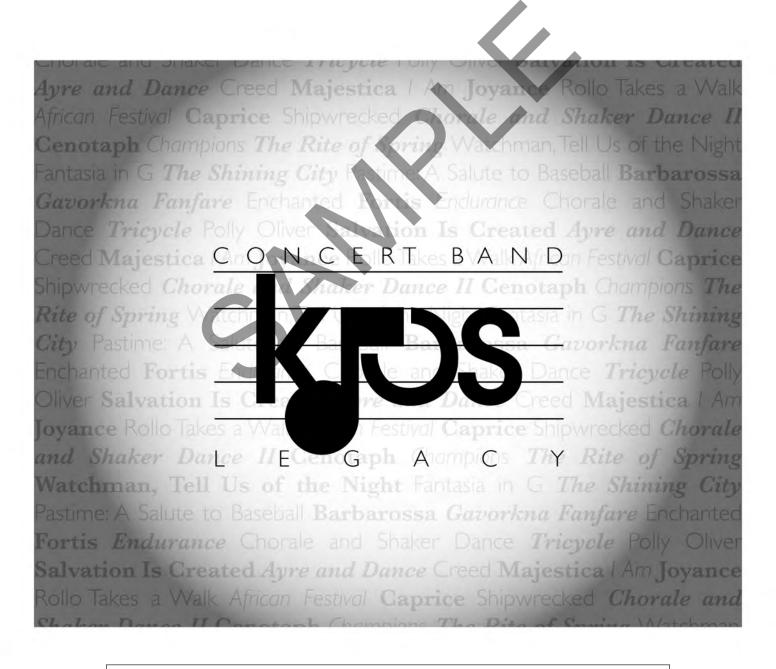
# **GARRETT HOFFMAN**

## **Rainbow Variations**





## **About the Composer**



Garrett Hoffman (b. 1999) is a teacher, composer, and musician based in Pittsburgh, PA. He is a recent graduate of Duquesne University's Mary Pappert School of Music, where he received his B.S. in Music Education. He was chosen as an "Outstanding Senior in Music Education" and was a proud recipient of the prestigious Chancellor's Award, a full-tuition scholarship.

Garrett has a long-held interest in composition, and he continually writes music for both instrumental and vocal ensembles. In all, his compositions have been performed at numerous different venues, with performances by various school, community, honors, and university ensembles. Most notably, his piece Where Will I Go? was selected as a

winner of the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association's 2018 Composition Contest. Garrett also has written a 3-movement work for solo euphonium for internationally-renowned euphoniumist Dr. Adam Frey, at his request. Also an accomplished performer, he regularly performs around the Pittsburgh area as a vocalist and percussionist, in groups such as the Pittsburgh Creator's Project Symphonic Winds, and the Voces Solis Summer Singers.

Garrett is a proud Eagle Scout and an enthusiastic educator. He is on staff at Bethel Park School District's middle school summer band step-up program and has a private studio, teaching students from elementary through high school. He maintains professional memberships in NAfME, PMEA, and WCMEA. Prior to his current position, Garrett proudly served as the choral director at Beth-Center School District in Washington County, PA.

Garrett is currently a music teacher at Belle Vernon Area School District, where he directs the middle and high school choruses. He also directs the auditioned Chamber Ensemble and is the vocal director of Belle Vernon's renowned spring musicals. He currently resides in Canonsburg, PA.

Find out more about Garrett and his music at garretthoffmanmusic.com.

## **About the Composition**

I'm not quite sure why, but I've always held a certain fascination with color symbolism. I like how each one has its own associations and meanings that are immediately understood by society, regardless of the medium. In a strange way, I thought this would make for a great theme-and-variations piece, where a theme is presented and then I show what I think that theme would sound like if it were red, or orange. It starts with an original theme of mine, employing modal mixture in order to achieve some more colors (pun intended) within the music.

