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Joni Greene

Out of the Shadows, Love Shines

for Wind Ensemble



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for Blake & Darren



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OUT OF THE SHADOWS, LOVE SHINES

FOR CONCERT BAND

JONI GREENE

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe (optional)

B^b Clarinet 1

B^b Clarinet 2

Bb Clarinet 3

Bb Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

E^b Alto Saxophone 1

E^b Alto Saxophone 2

B^b Tenor Saxophone

E^b Baritone Saxophone

B^b Trumpet 1

B^b Trumpet 2

B^b Trumpet 3

F Horn 1/3

F Horn 2/4

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

B.C Euphonium 1 & 2

Tuba 1 & 2

Timpani

Percussion 1

Crotales 2 octaves (+bass bow)

Percussion 2

Vibraphone (+bass bow)

Percussion 3

Marimba

Carriage Bolt Chimes *sub: wind chimes*

Percussion 4

Small & Large Sus. Cymbals + triangle beater

Piano

Duration = ca 6.5 minutes

Suggested Grade: 5



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Commissioned by:

East Mecklenburg High School



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About Blake (May 14, 1996 – March 23, 2015)

I never had the opportunity to meet Blake Brockington, but his story and courage have lived within me since band director Christopher Moreau contacted me in February 2016. During our first conversation, Mr. Moreau expressed to me a community in grief over the death of a beloved trans teen band student, Blake Brockington. The band students and parents of East Mecklenburg High School in North Carolina wished to commission a work that celebrated Blake's life with the message of love and community.

Blake was the first trans homecoming king in North Carolina; an event that he would later describe as the hardest of his journey. Blake demonstrated his advocacy for trans rights through his multiple public speaking endeavors, his documentary *BroKINGton*, and his 2015 exhibit at the Levine Museum of the New South: "Out of the Shadows: Gay America from Kinsey to Stonewall." It is from this exhibit that *Out of the Shadows, Love Shines* was named - half Blake and half my belief that love should be celebrated, not hidden. As I continued to read the testimonies about Blake, I learned of someone who faced enormous heartbreaks throughout his life. Even with such an unjust start, Blake was overflowing with love and friendship for others. In his smile, I see what other's who knew him must have seen, a kind face with an expression of joy that immediately touched my heart. True to his favorite quote I Corinthians 13, "And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love," Blake wished everyone could live their own life through love and happiness.

Tragically, Blake took his life on March 23, 2015 at the age of 19.

Out of the Shadows, Love Shines was premiered in the spring of 2017 at East Mecklenburg High School.

Blake's Musical Story in Out of the Shadows, Love Shines

Blake played bassoon in concert band and then euphonium later in marching band. To reflect Blake's transition in life, in the work the bassoon transitions into a euphonium. However, after Blake's transition the bassoon is still heard, always a part of Blake.

Example 1 illustrates the prominence of the bassoon with the euphonium in the background, heard as if it is pulsing, waiting to come forth.

Ex. 1 mm. 3-7 Bassoon prominent voice, euphonium background:



Before Blake completely transitions sometimes we hear both the bassoon and euphonium are together.

Ex. 2 mm. 23-24 bassoon and euphonium balanced:



As Blake's voice becomes stronger it is reflected in the euphonium. In m. 44, Blake's voice is represented in the top euphonium voice and is supported by the harmonies in the band which are all driving towards the Eb harmony in m. 50. Blake stands before us at m. 53, not yet at his strongest and still not alone. The band soon moves towards the climax and Blake's full transition at m. 71.



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Ex. 3, m. 44-47 Blake's voice, euphonium:



Ex. 4, m. 61-62 Climactic motive:



The euphonium has transitioned into the foreground in m. 72; however, as the euphonium walks through the solo, a hand is held out by a member of the ensemble, symbolized by sustained notes in Blake's melody.

Ex. 5, m. 72-79 Holding Blake's Hand



The section titled *The Beauty Within* is a moment in the piece where "love shines." It's warmth and beauty illustrate the complete acceptance Blake has found in his community as seen by the emerged euphonium while still maintaining places for bassoon. But even with so much love, the music takes a somber turn around m. 94. Here the final euphonium solo has a downward motion at m. 97 indicating the last breath Blake takes as his life comes to an end.

