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By Mary Shelley

Jim DePriest

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Mvt. 2 - THE CREATOR

"As the creature looked up in longing and hope, the beauty of the dream vanished and breathless horror filled Victors's heart."

The *"Frankenstein Suite"* was written originally for marching band. Reimagined for concert band at a grade 2 to 2+ level, it consists of three separate movements: Obsession, The Creator and RAGE. It is based on the writing of the Mary Shelley gothic novel Frankenstein. Narrated from the perspective of an Arctic ship's captain relating a story told to him after finding a dying Victor Frankenstein, Shelley's personal life experiences influenced the ideas within Frankenstein: including themes of loss, guilt, and the consequences of defying nature.

Movement 1 - *Obsession* - Victor Frankenstein becomes obsessed with the idea of reanimation. Despite all ethical concerns he forges ahead to create a human in his own image using the corpses he digs up at night. The chimes at the beginning of the movement hint of the late hour when everything is taking place. The movement ends with Frankenstein working in his lab as he screams "ALIVE!"

Movement 2 - *The Creator* **-** Even though Victor Frankenstein is "The Creator", this movement deals with the creature's search for love and acceptance from Frankenstein. The movement starts with a beautiful theme, but as Frankenstein begins to understand what he has created, he looks down at the creature with horror and disgust as the music turns dark.

Movement 3 - *RAGE* - The creature unable to find love and acceptance, chooses fear and retribution as an alternative. The movement opens with a chaotic section of full winds and percussion but eventually the theme from movement 2 returns. The creature finds his creator, who has died on an Arctic ship while in search of his creation. The captain asks the creature, "Why do you weep for this man?" "He was my father" says the creature. The suite ends as it began, with a bell tolling the late hour as a warning against trying to

play God.

Jim DePriest retired in 2023 after 40 years as a high school instrumental music instructor the last 31 years at Mt Pleasant High School in Mt Pleasant, Iowa. He received his BME from Iowa Wesleyan College and his Masters of Fine Arts from Southern Oregon State University as part of the American Band College. During his tenure, his marching bands, jazz bands and concert bands made many appearances including multiple appearances at the Iowa Jazz Championships, marching band competitions throughout the midwest as well as performances at four Bands Of America Competitions. For the past 23 years, he has written both original and arranged pieces for marching band, concert band, jazz band and showchoir. Jim has had the pleasure of working with his wife, Marlene, the former high school choir director at Mt Pleasant and was honored to arrange for the Mt. Pleasant show choir, INMOTION. Jim is now a full-time composer/arranger and has written for many bands and choirs in the Midwest. He and his wife Marlene have four children Colin, Kyle, Caitlyn and Callie who are all actively involved in teaching and the arts.

In Honor of the 200th Anniversary of the Mary Shelley Novel "Frankenstein"

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