

# Pick & Mix quartets

## *How to use this collection*

Pick & Mix Quartets was written to provide a *fully flexible* collection of original repertoire for musicians of around grade 3 - 5 ability. Parts A,B,C and D are included to cater for C, Bb and Eb instruments. Therefore the collection should be perfectly accessible by *any combination* of Flutes, Clarinets, Saxophones and Oboes in addition to other 'non woodwind' instruments.

Although the pieces are presented in no particular order, you will notice that several pieces are technically less challenging, with others needing more preparation to achieve good results. Digital audio interpretations can be heard (and downloaded free upon request) on our 'free resources' section at [www.masquerade-music.co.uk](http://www.masquerade-music.co.uk) in addition to 'minus one' tracks so students can individually prepare their own parts.

Where more than one octave option is given (in the Bb Tenor / sop sax / Clarinet parts for example) this is to provide an additional option to players. Indeed a Clarinetist of grade 3 standard may be happier in the lower end, whereas a tenor saxophonist would need, or prefer to play the upper notes given. Care should be taken however to experiment to achieve the most desirable balance, and whereas it *is* entirely possible to perform the collection on four bass saxophones, some combinations of instruments *will* work better than others!

## *A note from the composer about the pieces in the collection.....*

**GYMNOPIEDIE** - is a gentle dreamy piece in triple time in the style of Satie. Part A has optional 8va at the melody start and the mood takes a slightly darker twist midway. A nice easy number to get you warmed up!

**TOGETHER WE STAND** - This has been described to me as almost 'film soundtrack-like'. An interrupted drone provides the platform for this determined and almost militant sounding tale. The idea is to build texture and drama as it goes, with the exception of a pulling back prior to the end. Optional percussion part can be downloaded from the 'free resources' page of [www.masquerade-music.co.uk](http://www.masquerade-music.co.uk) to create even more drama.

**'COS NED SAID** - Unashamedly daft title! My sisters friend has a little boy called Ned and I just thought it was SUCH a cool name I decided to write this little piece in his honour....Described as a 'cheeky swing' and later featuring a walking bass type groove from part D, you may notice there is no real 'tune' to speak of; as players are required to take turns improvising on their given blues scale as many times as you require.

**ALL THAT YOU ARE** - A slushy ballad, nice and simple with interweaving phrases from all players. Do listen carefully and be sensitive to the melody line/s at all times.

**QUARTET WITH NO NAME** - Aptly named because I never could find a suitable title! Similar to TOGETHER WE STAND in feel, with the added challenge of triplets against quavers (you should all be fervently chanting "pine-a-pple, pine-a-pple, pine-a-pple" at this point!) leading up to a dramatic ending.

**MILONGA NO MORE** - A steadily paced tango with a secret hidden message at the start of the music; can you find it? Technically manageable but be sure not to let the occasion semiquaver run catch you out! Just prior to the end is a 'music box' feel so take care to play 'delicoso' to achieve the effect.

**SHMOOKY AND MO** - This daft little piece came to mind one day (I think after I'd watched Pixar's Monster's Inc). Shmooky is indeed very large, lolling, and purple, with Mo being twee in comparison. Achieve the cheeky groove by well co-ordinated articulation and attack. The theme develops into a slightly darker mood via a waltz before returning to the initial idea. There are some slightly challenging key signatures for portions of 'Shmooky'so make sure you don't neglect your scale practice (as if you would....!)

**TANGO MURAMBO** - Another return to our latin idiom, albeit a rather 'tongue-in-cheek' one! Nice and spiky with humorous interjections from various parts provide a few minutes of shameless fun. Be sure to prepare your chromatic scales for those little moments of semiquaver cheekiness!

**CLOCKWORK CHUCK** - (No, not as in the metal thing on a drill....chuck as in a chicken!). A quirky little piece, and one of the more challenging pieces in the collection. Fall about laughing as you squark and honk your way through this quartet in alternating 5/4 and 6/4 time. All starts very well and indeed the said clockwork chuck is functioning very smoothly, however listen as little bits of wiring begin to malfunction resulting in a rather catastrophic end!