The first color is Red, which is a bit odd due to it being equally associated with both anger and love, two very different things. I believe the common ground between these is passion. So, it starts out very percussive and "Mars"-esque before a more passionate, secondary theme sets in. The trumpets and trombones present the four notes of the main theme like war horns, and the brake drum sounds like the clanging of metal weapons. Orange is a bit strange in terms of symbolism, because there really isn't any strong symbolism western society has attached to it. However, it occasionally has been associated with energy, and I ran with that concept. It's written in an alternating 6/8 and 3/4 meter with a lot of sudden dynamic shifts. I hope that this, coupled with this section's playfulness, gives the impression of a young child: curious and full of energy, but prone to sudden changes in mood. Yellow is associated with happiness, so I wrote it from the perspective of nostalgia for a carefree childhood. It's divided into two sections: the first is more lyrical, and the second is more playful-sounding.

Green is associated most with envy, but I also wanted to give it a smooth "nature" treatment in a cool-sounding aeolian mode. Lots of earthy percussion instruments are used, such as shakers and marimba, and it's intended to evoke the feeling of being in a dim jungle. (The percussionists are free to improvise a bit, as long as it's within the chords and the groove!) Blue is obviously associated with sadness, and I tried to showcase it from a more melancholic "grief" standpoint. It begins with a woodwind soli to transition from the percussion- and woodwind-heavy Green to the brass-heavy Blue. The horns and low brass take over, before grief strikes as the whole band joins in. A woodwind feature gives a short break from the grief before it returns shortly after. Violet has long been associated with royalty, and I consider it very lucky that the last color before the finale perfectly fits the "maestoso finale" mold that pieces often have. It begins with a short trumpet fanfare before the theme is presented, and

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eventually the full band comes in with woodwind and snare drum flourishes. The piece then ends in a finale that harkens back to the beginning, with a colorful penultimate chord reminiscent of the ending of Gustav Holst's "Chaconne" from the First Suite in E-flat. That is, of course, before the bass instruments join in for a triumphant and full final chord.

The piece was premiered in November 2021 by the Duquesne University Wind Symphony, under the direction of Dr. James Gourlay. A special thanks goes out to him, as well as to my teachers Rob Traugh and Jon Derby, who all helped shape the piece into what it is today. I encourage you to have discussions with the members of your ensemble as to what colors they see in this music—regardless if they're the same as mine or not! I hope you and your ensemble enjoy performing *Rainbow Variations* as much as I enjoyed writing it!

—Garrett Hoffman

## **Instrumentation List**

2 – Piccolo (optional 3rd Flute)

3 – 1st Flute

3 – 2nd Flute

3 - Oboe

4 – 1st B♭ Clarinet

4 – 2nd B Clarinet

4 – 3rd B♭ Clarinet

2 – B♭ Bass Clarinet

3 – Bassoon

2 − Ist E Alto Saxophone

2 – 2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone

2 – B♭ Tenor Saxophone

2 − E Baritone Saxophone

3 – Ist B♭ Trumpet

3 – 2nd B♭ Trumpet

3 - 3rd Bb Trumpet

2 – 21 d D/ 11 dilip

2 – Ist F Horn

2 – 2nd F Horn

2 – 3rd F Horn

2 – 4th F Horn

3 – 1st Trombone

3 – 2nd Trombone

3 – 3rd Trombone

2 – Euphonium

2 - Baritone TC

4 – Tuba

I - String Bass

I - Timpani

2 – Percussion I:

Triangle

Snare Drum

2 - Percussion II:

Mark Tree

Bass Drum

**Bongos** 

2 - Percussion III:

Suspended Cymbal

China Cymbal

Brake Drum

Tam-tam

Splash Cymbal

Shaker

2 - Percussion IV:

Crash Cymbals

2 Tom-toms

Tambourine

Wood Block

Claves

2 – Percussion V:

Orchestra Bells

Chimes

**Xylophone** 

Marimba

I - Full Conductor Score

Approximate performance time—8:45

Additional scores and parts are available.

To hear a recording of this piece or any other publication, please visit www.kjos.com.



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WB55 I — Rainbow Variations



















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