

Performance Notes

The *Interlochen Theme* is an excerpt from Howard Hanson's *Symphony No. 2* (Romantic). In the summer of 1931 when Dr. Hanson conducted the first Interlochen performance of the symphony he presented this theme to the National Music Camp to be used as a signature for their radio broadcasts. In the sixty-five years since that time it has traditionally closed each concert at Interlochen.

When rehearsing the piece take care to play very legato with much expression. Maintain a balance between the background chords, the melody and the counter melody.

Performance Time: 1:30

About the Composer

Howard Hanson, was born in Wahoo, Nebraska in 1896. Hanson won the first national competition for the Prix de Rome in 1921 and entered the American Academy as its first Fellow in Music.

While still at the Academy, Hanson was appointed Director of the then fledgling Eastman School of Music in Rochester. He held this post until 1964, establishing musical education in America at a significantly higher level and on a larger scale than ever before.

Of equal importance to Hanson's pedagogical influence are his achievements as a composer. His prolific output included seven symphonies, the 4th of which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1944. *Symphony No. 2* (Romantic), is a staple of the orchestral repertoire.

Hanson's importance in the musical life of our country is also exemplified by his efforts on behalf of all American composers. At a time when the concert world was dominated by European music and our own composers were ignored, Hanson developed the Festival of American Music at which more than 1,200 pieces by native composers were played over the years.

At the time of his death in 1981, it could be said that nearly every living American musician, and indeed all lovers of music, were in some way indebted to Howard Hanson . . . truly a Dean of American music.

About the Arranger

Andrew Balent's thirty years of experience as an educator and composer make him uniquely qualified to supervise and edit the SOUNDS SPECTACULAR series. A prolific composer and arranger for band, he has over four hundred publications to his credit and has received Special Awards for composition from ASCAP for two decades. His music is characterized by its playability and usefulness as a vehicle for teaching music fundamentals. A frequent guest conductor and clinician, Mr. Balent has served on several national boards and committees. He received his B.M. and M.M. degrees from the University of Michigan.