

BLAIR, Dean: *Sonata for Trombone*

[BLAIR, Dean](#) (b. 1932) – M – Region: USA (B); British Columbia (R).

Sonata for Trombone (1963) For trombone and piano. Duration: 8:00.

Availability: [TAP Music Sales](#) TBSO13, © 1986.

Copy Quality: manuscript (fairly clear).

Level of Difficulty: 4.

Notation: standard.

Special Techniques: none.

Equipment/Mutes: F- attachment not required, but helpful.

Overview:

Movements / Tempos	Duration	Meter	Rhythms
I. Allegro, ♩ = 144	1:30	2/4	16 th
II. Andante, ♩ = 72	2:30	5/4, 4/4	16 th
III. Tempo di Minuet, ♩ = 132	2:00	3/4	8 th
IV. Allegro marcato	2:00	2/4	16 th

Technical Characteristics: Other than one single high A_{b4}, this work makes full use of the written range, often encompassing one and a half to two octaves within a single phrase. In addition to stepwise and arpeggiated material, there are frequent large leaps of intervals up to a seventh (see Figure 109). The 16th notes in the 1st and 4th movements consist mainly of isolated groups of two to four repeated notes or stepwise patterns, and may require double tonguing at the marked tempos. Aside from these challenges, the work is quite approachable by a younger undergraduate. All rhythms are straightforward, and there should be no issues coordinating with the piano.

Range / Clefs / Tessitura:

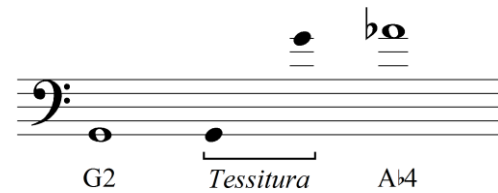


Figure 109. Blair: *Sonata for Trombone*, 1st movement, measures 20-44.



Musical Characteristics: Although tonal, Blair's *Sonata* features bitonal harmonies and whole-tone scales which often obscure a clear key center. The 1st and 4th movements feature both the robust and lyrical characters of the trombone. The 2nd is melodic and expressive, with opportunities for soloistic freedom in three unaccompanied "cadenza" passages (see Figure 110). The 3rd movement, a Minuet, is also predominantly lyrical, but with some lighter, staccato passages.

Figure 110. Blair: *Sonata for Trombone*, 2nd movement, measures 26-28.



Pedagogical/Performance Value: A strong recital piece, this is an excellent work that provides a good opportunity to introduce double tonguing to an undergraduate student, and is also good material for the development of lip flexibility and slide dexterity.

Supplementary Information:

Commission: Written for a senior student at Wisconsin State College, Stevens Point, WI.