Moines Symphony Academy Chamber Orchestra and the Des Moines Metro Opera Orchestra. As a graduate student at Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU), he played with the faculty brass quintet, the "Southwestern Brass Quintet." His primary trumpet instructors have been Dr. James Bovinette and Dr. James South.

Jones graduated from Iowa State University in 2006 with a degree in Music Education and earned his MM in Trumpet Performance and Instrumental Music Education in 2011 from SWOSU. The results of his graduate research, concerning the use of spectrographic analysis to improve tone quality on middle school aged trumpet students, was published in issue 5.3 of the *Journal of Music, Technology and Education*. Jones lives with his family in Urbandale, IA.

## Reflections On A German Folksing

Himmel und Erde



