

## More About SONATINA FOR TROMBONE AND PIANO

Like my trumpet sonatina several years earlier, this piece was written for one of my former middle school students. The first was for a high school graduation gift, but this one was written for an older former student with much more experience behind him. After high school, he went on to play for several years in a USMC field band before returning home to earn a college degree with a double major, one of which was music. I had my project of writing a series of sonatinas for band instruments going, so when he approached me about commissioning a piece for his senior recital, I suggested that format and he readily agreed.

Like all the others in the series, this piece is in 3 movements that follow traditional sonata form on a somewhat reduced scale:

The *Allegro moderato* first movement is a sonata-allegro in D minor.

The *Andante con moto* second movement is a passacaglia in F, the relative major of the home key.

The finale, *Allegro*, is an abridged sonata-rondo in the home key, D minor;

Since it was written for a senior recital, this sonatina had to be fairly challenging, hence the high tessitura and grade 5 rating. It also lies better on an F trigger-equipped instrument, and the final low D of the first movement requires it...but it and the last four notes descending to it can easily be taken up an octave on instruments not so-equipped.