

Fanfare for Life

Tone Poem No. 1

by

Christopher Lee Fraley

F. 121

“Fanfare for Life” was commissioned in loving memory of Paula Susan Lauffer Vasale, sister of Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra Music Director, Bruce Lauffer. Throughout her life and in her death Paula was an inspiration to her parents, siblings, husband, children, family and friends and provided them with a first-hand view of God’s grace and love. Although she isn’t physically here by our side, she continues to watch over us and help to guide us. This composition is dedicated to Paula and to the wonderful memories her family and friends have with her.

This piece is a celebration of life in the midst of trials and of life’s ultimate transformation made possible by God’s love. The piece is written in ABA form: a short introduction that ends with a trumpet fanfare, followed by development of this material, and concluding with the fanfare. All of the musical ideas are derived from the trumpet fanfare, including the rhythmic undulation heard throughout, which represents the pulse of life. The music starts with a predominately minor character growing in tension until the rhythmic “life” motive is broken with sharp punctuations that introduce the fanfare. This mournful statement in minor triggers a gradual transformation into major as the material is developed, so that the final fanfare triumphantly declares the victory of love.

“Fanfare for Life” was premiered by the Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra on Saturday, May 11, 2002, conducted by Music Director, Bruce Lauffer.

composed by
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Premiered by
Pittsburgh Civic Orchestra
Bruce Lauffer, conductor
11-May-2001

Orchestra

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

2 Clarinets (in B^b)

2 Bassoons

4 Horns (In F)

3 Trumpets (in B^b)

2 Trombones

1 Bass Trombone

Timpani

Percussion (Bass Drum, Wood Blocks, Cymbals, Triangle, Tam-Tam)

String Choir

Duration

4 minutes

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With Energy and Intensity, ♩ = 90

1 2 3 4 5

Flutes
Oboes
Clarinets in Bb
Bassoons
Horns I & III in F
Horns II & IV in F
Trumpets I & II in Bb
Trumpet III in Bb
Trombone I
Trombone II
Bass Trombone
Timpani *mp*
Bass drum *mp*
Wood blocks *p*
Cymbals
Triangle *p*
Tam-tam *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the percussion score for the first five measures of the piece. The instruments listed are Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets in Bb, Bassoons, Horns I & III in F, Horns II & IV in F, Trumpets I & II in Bb, Trumpet III in Bb, Trombone I, Trombone II, Bass Trombone, Timpani, Bass drum, Wood blocks, Cymbals, Triangle, and Tam-tam. The music is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 90 beats per minute. The dynamic markings are *mp* for Timpani, *mp* for Bass drum, *p* for Wood blocks, *p* for Triangle, and *mf* for Tam-tam. The Tam-tam part features a long, sweeping line across measures 1 and 2.

With Energy and Intensity, ♩ = 90

Violin I *p*
Violin II *p*
Viola *p*
Violoncello *f*
Contrabass *pizz.* *mp*

simile
simile
simile
legato, espres.
f

Detailed description: This block contains the string score for the first five measures of the piece. The instruments listed are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The music is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 90 beats per minute. The dynamic markings are *p* for Violin I, Violin II, and Viola; *f* for Violoncello; and *pizz.* *mp* for Contrabass. The Violin I and II parts feature a melodic line with a *simile* marking. The Viola part features a rhythmic accompaniment with a *simile* marking. The Violoncello part features a melodic line with a *legato, espres.* marking and a *f* dynamic. The Contrabass part features a rhythmic accompaniment with a *pizz.* marking.

A Fanfare, ♩ = 66

15 16 17 18 19 20

Fls. *a2* *ff*

Obs. *f*

Cls. *f*

Bsns. *f*

Hn. I & III *f*

Hn. II & IV *f*

Tpt. I & II *ff* *f*

Tpt. III *f*

Tbn. I *ff*

Tbn. II *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Timp.

B. D. *f*

W. Bl. *f*

Cym. *f*

Tri. *f*

T.-t. *f*

A Fanfare, ♩ = 66

Vln I

(Vln II unison)

Vln II

(Vla unison)

Vla

(Vc. unison) *arco*

Vc.

(Cb. unison) *arco*

Cb.