

AGITA

The Composer

Dan Adams is retired from the Wooster City Schools in Wooster, Ohio, where he served as Band and Orchestra director and Instrumental Music Coordinator for nearly three decades. Prior to Wooster he taught at Mount Anthony Union High School in Bennington, Vermont.

He received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from The Ohio State University (major instrument trombone) and a Master of Music in Band Conducting from Northwestern University where he studied with John Paynter.

Adams has decades of experience as an adjudicator, brass musician, and conductor. Present and past memberships include the Ohio Music Education Association, NAFME, ASCAP, College Band Directors National Association, and American Federation of Musicians Local 159.

Performance Concerns

- A weighted, heavy bow stroke is required along with an aggressive approach to accents.
- The “snap pizzicato” (or Bartók snap) in the cello and bass is performed by lifting the string with either one or two fingers and releasing with enough force so that the string strikes the finger board. As with all pizzicato in this piece, take care to maintain a firm left hand pressure for a ringing quality to the tone.
- Lean in to the many dissonances between individuals and sections.

Program Notes

In a musical sense, **Agita** can be expressed in several ways. That uneasy feeling of angst, anxiety, or stress is effectuated through accents, dissonances, and driving, syncopated rhythms. Punctuated by the “Bartók snap” (a loud, snapping pizzicato) in the low strings, an aggressive tempo makes **Agita** come alive.