Kjos Full Orchestra Grade 5 Full Conductor Score JO2004F \$7.00

### Timothy Mahr

# Sunlit Morning Alleluias



Neil A. Kjos Music Company • Publisher



#### The Composer

Timothy Mahr is a well-known and highly acclaimed composer, conductor, and clinician throughout the United States, Canada, and Norway. He is currently Professor of Music at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, where he conducts the St. Olaf Band and teaches classes in conducting, composition, and music education. He also serves as the conductor of the Minnesota Symphonic Winds and is Past-President of the North Central Division of the College Band Directors National Association. His conducting career began in Milaca, Minnesota, as an instrumental music teacher at Milaca High School. He was Director of Bands at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, for ten years and was the founder and conductor of the community-based Twin Ports Wind Ensemble. Mahr graduated from St. Olaf College with a B.M. in Theory and Composition and a

B.A. in Music Education. He completed his M.M. in Trombone Performance and earned his D.M.A. in Instrumental Conducting from The University of Iowa.

Mahr was the first recipient of the American Bandmasters Association Commissioning Project and continues to receive commissions nationally. Recent commissions include works for the Music Educators National Conference and the United States Air Force Band. A former member of the National Band Association Board of Directors, Mahr was elected to membership in the American Bandmasters Association in 1993. He was awarded the ABA/Ostwald Award in 1991, and has been the recipient of grants from Meet the Composer and the Minnesota Composer Forum as well as the National Band Association's "Citation of Excellence."

Mahr's works have been performed at Lincoln Center and Carnegie Hall, the Midwest Clinic, the Music Educators National Conference, national conventions of the American Bandmasters Association and the College Band Directors National Association, and numerous state and regional conventions. Many of his works have been broadcast on the Minnesota Public Radio network. Recent recordings can be found on the Sony, Citadel, Crest, Mark, Cafua, and St. Olaf Records labels.

Mahr's orchestral work Carolina Folk Dream is also published by the Neil A. Kjos Music Company. His works for concert band include Daydream, Endurance, Everyday Hero, Fanfare and Grand March, Fantasia in G, Flourish, Hymn and Celebration, Immigrant Dreams, Into the Air!, A Mighty March, A Quiet Place to Think, Sol Solator, Spring Divertimento, and The View from the Mountaintop.

#### The Composition

Professor Steven Amundson celebrated his 25th year as the conductor of the St. Olaf Orchestra at their end of the year concert in May 2006. I had been his teaching colleague for over a dozen years and thought it might be fun to compose a work in his honor. To surprise Prof. Amundson at the concert, the new piece was rehearsed without his knowledge and conducted by a student member of the orchestra.

Steven Amundson is lovingly referred to as "SMA" by his students (his initialed signature pronounced as a name), and I toyed around with those letters when thinking of what this piece might become. *Sunlit Morning Alleluias* was the resulting title and it generated immediate musical ideas. The word "Alleluia" provided rhythmic and melodic motives that are tossed about easily between the parts, and the notion of rising up and singing praise at the dawning of the day gave shape to a work that starts quietly in the dark and awakens with brightening energy. As an additional compositional challenge, I knew the work had to be learned in a single one-hour rehearsal!

#### Instrumentation List (Set C)

1 – Piccolo 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> F Horn 2 – Percussion II:  $1 - 1^{st}$  Flute  $1-4^{th}\ F\ Horn$ Suspended Cymbal, 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Flute 1 − 1<sup>st</sup> B \rightarrow Trumpet Tambourine, Crash Cymbals, 1 − 2<sup>nd</sup> B Trumpet 1 – 1st Oboe Chimes, Bass Drum 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Oboe 1 − 3<sup>rd</sup> B Trumpet 2 – Percussion III: 1 – 1<sup>st</sup> Trombone 1 – English Horn Tam-tam, Triangle, 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Trombone 1 − 1st Bb Clarinet Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> B♭ Clarinet 1 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Trombone 1 – Harp 1 – Tuba 1 − B Bass Clarinet 8 – 1st Violin 8 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Violin 1 − 1<sup>st</sup> Bassoon 1 - Timpani  $1 - 2^{\text{nd}}$  Bassoon/Contrabassoon (opt.) 5 – Viola 2 – Percussion I: 1 − 1<sup>st</sup> F Horn 5 – Cello Bells, Marimba, Snare Drum, 1 – 2<sup>nd</sup> F Horn Suspended Cymbal 5 – String Bass

1 – Full Conductor Score

Additional scores and parts are available.

## Dedicated to Steven Amundson upon his 25th year as Conductor of the St. Olaf Orchestra Sunlit Morning Alleluias



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