Ghost Town

by

Gary P. Gilroy (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

1 – Conductor Score

10 – Flute

2 – Oboe

5 – Clarinet 1

5 – Clarinet 2

4 – Alto Saxophone

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2 – Tenor Saxophone

2 – Bari Saxophone

4 – Trumpet 1

4 – Trumpet 2

4 – Horn in F

6 – Trombone

2 – Euphonium (+ 2 T.C.)

4 – Tuba

2 – Mallet Percussion

2 – Percussion

Ghost Town

Ghost Town was composed for Lola Sutherland and her Pacific Union Elementary School Concert Band of Fresno, California. The work gives elementary school students the opportunity to play something lyric and musical without tremendous technical demands. The composer has known Mrs. Sutherland for several decades and has enjoyed hearing her school band perform other Gilroy compositions. Students in the Pacific Union Elementary School Concert Band were excited to premiere another of Gilroy's compositions, A Ruckus in Murphys, in the spring of 2012.

Bodie, California is one of the most well preserved Ghost Towns in California. The Bodie State Historic Park welcomes more than 200,000 curious visitors each year. Some come to see the old church while others come to see what is left of the Wells Fargo Bank and the remains of the safe from the once thriving financial hub of this former boomtown. Still others come to read the gravestones in the cemetery of this important gold rush town that has been called one of the wildest gold mining boomtowns in the west. In 1859 four prospectors found gold in the hills surrounding Bodie, California. When news of the find spread throughout the world many more prospectors followed looking to find a new and rich life through this mineral wealth. By 1879 the population of this small town grew to more than 6,000 people. Wakeman S. Body (sometimes spelled Bodey) was one of those original prospectors and the town was named after him. A sign painter misspelled his name on a "Bodie Stables" sign pointing to the town and the new spelling stuck with the residents in the area.

In the summer of 2010, composer Gary P. Gilroy visited this wonderful California State Park. He remembers looking through the rather primitive glass windows of some of the buildings and homes and seeing the remaining furniture and other items scattered about the various rooms. One vision that was burned into his memory was that of a small wooden cradle covered with a thick coat of dust. Gilroy tried to imagine that that cradle once held a baby infant in this rough western town. This work is Gilroy's attempt to provide young musicians with a musical portrait of that vision on a very hot and dry day in the Bodie State Historic Park looking through the windows of the old ghost town buildings.

Gary P. Gilroy (ASCAP) Born June 10th, 1958



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 in 2006. 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. Gilroy also served as faculty at CSU, Stanislaus and graduate assistant at the University of Oregon in Eugene, Oregon where he completed his doctorate in 1995.

Gilroy has served on the board of California Band Directors Association for fourteen years and he is a Past President of that organization. He is also a Past President of the Fresno Madera Counties Music Educators Association. From 1999 to 2006 he served on the board of the National Band Association as a Member At Large and the Western Division Chairman.

Dr. Gilroy is in demand as a guest conductor of many honor bands throughout the United States. As an adjudicator and guest conductor he has served in 39 states and throughout Canada. Dr. Gilroy has been the conductor for all state groups in Colorado and Oregon as well as the California Band Directors Association All-State High School Symphonic Band.

An ASCAP Award-winning composer, Gilroy's music is published for concert band, marching band, and various ensembles through the Arrangers Publishing Company, BRS Music, Inc., C. Alan Publications, Daehn Publications, Kagarice Brass Editions, Matrix Publications, TRN Publications, Warner Brothers, Wingert-Jones, Inc., and CPP/Belwin Mills. His compositions have been featured at the Bands of America National Concert Band Festival in Indianapolis, the Eastern Trombone Workshop in Washington, DC, the International Trombone Festival in New Orleans, and on many occasions at the International Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. Additionally, Gilroy's compositions have been performed by many regional and state honor bands throughout the United States. Dr. Gilroy served as the arranger/composer for the 2008 Olympic Orchestra in Beijing, China. He has been an ASCAP Composers Award recipient every year since 2001.

Dr. Gilroy and his wife Dena have lived in Clovis, California since 1993. His daughter, Alexandra, graduated from UCLA in 2010 and is currently a graduate assistant in band at UNLV and his son, Nicholas, is a music major at CSU, Long Beach.

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