

Funky Monkey

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 Suggestions

“Monkey/Jungle Sounds” as noted in the first measure refers to sound effects created by members of the band. It begins with the vibra-slap in the percussion section and gradually increases in intensity as more sounds appear. The sound effects gradually fade out as the percussion section is cued at the Allegro. Sounds can include: Monkey and ape sounds of all kinds; Clarinets remove barrel and mouthpiece and cup hand over barrel as you blow making a “wa-wa” sound with hand; Saxes make similar sounds with neck and mouthpiece; Oboes and bassoons remove reeds and blow; trumpets put lesson book or folder tightly over bell and buzz up and down while wiggling fingers (elephant-like); Flutes play sparse, high-pitched staccato notes with grace notes (bird-like); Bamboo chimes; Rain sticks; Bongos; Maracas... be creative!

The sound effects before D, I, and N should mainly be vocal monkey and ape sounds.

Add a drum set player from the group if you have one, or consider a guest soloist from the middle school or high school.

Program Notes

Funky Monkey gives young band students an introduction to the blues scale and provides lots of fun and laughter in the process. Enjoy the “sounds of the jungle” as well as the funky rock beat that makes the Funky Monkey come to life.