VOCES ORCHESTRAE

FOR FULL ORCHESTRA

MARK LORTZ (ASCAP)

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Voces Orchestrae (pronounced vo-chaze orkestray meaning "Voices of the Orchestra") was written in February of 2006 for the Westminster high school orchestra. The piece begins with the musicians singing the "voices of the orchestra" and then moves to a quick rhythmic ostinato in the woodwinds, xylophone and violins. A variety of timbres and instrument combinations are explored ending in a climactic unison statement of the main theme. The piece ends as it begins with the musicians singing.

Mark Lortz is band and orchestra director at Westminster high school (Westminster, Maryland), where he directs the Orchestra, Concert and Marching Bands, Percussion Ensemble, Colorguard and Electronic & Computer Music Program. Under his leadership, his ensembles have won state, regional and national competitions.

Mr. Lortz earned degrees from The Peabody Conservatory of Music of the Johns Hopkins University, majoring in percussion performance, music education and composition. He performs regularly with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra as a percussionist/timpanist and can be heard on numerous recordings with the orchestra. He was principal percussionist with the *Yamaha®* Performing Ensemble, *The Dallas Brass,* and associate conductor and principal percussionist with the touring production of *The Phantom of The Opera*. He has performed with the Baltimore Chamber Symphony, the Baltimore Choral Arts Society, the Baltimore Opera Orchestra, the Gettysburg Symphony, and for various concert and theatrical productions in the metropolitan Baltimore and Washington areas. He has performed with and instructed the Drum Corps International (DCI) *Cadets of Bergen County Drum and Bugle Corps,* and he has been associated with the group's success in winning the coveted Drum Corps International Championships and the high percussion award.

Currently, he is completing a double master's degree in Music Composition and Music Education at the Peabody Conservatory of Music studying in the music composition studio of Dr. Christopher Theofanidis and music education/conducting department with Dr. Harlan Parker. In 2005, he had his original composition *Land of the Rising Sun* premiered by the Satellite high school orchestra at the 59th annual Mid West Band and Orchestra Clinic. Mr. Lortz has had his music performed throughout the United States and was commissioned by a multiple university consortium in 2004 to transcribe Philip Glass' *Double Fantasy for Two Timpanists and Orchestra* for symphonic band and published through Dunvagen Music publisher. He is the Front Ensemble coordinator and arranger for the world champion Drum Corps Associates (DCA) Drum & Bugle Corps *The Reading Buccaneers* and has arranged marching band music for high schools and colleges throughout the country. He was the Percussion Caption Head and wind and percussion arranger for the United States Naval Academy Drum and Bugle Corps, winning the Inter-service Academy Drum & Bugle Corps Championship and high percussion award. An active adjudicator and clinician in the mid-Atlantic region, Mr. Lortz is a member of The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), National Association of Music Education (MENC), Maryland Band Directors Association (MBDA), Maryland Orchestra Director's Association (MODA), American Federation of Musicians (AFM), and is a Marching Percussion Specialist and Scholastic Educator for the *Vic Firth Percussion Education Program*.

Instrumentation

Score is Transposed
Duration: 4’ 15”

Flute 1-2

Oboe

Clarinet 1-2

Bassoon

French Horn

Trumpet 1-2

Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Mallets

Percussion 1 (2 Players)
Player 1 - Wind Chimes, Gong, Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum
Player 2 - Chimes, Bass Drum, Triangle

Percussion 2 (1 Player)
Vibraphone, Tambourine, Large Tom Tom, Suspended Cymbal, Bass Drum & Gong

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Cello

Bass