

## Notes on 'Jiggedy Jig'

*This piece is great for all brass players who are looking at doing Grade 4 or looking for a piece at about this level, as it currently features on the ABRSM syllabus (up to 2020) for all brass instruments **except** Euphonium and Baritone. This piece is still suitable for Euphonium or Baritone but if you're looking for Grade 4 syllabus pieces for these instruments, check out the notes on 'Open Plains' and 'Reflections'.*

A jig is a lively folk dance, which is most associated with Irish dancing. It has a very happy and energetic feel to it.

The time signature of 6/8. That means that there are 6 quavers in a bar which are split into two groups of three: 1,2,3 2,2,3. When first practising the piece, try to keep this quaver pulse in your head, or after you've practised the piece for a bit, maybe with a metronome. After you've got the feel of the piece and can play it a bit faster, it will feel more like it has two beats in the bar.

The piece starts on the upbeat, which is the 6<sup>th</sup> and final quaver of the bar. To start with, count yourself in from the start of the bar: 1,2,3 1,2

Watch out for the different articulations in the first two lines. The staccatos should be really short and light, whereas by contrast the slurs are smooth. As with any dance music, the first beat of the bar is the most important and in your phrasing, make sure you emphasise this. Also, the fourth quaver of the bar should be emphasised a little as this will really help to get the feeling of two beats in the bar and to aid you in counting the two groups of three quavers.

At bar 15, there is a typical brass fanfare figure. These notes can be heavily accented as if announcing the arrival of someone or something important! At bar 18 the dynamic is marked *sfp*. This means that you play the start of the note loud with a really strong accent and then immediately come away to a quiet dynamic. After this there is a crescendo marked so get steadily louder over the rest of the note. The overall effect of this should sound really dramatic! The piece then returns to the same lighter jig feeling from the beginning.

At bar 34, the mood changes. 'Tranquillo' means calm. The music is marked *legato* which means it should be played smoothly. It is also played a little slower and at a quieter dynamic than what has come before and the music feels to me a bit like a small daydream. This transitions back into the jig feel of the beginning at bar 47 with the staccato quavers.

From bar 52 to the end the music is based very much on the beginning. After the return of the fanfare figure at the beginning of the last line, it is important to bring the dynamic right down at bar 67 before a really dramatic crescendo aiming for a powerful last note.

This piece is great fun to play. Good luck!