The creation of A Ceremonial Occasion began with a mental image of music to accompany a slowly-moving procession headed by a faculty garbed in colourful academic caps, hoods and gowns followed by a group of happy, graduating students. Such an occasion honours historical academic traditions, and as well, combines feelings of the joy of past achievements, the pomp of this ceremonial graduation along with the hopeful considerations of unknown responsibilities soon to be faced by the graduands in the days to come. School is over; real life is about to begin!

The opening theme appropriate for such an occasion gradually took shape. It begins in triple metre (definitely not a military march) but soon becomes more suited to a two-in-a-bar flow, though still somewhat solemn and contemplative in style, before returning to its original metre.

The introduction and the opening section should be played in a detached style. The contrasting section, beginning in bar 14, is lighter in texture, legato and more lyrical; try to maintain your tempo. A gradual return to the playing style of opening occurs as the first climax is encountered in preparation for a short return to the opening theme, bar 36.

If you wish, you can continue on through to bar 48 and the conclusion of the piece as written. In fact, you may have already noticed that bar 48 really represents a Da Capo. However, if you wish to bring things to an earlier conclusion, you may also choose to cut directly to bar 73 immediately after performing bar 47.
A CEREMONIAL OCCASION

Maestoso

f

poco rit.

Kenneth Bray

Bb Piccolo Trumpet

Bb Trumpet 2

Bb Trumpet 3

Bb Trumpet 4

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Tuba

Euphonium

F Horn 1

F Horn 2

F Horn 3

F Horn 4

Snare drum

Bass drum

Triangle

Crash Cymbals

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