# WAJDI ABOU DIAB <br> arr. Josh Trentadue <br> ARABIC SKETCHES <br> CONCERT BAND 

## INSTRUMENTATION:

| 4 | Flute 1 | 1 | Timpani |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 4 | Flute 2 |  |  |
| 2 | Oboe | 2 | Mallets: |
| 4 | Clarinet in Bb 1 |  | Xylophone |
| 4 | Clarinet in Bb 2 |  | Marimba |
| 2 | Bass Clarinet |  |  |
| 2 | Bassoon (opt.) | 3 | Percussion 1: |
| 2 | Alto Sax 1 |  | Snare Drum |
| 2 | Alto Sax 2 |  | Bass Drum |
| 2 | Tenor Sax |  | Crash Cymbals |
| 1 | Baritone Sax | 2 | Percussion 2: |
|  |  |  | Arabic Percussion |
| 4 | Trumpet in Bb 1 |  | (Darbouka, Tar, Bendir, Katem, Tabl, and/or Dahool) |
| 4 | Trumpet in Bb 2 |  | OR optional Frame Drums (2) |
| 2 | Horn in F 1 |  |  |
| 2 | Horn in F 2 |  |  |
| 2 | Trombone 1 |  |  |
| 2 | Trombone 2 |  |  |
| 2 | Euphonium (T.C.) |  |  |
| 2 | Euphonium (B.C.) |  |  |
| 4 | Tuba |  |  |




#### Abstract

ABOUT: "Arabic Sketches" is intended to introduce beginner musicians, as well as the audience, to the world of Arabic music in a fun and enjoyable way. This medley is designed to make ensemble rehearsals both straightforward and productive. Each of the four sketches introduces a scene from Arabic folklore, inviting the players to discover the beauty of Arabic traditions and cultures. In some of the sketches, the musicians are asked to perform some simple body percussion and say some Arabic words, adding a little bit of magic to the music! "Arabic Sketches" opens with the "Dabkeh", a traditional Levantine dance that is still performed at weddings and public events in Arabic countries, in which the dancers hold their hands together and form a circle showing a scene of solidarity and unity. It is a high-energy dance that demands a great amount of physical effort and is usually performed by both men and women. The medley continues by taking us to a very special period for Arab people called "Ramadan". For a complete month, people enjoy gathering for the "Iftar" when the sun sets, after a long fasting, then attending public events, and organizing cultural gatherings. The third sketch is titled "Raqsa", which means simply "A Dance". The Arabic dance, mainly performed by a female dancer, is full of energy and beauty - it is usually accompanied by hand clapping and percussion instruments, and sometimes singing too. The final sketch of this medley takes us to the traditional Arabic wedding ceremonies that can sometimes last for more than 5 consecutive days. At an Arabic traditional wedding, all the village gather in the bride's or groom's home, participating in all the details of the preparations for the wedding, bringing food and gifts, and celebrating joyfully with music, songs, and dances.


## DURATION: 3'00"



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Additional parts are available for purchase from the publisher online.


## PERFORMANCE NOTES:

This piece is intended to introduce Arabic music, traditions, and cultures to concert bands. With this in mind, several words and phrases are included that are to be spoken by the players at various points throughout the piece. The pronunciations are as follows:

- Héy - [HAY] (long A, as in "May")
- ya-llah - [YAH LAH] (short a, as in "car")
- Hèl-léh - [HEL] (e as in "bell") [LEY] (ey as in "May")
- lè-lèk - [LEH LEK] (e as in "bell")
- yè - [YEL] (e as in "bell")
- Ramadan - (short a, as in "car")
- Yah - (short a, as in "car")

In the final bar, all of the players are asked to pronounce the following sound: Wilililrlrlrlrlrlrlrlrlrlish ( $\mathrm{i}=$ "ee" as in "me"). Have the players approach this word in jubilee as a loud ululation, eventually rolling their r's (if possible) as they progress through the word. The final bar has been given a fermata for these purposes and is to be interpreted freely out of time.

This piece introduces the 6/4 time signature. In the context of this work, the meter should always be treated as two groupings of three quarter notes (akin to two 3/4 bars combined into a single bar) - rehearsals may be approached as such, with clear downbeats given at the beginning of each bar, until such a time the players are comfortable with the metrical structure of this section.

Percussion 2: Of the selection of Arabic percussion listed, the darbouka is the main instrument that should be used for a performance if available. All other instruments listed may accompany/double on the part (or be used in substitution of the darbouka) as desired, depending on the size of your percussion section. The addition of tabl and dahool in particular will overall give the piece a more folk-like feeling.

If access to these instruments is not an option, then either two frame drums, or a second snare and bass drum, may also cover this part (for the latter option, have the second snare drum cover the high notes with snares always off, and bass drum cover the low notes).


## ARABIC SKETCHES

Transposed Score
for Concert Band
Wajdi Abou Diab arr. Josh Trentadue 2022, arr. 2023














