

Dance Rhapsody for Tuba and Band/or Piano/or Orchestra/or Brass Band

by Aldo Rafael Forte, Composer

NEW EDITION 2018

PROGRAM NOTES FOR ALL EDITIONS OF THE WORK

History of the concerto:

Dance Rhapsody for Tuba and Band was originally written in 2003 for Andrew Rummel, tuba, and the USAF Heritage of America Band, Major Larry Lang conductor. They premiered the work that same year and recorded it on their “Band Dances” CD. That original version was initially published by Tuba – Euphonium Press but in 2016, at the request of the composer, all rights to the work were ceded back to the composer and Aldo Forte Music Press.

FORTE revisited the original tuba and band composition in 2017 – 2018 and subsequently released it in the NEW EDITION of 2018. This new edition differs from the original in a variety of ways. The orchestration has been thinned out in various places to make the solo line more prominent. Also, some measures have been re barred and beats have been added in order to better punctuate musical ideas. All other editions of the concerto are based on this 2018 tuba and band edition.

The Tuba and Piano edition (arranged by the composer) was written in 2018. Subsequently, in March 2019 this tuba and piano edition was premiered at Tennessee Tech University by Dan Davis, tuba and Paul Thurmond, piano.

In the summer of 2019, Forte transcribed the work for Tuba and Orchestra.

Finally, in March 2020, at the request of tubist Leonard Byrne and the Spokane Brass Band, Armin Terzer arranged the work for Tuba and Brass Band. Terzer is presently working on an arrangement of “Dance Rhapsody” for Tuba and Brass Quintet.

The piece is cast in three movements, all played without pause. The first movement, *Airs*, is slow and expressive accompanied by lush colors. It ends with three brief cadenzas, the last of which is unaccompanied. The final cadenza leads directly into the second movement, *Grooves*, a tuneful and infectious collage of Latin and jazz-rock inspired rhythms and motifs. A short *accelerando* then propels the work into its highly spirited last movement, *Animations*, which brings back material from the first movement. The soloist then navigates through several rapid passages leading the work to an exciting conclusion.

Among the champions of the concerto are Sam Pilafian, Deanna Swoboda, and Steven Maxwell. The composer extends a special note of appreciation to the great R. Winston Morris for his input into this NEW EDITION of the concerto and for all he has done to further the tuba as an instrument capable of the most exalted musical utterances! Many thanks to Andrew Rummel for commissioning the work. It was a joy working with him on this piece!

ALL EDITIONS of Dance Rhapsody are published by Aldo Forte Music Press and are available at www.aldoforte.com

Aldo Rafael Forte, Composer
March 15, 2020