Commissioned by James C. Schuster and the Davison High School Music Boosters,
In loving memory of Chandler Wolfgang Anschutz

ANDREW DAVID PERKINS (ASCAP)

TRIP THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

(FOR CONCERT BAND & MIXED CHORUS)

FULL SCORE / 2 (+Picc) 1 1 3 (+Bass) Alto (2), Tenor, Bari / 2 3 3 1 1 / Timp Perc (6) / SATB div.

“Come, and trip it as ye go,
On the light fantastic toe,

Young and old come forth to play,
On a sunshine holiday,

Sights as youthful poets dream,
Summer eves by haunted stream,

Rob’d in flames and amber light,
Clouds in thousand liveries dight,

These delights if thou canst give,
Mirth, with thee I mean to live!”

- John Milton, 1645
TRIP THE LIGHT FANTASTIC

PROGRAM NOTE

To "trip the light fantastic" is to dance nimbly or lightly, or to move in a pattern to musical accompaniment, often used in a humorous vein. Grammatically, it is an example of a constructionally idiosyncratic idiom, in that it is impossible to construct a meaningful literal-scene from the formal structure of the phrase.

This phrase evolved through a series of usages and references, typically attributed to John Milton's poem L'Allegro, which includes the lines: “Come and trip it as ye go / On the light fantastic toe.”

Published in London in 1645, the lyric poem centers on the joy of taking part in the delights of a spring day, including those provided by nature in a pastoral setting and those provided by the theater in an urban setting. The title is an Italian word that originally meant "the cheerful man." The speaker orders Melancholy from his life, telling it to find a dwelling place among the Cimmerians - people who live in a land of unending darkness. At the same time, he invites a goddess of joy, Euphrosyne, to bring him mirth on the dawning of a new spring day as the song of the lark and the din of a rooster chase the last of the darkness away.

The imagery of tripping on toes also appears in Shakespeare’s The Tempest: "Before you can say come, and goe, / And breathe twice; and cry, so, so: / Each one tripping on his Toe, / Will be here with mop, and mowe."

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

An accomplished multi-instrumentalist and composer, Andrew David Perkins (b.1978) holds a specialist certificate in Orchestration from the Berklee College of Music, a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Michigan State University. For over a decade he has been actively arranging, composing and conducting nationally and abroad.

Born in Royal Oak, Michigan into a musical family, Perkins began composing on the piano at age six. His orchestral training accelerated at the Interlochen Arts Academy, and soon thereafter he began undergraduate studies focusing on music education and composition. Mr. Perkins spent several seasons as a marching member and conductor of the Phantom Regiment drum & bugle corps from Rockford, Illinois. He especially enjoys writing music for younger musicians, which he has focused on for the past few years.

Perkins has served as an adjunct professor of Film Scoring at Madonna University in Livonia, Michigan, and is currently the Director of Instrumental Music and Music Technology at Fenton High School in Fenton, Michigan. He additionally serves as the Music Director and Conductor of the Fenton Community Orchestra. Mr. Perkins is a member of the American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), and self-publishes as APOLLO STUDIOS.

Andrew David Perkins currently resides in Michigan with the love of his life whom he married in 2010, and their daughter. His interests include photography, cinema, vintage guitars, basses and amplifiers, gastronomy, and craft-brewing.
INSTRUMENTATION

1 FULL SCORE

2 Piccolo
4 Flute 1
4 Flute 2
2 Oboe
2 Bassoon
4 Clarinet 1
4 Clarinet 2
4 Clarinet
2 Bass Clarinet
2 Alto Saxophone 1
2 Alto Saxophone 2
2 Tenor Saxophone
1 Baritone Saxophone
3 Trumpet 1
6 Trumpet 2/3
4 Horn 1/2
3 Trombone 1
6 Trombone 2/3
2 Euphonium T.C.
2 Euphonium
4 Tuba
1 Timpani
1 Triangle
1 Bass Drum
1 Suspended Cymbal
1 Gong/Chimes
1 Glockenspiel
1 Vibraphone
24 SATB (divisi)