CHRISTMAS PARTY

James Curnow
ABOUT THE COMPOSER

James Curnow was born in Port Huron, Michigan and raised in Royal Oak, Michigan. He lives in Nicholasville, Kentucky where he is president, composer, and educational consultant for Curnow Music Press, Inc., publishers of significant music for concert band, symphonic band and brass band. He also serves as Composer-in-residence on the faculty of Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky.

His formal training was received at Wayne State University (Detroit, Michigan) and at Michigan State University (East Lansing, Michigan), where he was a euphonium student of Leonard Falcone, and a conducting student of Dr. Harry Begian.

James Curnow has taught in all areas of instrumental music, both on the public school, and college and university level. He is a member of several professional organizations, including the ABA, CBDNA, NBA, WASBE, and ASCAP. In 1980 he received the National Band Association’s Citation of Excellence. In 1985, while a tenured Associate Professor at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Mr. Curnow was honored as an outstanding faculty member. Among his most recent honors was inclusion in Who’s Who In America, and Who’s Who In The South And Southwest.

As a conductor, clinician and composer, Curnow has traveled throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, and Europe where his music has received wide acclaim. He has won several awards for band compositions including the ASBDA/Volkwein Award in 1977 (Symphonic Triptych) and 1979 (Collage for Band), the ABA/Ostwald award in 1980 (Mutanza) and 1984 (Symphonic Variants for Euphonium and Band), the 1994 Coup de Vents Composition Contest of Le Havre, France (Lochinvar) and has received annual ASCAP standard awards since 1979.

James Curnow has become one of the world’s most prolific writers for concert, brass bands and orchestra. He has been commissioned to compose over one-hundred works for band and various ensembles. Curnow’s published works now number well over four hundred. Averaging eight to ten commissions a year, of which at least four are major works, Curnow’s music is performed all over the world. His most recent commissions were for the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the U.S. Army Band (Washington, D.C.), and a commission for a celebratory fanfare and theme for the transfer of the Olympic Flag from Barcelona to Atlanta in preparation for the 1996 Summer Olympics.

COMPLETE PERFORMANCE RECORDING
ON COMPACT DISC

EXCURSIONS
EASTERN WIND SYMPHONY
CR 200.018 - 3
James Curnow
CHRISTMAS PARTY

PROGRAM NOTE:

The Christmas Season is a time of celebration that includes the tradition of decorating our homes, schools, churches, and places of business. Sometimes the decorations are elaborate, sometimes simple, sometimes sacred, and sometimes secular, but all are an important part of the season. "Deck The Halls" is a Welsh Folksong, "Nos Galan," which is actually a dance-carol for New Year's Eve and originally had nothing to do with the festive season. It first appeared in print in a collection entitled Musical and Poetical Relics of the Welsh Bards (1784), published by Edward Jones.

Over the centuries, "Nos Galan" has gone through many variations in text and melodic content until it is now know as "Deck The Halls" and is heard around the world throughout the festive season. Christmas Party is a set of continuous variations on this traditional melody that will add fun and a joyful spirit to the many events held during the Christmas Season.

NOTE TO THE CONDUCTOR:

The tempo is bright (two beats per measure) and the music is joyful, so be careful to keep the tempo consistent, the style light, and dynamics controlled. Don't let the piece become lackluster or overplayed but rather festive in interpretation. The variations are continuous, so there are many frequent style changes. Since the melody is past around the ensemble in repetitive or imitative motifs, care will need to be given to imitating style, dynamics, accents, etc. when the motifs are completed by one part of the ensemble and picked up by another part of the ensemble.

The key change from Eb concert to F concert is a direct modulation; so all players will need to be prepared for the sudden jolt in tonality. Several references to other well-known carols appear from time to time. Make sure these references are well balanced and heard above the rest of the ensemble.

Most of all, keep the music happy and full of energy from the first note to the last. Make it a true Christmas Party!
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</table>
CHRISTMAS PARTY

James Curnow

Instrumentation:

1 - Conductor
7 - Flute (Piccolo)
   2 - Oboe
4 - B♭ Clarinet 1
4 - B♭ Clarinet 2
4 - B♭ Clarinet 3
1 - E♭ Alto Clarinet
2 - B♭ Bass Clarinet
   2 - Bassoon
2 - E♭ Alto Saxophone 1
2 - E♭ Alto Saxophone 2
2 - B♭ Tenor Saxophone
1 - E♭ Baritone Saxophone
   2 - B♭ Trumpet 1
   2 - B♭ Trumpet 2
   2 - B♭ Trumpet 3
   2 - F Horn 1
   2 - F Horn 2
2 - Trombone 1
2 - Trombone 2
2 - Trombone 3
2 - Euphonium B.C.
2 - B♭ Euphonium T.C.
4 - Tuba
1 - Double Bass
1 - Mallet Percussion
   1 - Timpani
   2 - Percussion 1
   1 - Percussion 2
To Mr. Robert T. "Bubba" Peske from your 1999-2000 Bismarck, North Dakota High School Wind Ensemble

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Variations on Deck the Halls

James Curnow (ASC)

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B♭ TRUMPET 3

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B♭ TROMBONE 3 T.C.

Christmas Party

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B♭ BASS T.C.

Festively

Variations on Deck the Halls

James Curnow

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