Patrick J. Burns

Ryukyu-Bushi

Song of the Samurai

INSTRUMENTATION

1 – Conductor
3 – Flute 1
3 – Oboe (Flute 2)
4 – Clarinet 1 in B♭
4 – Clarinet 2 in B♭
2 – Bass Clarinet in B♭
2 – Bassoon
3 – E♭ Alto Saxophone
2 – B♭ Tenor Saxophone
   (Baritone TC)
1 – E♭ Baritone Saxophone

3 – Trumpet 1 in B♭
3 – Trumpet 2 in B♭
4 – Horn in F
4 – Trombone
   (Baritone BC)
4 – Tuba
2 – Tenor Drum, Bass Drum
2 – Triangle, Tambourine,
   Cymbal
1 – Bells

Daehn
PUBLICATIONS

THE COMPOSITION

Ryukyu-Bushi (Song of the Samurai) is based on the Japanese folk melody, "Ryukyu-Bushi." The melody itself originated in the Ryukyu Islands, which stretch in a southwestward direction from Kyushu to the Chinese island of Taiwan. The largest of the Ryukyu Islands is Okinawa, which is where the martial art of *karate* was originated and developed prior to its 19th century annexation by Japan.

The word *bushi* has several different meanings, all of which can be applied to the understanding and performance of this piece. One definition is simply that of a Japanese folk melody. So, in one sense, the title could be translated as "Folk melody from Ryukyu." However, the *bushi* were also those young men who were members of the warrior class, or *samurai* (the two terms have become interchangeable in their usage). These were highly trained warriors who were also very well educated, their scholarship and wisdom as much a part of their character as their fighting ability. Additionally, the term *bushi* may also refer more generally to a young man trained in the martial art of *karate*.

The severe nature of the original melody inspired me to musically portray the most dramatic and exciting imagery conjured by these definitions, that of the *samurai*.

Patrick J. Burns

THE COMPOSER

PATRICK J. BURNS (b. 1969) has served as Adjunct Professor of Music at Montclair State University in New Jersey since 1994, where he teaches courses in music theory, orchestration, and composition, and has also taught instrumental music in the Caldwell-West Caldwell Public Schools since 1998. As a clarinetist, Mr. Burns has performed with many professional ensembles in the New York metro area including the Metropolitan Opera Summer Ballet Orchestra, the pit orchestra for the Broadway revival production of *Camelot* starring Robert Goulet, and with the New Jersey Chamber Music Society in broadcasts for National Public Radio and New Jersey Network Television. In September 2011, Mr. Burns began his tenure as Director of the Symphony of Winds and Percussion at New Jersey City University.

In 1986, at the age of seventeen, Mr. Burns founded the Bloomfield Youth Band, a community wind ensemble of some 55 secondary school and collegiate musicians, which he continues to direct today. The Youth Band has been recognized for its outstanding artistic achievements and service to the community by the United States Congress, the New Jersey Legislature, and the Mayor and Town Council of Bloomfield. Mr. Burns is former director of the Montclair State University Youth Orchestra and the Imperial Brass. He has been featured as guest conductor and clinician with public school, community, university, region and all-state bands and orchestras in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia and Ohio and has recorded albums and concertized with world-renowned brass artists Philip Smith, Warren Vaché, Roger Webster and Chris Jaudes.

Patrick Burns' music for symphonic band is published by G. Schirmer, Daehn Publications, Grand Mesa Music Publishers, FJH Music, Wingert-Jones Music, and TRN Music Publisher. His compositions for symphonic band are performed by bands of every level throughout the United States and abroad. The United States Army Band, "Pershing's Own", has performed his music in Washington, D.C. and at Carnegie Hall. His music has also been performed by conservatory and military bands in Sweden, Russia, Japan and China. His music has appeared on *Bandworld* magazine's Top 100 list of band compositions five times. *The Instrumentalist* and *School Music News* have printed numerous favorable reviews of Mr. Burns' band music and *The Classical New Jersey Society Journal* has praised his chamber music. His music for symphonic band has been performed at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago and has been recorded for the educational series *Distinguished Music for the Developing Band.* He has received commissions from many organizations including the Goldman Band/Harvey Phillips Foundation, Ohio Northern University, the Bel Air (Maryland) Community Band, the SoundTree Corporation and Westlake Village High School Wind Ensemble (California) for the band's performance at Carnegie Hall.

In March 2010, he founded his own music publishing company, Bandworks Publications. His music can be heard at his websites, **www.patrickburnsmusic.com**, **www.bandworkspublications.com**, and **www.youtube.com/patrickburnsmusic.**

Written for the Mt. Pleasant Elementary School Band (Livingston, New Jersey)
Jim Hegedus, Director

Ryukyu-Bushi
Song of the Samurai

Conductor

PATRICK J. BURNS
(ASCAP)

With spirit, but not too fast ♩=126

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