

Choo Choo Cha Cha

The Composer

Dan Adams is currently Band and Orchestra director at Wooster High School and Instrumental Music Coordinator for the Wooster City Schools in Wooster, Ohio. He received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from The Ohio State University and a Master of Music in Band Conducting from Northwestern University where he studied with John Paynter. Adams is active as an adjudicator, brass musician, and conductor. Memberships include the Ohio Music Education Association, ASCAP, College Band Directors National Association, and American Federation of Musicians Local 159.

Performance Suggestions

The Train Whistle is a nice added touch, however, if you do not have one (a cheap one will do...), this part can be omitted – particularly if you have a strong flute section. Loosening the head and the snares on the snare drum just slightly can make the effect of the train chugging along sound a little more realistic. The hissing sound at the beginning and end of the piece represents the release of steam from the locomotive. It is produced by all members making a long “ssss” sound. The anvil part can be produced with any two hard metal surfaces. It is the sound of a railroad spike being hit with a sledge. A tack hammer and wedge work very nicely and are easy to handle. Identifying the themes, or parts of themes, used in the piece will help students to gain an understanding of the composition – always emphasize the melodic line.

Program Notes

Two great American songs (*Wabash Cannonball* and *I've Been Workin' On The Railroad*) come together in this unusual salute to the locomotive. Train effects compliment the distinctive rhythmic dance of the Cha Cha. From the steam engine to the train whistle and the warning bell, you'll find yourself dancing along with *Choo Choo Cha Cha*.

The composition is dedicated to the band students of the Marion Local Schools, Maria Stein, Ohio, and their teacher, Jean Smith.