# Variations on "A Mighty Fortress"

### Darren Jenkins

1 Full Score

1 Piccolo

8 Flute

2 Oboe

2 Bassoon

3 Clarinet 1

3 Clarinet 2

3 Clarinet 3

2 Bass Clarinet

2 Alto Saxophone 12 Alto Saxophone 2

2 Tenor Saxophone

1 Baritone Saxophone

3 Trumpet 1

6 Trumpets 2,3

2 F Horn 12

2 F Horn *3*,4

2 Trombone 1

2 Trombone 2

2 Trombone 3

2 Baritone B.C.

2 Baritone T.C.

5 Tuba

1 Timpani

2 Xylophone, Bells, Chimes

2 Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Gong

2 Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal

Extra Part - P3015361

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## Program Notes

Variations on "A Mighty Fortress" is a set of three variations based on the popular hymn. The first variation is a slow, legato variation in which the melody is first stated by the solo trumpet. With this variation, I tried to vary the harmonic progressions accompanying the melody so they were not as "standard" as one would be expecting for this hymn, as well as varying the time signatures to give it a different feel. The next variation is a livelier variation, with an ostinato accompaniment pattern to help drive the section along. Melodic fragments from the opening solo instruments are heard again in this variation, but in different instrument voices. This variation also has a couple of 3/4 measures thrown in just to keep things interesting. In the transition to the final variation, different instruments have a fragment of the melody as the tempo slows down. The final variation is in 3/4 time and begins with an alto saxophone solo. It alternates back and forth between woodwind and brass choirs through the different phrases of the hymn, until the full band comes in for one last partial statement. The work ends with a majestic fanfare, which should drive the piece to its jubilant conclusion.

Variations on "A Mighty Fortress" received the 1988-89 Claude T. Smith Memorial Band Composition Contest Award. It was also my first work for band. This version has been edited and revised from the original, but the integrity of the original work certainly remains. I hope you enjoy the piece.

### About the Composer

Darren Jenkins is a native of Topeka, Kansas. He is a graduate of Washburn University and the University of Kansas, where he studied composition with James Barnes. An award-winning composer, his works have been performed and recorded by various groups across the country, as well as internationally. He has written successfully for virtually every area of instrumental music. In addition to his work as a composer/arranger, Jenkins also enjoys a successful career as a music educator.

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