

BOOGIE & BLUES

PROGRAM NOTE

Program Note

Boogie & Blues is a transcription of the third movement from Symphony No. 2, which was commissioned and premiered by the Shoals Symphony Orchestra in honor of their 30th Anniversary. The movement is a light hearted scherzo and takes as it's source material a tune called the "Muscle Shoals Blues" composed by George W. Thomas, a member of W. C. Handy's Memphis Blues Band in 1917-23. W. C. Handy is well known as the "Father of the Blues". The original tune is never really outright stated but is constantly varied, developed, and combined with many other blues, gospel, and rock clichés heard so commonly in the incredibly rich musical tradition that I grew up with in the Muscle Shoals region of North West Alabama.

The orchestral version was premiered in December, 2012 in Florence, Alabama. This transcription for Symphonic Wind Ensemble is dedicated to Chris Bianco and the Western Washington University Wind Ensemble and was premiered by them in May, 2014. This 2nd Edition was created in 2018 in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Roger Briggs