

More About PACHELBEL'S CANON

I wrote this score way back in 1979, and it was widely played in manuscript for several years, even being used as symphonic band repertoire on several All-State festivals. But eventually, it faded into the background, and somehow along the way I lost track of my original copy of the score. Then, after a quarter-century hiding in the shadows, it suddenly reappeared recently while I was throwing away some old useless materials. So I rescued it, and here it is, spruced up and ready to make a long-awaited comeback.

The original form of this ever-popular classic, for 3 violins and basso continuo, is in the key of D major, but this arrangement has been transposed down a semitone to the more band-friendly key of D-flat major. Ironically, because standard concert pitch has risen about a semitone since Pachelbel's day, that puts it very close to its original pitch! Although the original work is a strict 3-voice canon for like instruments, this arrangement is translated into a concert band idiom which uses very little actual canonic imitation between the various groups of instruments.

This is a full-length arrangement, but should the playing time need to be shortened, there is a very natural and seamless cut from m. 53 to m. 61 that will reduce it by almost a half-minute.