Nyasa of Tanzania

Ryan Meeboer

Based on the elements of traditional African music, *Nyasa of Tanzania* is a fun, polyrhythmic piece that is easy enough for an Orff ensemble to perform. The rhythms sound more complicated than they actually are and are easily teachable through rote. There is also opportunity for students to improvise in a call–response section. Although it is composed to use some traditional African instruments, it is possible to substitute standard percussion instruments where needed (conga or bongo for djembe, tom tom for barrel drum, bass drum for long drum, and maraca for shekere).

Ryan Meeboer is a music educator, who obtained his degree through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. As a composer, he has written and arranged many pieces for concert band, jazz band, and small ensembles. His young band piece, *Last Voyage of the Queen Anne's Revenge*, has been well received by performers, educators, and audiences, and his pieces are starting to be found on festival and contest lists. As a performer, he has had experience in several groups, including concert and stage bands, chamber choir, vocal jazz ensemble, acoustic duets, and the Hamilton based swing group, "The Main Swing Connection".

Ryan began studying music at the age of seven through private guitar lessons. During his years in elementary and secondary school, he gained experience in several families of instruments. Focusing on music education and theory (including composition and orchestration), he attended McMaster University to achieve his honours degree in music. Ryan is currently a teacher for the Halton District School Board in Ontario, where he continues to compose and arrange.

*Please contact the composer if you require any further information about this piece or his availability for commissioning new works and appearances.*

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CATALOG NUMBER: PE1015  DURATION: 2:00  Percussion Ensemble