Spitfire

Gary P. Gilroy

1 Full	Score
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1 Piccolo

4 Flute 1

4 Flute 2

2 Oboe 1,2

2 Bassoon

3 Clarinet 1

3 Clarinet 2

3 Clarinet 3

2 Bass Clarinet

2 Alto Saxophone

2 Alto Saxophone 2

2 Tenor Saxophone

1 Baritone Saxophone

3 Trumpet 1

3 Trumpet 2

3 Trumpet 3

2 F Horn 1

2 F Horn 2

3 Trombone 1

3 Trombone 2

2 Euphonium

1 Euphonium T.C

5 Tuba •

1 Timpani

2 Xylophone, Marimba, Vibraphone, Chimes, Bells (1) Player)

4 Percussion 1:

1.Snare Drum, Hi-Hat. Floor Tom, Splash Cymbal 2.Whip, Brake Drum, Triangle, Tambourine, Floor Tom

6 Percussion 2:

- 1. Temple Blocks, Bass Drum, Sleigh Bells, Tambourine, Claves, Gong, Wind Chimes
- 2. Crash Cymbals, Cow Bell, Maracas, Claves, Temple Blocks
- 3. Sizzle Cymbal, Sus. Cymbal, Vibra Slap, China Cymbal

Extra Part - P3014271

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Program Notes

Spitfire! was composed for the San Joaquin County Music Educators Association High School Honor Band and was premiered at their Honors Concert in Atherton Auditorium at the Delta Community College in Stockton, California on Saturday, January 13, 2007 with the composer conducting. This work begins fast and energetic and moves at rapids speeds throughout with complex rhythms and driving accents from all players during the short piece.

During World War II the British used a very fast fighter plane called the *Spitfire* and borrowing this exciting name seemed appropriate as the composer set out to write a very fast and energetic concert work for high school bands. Ranges in the work are not taxing although the rapid, driving and relentless rhythms can become trying for the players if they are not ready for a quick journey in the key of G minor.

A total of seven percussionists are needed for this work each playing a variety of percussion instruments, some as timbre samples and some in the form of driving rhythms. This piece needs at least one very fine mallet player who opens the composition with a short Xylophone solo. The same player eventually makes the rounds on all the concert mallet percussion instruments. While this part is playable by one person, it can also be divided among several players. Timpani tuning is kept to a minimum in this work to accommodate programs that do not have the latest equipment. The timpanist can play the entire work on two drums by taking the upper G down an octave and omitting the Ab in the three measures it appears. There are a number of instruments that are duplicated between the parts that with good planning, can all be shared among players. A fast maracas roll can replace the goat toenails if needed.

About the Composer

Gary P. Gilroy is a Professor of Music and Director of Bands at California State University, Fresno. In 1993 he was appointed Associate Director of Bands and Director of the Bulldog Marching Band. After 13 years in this position and building one of the finest collegiate marching bands on the west coast, Dr. Gilroy became Director of Bands. Prior to this appointment he served for a decade as Director of Bands at Fred C. Beyer High School in Modesto, California where his band was awarded several national honors as well as the International Sudler Shield Award from the John Philip Sousa Foundation. Dr. Gilroy is active as a guest conductor and clinician throughout the United States. Most notably, he has served as guest conductor for the Oregon All-State JHS Honor Band and the California All-State High School Symphonic Band. His numerous compositions and arrangements for concert band, percussion ensemble and marching band, are published through the Arrangers Publishing Company, BRS Music, Inc., Daehn Publications, Kagarice Brass Editions, Matrix Publications, TRN Music Publishers, Warner Brothers, Wingert-Jones Publications, and CPP/Belwin Mills. He has been an ASCAP Composers Award recipient every year since 2001. Dr. Gilroy is a Past President of the California Band Directors Association and has served twelve years on that board. He is also a Past President of the Fresno Madera Counties Music Educators Association and currently serves as the Western States Chair for the National Band Association.

Time: 3' 46" Grade: 4



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