

P R O G R A M N O T E

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Michael Markowski burst onto the concert band scene in 2006 with his breakthrough composition, *Shadow Rituals* — the unanimous winner of the First *Frank Ticheli Composition Contest* (sponsored by Manhattan Beach Music). Three years later Markowski returns full force with his most recent band work, *Instinctive Travels* — a seven-minute musical excursion. This brisk and bustling escapade will propel an audience through defibrillating rhythms, indulgent mood swings, and a kaleidoscope of instrumental colors.

He is an active participant in the many various performing and creative arts. With ongoing dalliances into acting, screenwriting, cinematography, as well as literary writing and graphic design, Markowski is well-versed in multiple forms of communication. And so it is no surprise to discover captivating storytelling in his musical compositions. *Instinctive Travels* evokes joyful euphoria, excitable anticipation, laughter and giddiness, and heroic exhilaration.

Markowski's musical compositions resonate with today's audiences because of the cross-generational influences that have shaped this young composer's mind. He can combine the wittiness of a Gilbert & Sullivan patter song with the insightful social justice message of hip hop; he can meld a Broadway torch song with the smack of a viral video's irreverent criticism. With a knack for performing (theater, cinema, literature, music), Michael Markowski is a communicator. Better yet, Michael Markowski is a new-generation raconteur.

You just might hear a hint of John Adams, Frank Ticheli, or John Mackey in Markowski's music. But don't discount the likely influences of A Tribe Called Quest, Judy Garland, or perhaps even Max Weinberg, as well. While along for the ride, *Instinctive Travels* might just intersect with any and all of these perennial performers! But Markowski is his own composer in every right. *Instinctive Travels* journeys into the exciting and inventive mind of Michael Markowski — a protocomposer for the next generation of excursionist band music.