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Latchn Duets **for tenor and bass** **trombones**



Brad Edwards (May, 2018)

Latchn Duets – Program Notes

These duets were composed at the request of a former student, Russ Zokaite. He asked me to write a set of pieces based on Appalachian folk music.

Mvt 1 – Everlasting Arms

According to Wikipedia: "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms is a hymn published in 1887 with music by Anthony J. Showalter and lyrics by Showalter and Elisha Hoffman. Showalter said that he received letters from two of his former pupils saying that their wives had died. When writing letters of consolation, Showalter was inspired by the phrase in the Book of Deuteronomy 33:27, 'The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms'."

At the time of writing this, I was moved by a beautiful rendition of the music sung by Iris DeMent. The simplicity and pure emotion of her performance hit me right in the gut. This performance was from the soundtrack to the movie, True Grit. If the Youtube video is still available, you should be able to find it by following this link (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZGbxxNqK4-4>)



Mvt 2 – He's Gone Away

According to Answers.com: "This poignant dialogue between a young man and woman in love - just before he has to depart for an indefinite separation - is an early American Appalachian mountain folk song. It probably originated in some form from England, and eventually resonated with the slave spiritual tradition, reminding us of the cruel forced separations imposed on many during that time."

I have long loved Robert Beaser's adaptation of this folk song in his composition, *Mountain Songs* for flute and guitar. If the Youtube video is still available, you may be able to find it by following this link :

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P-Z5tL90KH8>)



Mvt 3 – Sweet Betsy from Pike

According to Wikipedia, "Sweet Betsy from Pike" is an American ballad about the trials of a pioneer named Betsy and her lover Ike who migrate from Pike County (probably Missouri) to California. The article goes on to explain that the name 'Betsy' may have been humorous slang for a rifle. In its original form, this movement was to be a setting of 'Tennessee Stud' with brief quotes from 'Sweet Betsy' until it was discovered that 'Tennessee Stud' wasn't a folksong at all but was composed by Jimmy Driftwood in 1959 and is still under copyright! And so Sweet Betsy, rifle or not, took over the main themes. Still, it was Doc Watson's performance of 'Tennessee Stud' that inspired the tone of this movement:
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dq-1G6Wif8s>)



As of 2018, Brad Edwards teaches trombone at Arizona State University. He is best known for a number of pedagogical books focused mostly on the trombone. More information, including a complete bio, can be found at TromboneZone.org.



Latchn Duets

I. Everlasting Arms

Brad Edwards (b.1963)

App. performance time: 3'28"

Score

Simple (♩. = 66)

Tenor Trombone

Bass Trombone

mp

espressivo

5

mp

espressivo

9

13

cresc.

cresc.

The musical score is written for Tenor and Bass Trombone in 12/8 time, with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo is marked 'Simple (♩. = 66)'. The score is divided into four systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features the Tenor Trombone playing a melodic line with half notes and dotted half notes, while the Bass Trombone plays a simple accompaniment of eighth notes. The second system (measures 5-8) is marked 'espressivo' and features a more complex, flowing melodic line in the Tenor Trombone, with the Bass Trombone providing a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The third system (measures 9-12) returns to a simpler melodic pattern in the Tenor Trombone. The fourth system (measures 13-16) is marked 'cresc.' and features a more active, ascending melodic line in the Tenor Trombone, with the Bass Trombone also showing more rhythmic activity. The score concludes with a final measure in the fourth system.

Everlasting Arms, p.2

16 *freely*

f *f* *freely* *f*

20

mp *mp* *p* *p*

Agitated (♩ = 132)

26

mp

29 31

mf *mf*

Latchn Duets

II. He's Gone Away

Score

Brad Edwards (b.1963)

App. performance time: 2'53"

Wistful (♩ = 60)

Use valve for grace notes when plausible.

The musical score is written for Tenor Trombone and Bass Trombone in 2/4 time, key of B-flat major. The tempo is marked 'Wistful' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The performance time is approximately 2 minutes and 53 seconds. The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number in a box (6, 12, 15, 19). The Tenor Trombone part features a melodic line with grace notes, slurs, and triplets. The Bass Trombone part provides a harmonic accompaniment with slurs and triplets. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, grace notes, and triplets.

Tenor Trombone

Bass Trombone

6

12

15

19

mp

mf

mp

Latchn Duets

III. Sweet Betsy from Pike

Score

Brad Edwards (b.1963)

App. performance time: 2'33"

Spirited 'doc Watson' swing (♩ = 96)

The musical score is written for Tenor Trombone and Bass Trombone in 4/4 time, key of D major (two sharps). The tempo is marked as 'Spirited 'doc Watson' swing' with a quarter note equal to 96 beats per minute. The score is divided into four systems, each with measures numbered 1 through 13. The Tenor Trombone part is mostly silent, indicated by rests. The Bass Trombone part features a melodic line with various articulations, including accents, slurs, and glissandos. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is used throughout. A box containing the number 12 is placed above the Bass Trombone staff in the third system. A box containing the number 13 is placed above the Bass Trombone staff in the fourth system. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

* I call this gesture a "whomp-flop." Don't connect the gliss to the bottom note. Don't tongue the bottom note. Just start with a fall and get the accent with air.