Suggestions for performance

Four more lightly swinging pieces for four horns. They should be approached in a gentle manner and with an awareness of how each part fits into the overall texture. Moving voices are generally more important than those with the longer notes, as they furnish the rhythmic drive. These responsibilities and the leading voice are passed around among all players, although the bass line is primarily assigned to the fourth part.

This set ended up with four distinct personalities--

# 37. A carefree young lad whistling a tune on his way to a lazy day at the old fishin’ hole, a sort of an “aw, shucks” approach. The P interjections two bars before A, two before B and four before fine should be sassy and “cute”. Swing the eighths throughout.

# 38. A practical joker thumming his nose at the world, in much the same mischievous spirit as our old friend Till. The crescendo markings under the tune should not be overdone, but each note should start softly and end abruptly with a push on the second and fourth beats. The ad lib repeat in bar four should be observed only to give Horn 1 the chance to establish audience participation in the snapping of fingers, in case of public performance. Again, swing eighth notes.

# 39. A shadowy character out and about on Halloween. Even eighths for this one, and hanging the mutes would be advantageous. Think tiptoe at A, get a bit bolder as the mutes come out at C, no change of mood in the first three measures of the “Double time”, then swell into E (an apt rehearsal letter, considering the key signature) for a few moments of celebration and then back to the mutes to end it as an echo of letter A. I apologize for the key signature (all in favor of D#s say “aye”!), but it can be worked out with a little woodshed time.

#40. And finally, the optimistic extrovert, always looking for a challenge. Getting through the entrances at A and B without slowing may be the biggest test. With the uneven eighth notes, the pickups at that point can easily drag down the spritely tempo. Make the approach exuberant, without becoming ponderous.

I hope you enjoy Voume Ten!

Lowell E. Shaw