Ex. 6, m. 97-98 euphonium final solo

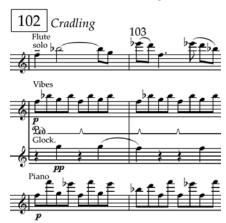




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is heard in m. 107 as a solo voice signaling that Blake is still with the band even if not a physical form. The work continues towards a resolution with the final voices resting in the oboe and bassoon. Even at the last note, Blake does not play alone.

Ex. 7, m. 102-103 Cradling Section, flute and percussion



Ex. 8, m. 107 bassoon solo





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In memory of Blake Brockington, commissioned by East Mecklenburg High School

Out of the Shadows, Love Shines for Wind Ensemble

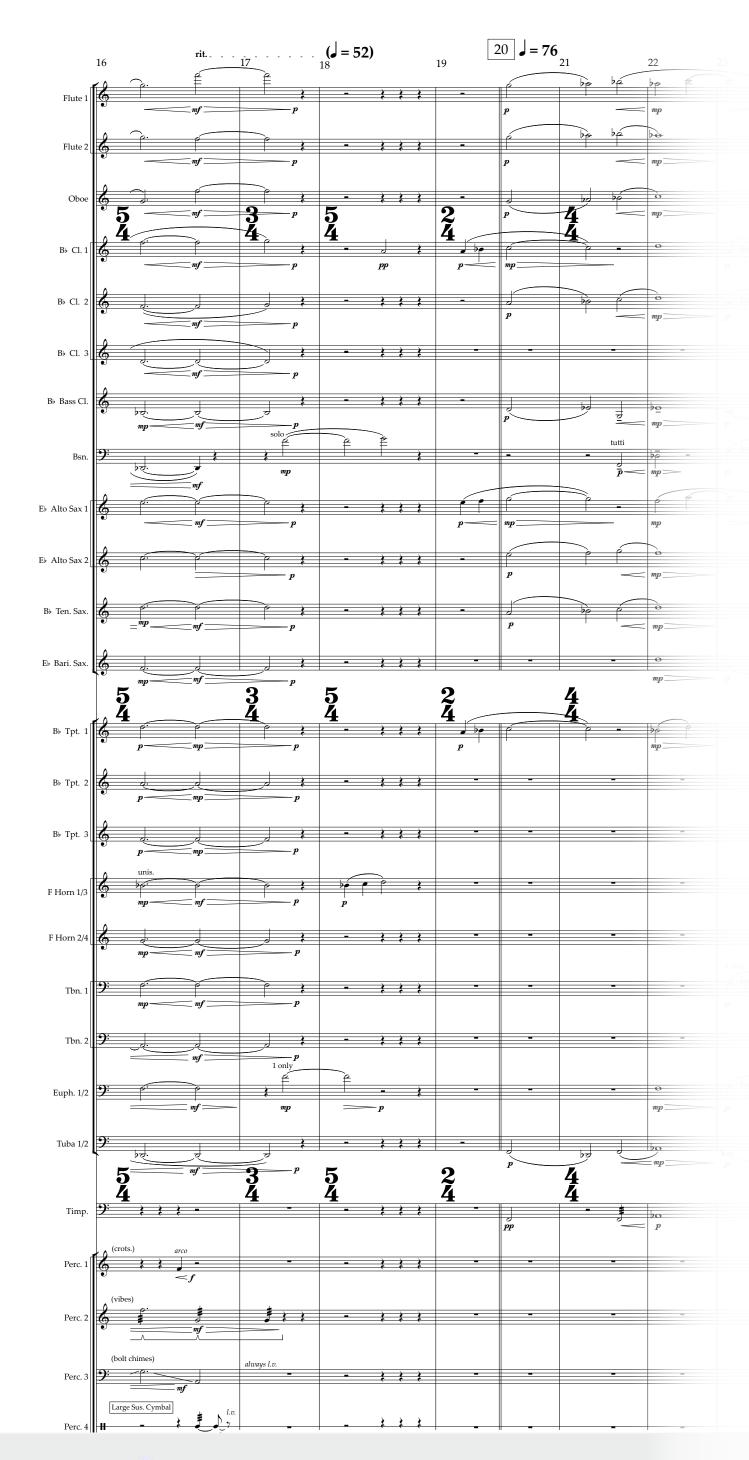




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