

Centenary! • John Cheetham

SCORED FOR: PICCOLO, TWO FLUTES, TWO OBOES, TWO CLARINETS, BASS CLARINET, TWO BASSOONS, FOUR HORNS, THREE TRUMPETS, THREE TROMBONES, TUBA, TIMPANI, GLOCKENSPIEL, XYLOPHONE, MARIMBA, CHIMES, SMALL TRIANGLE, SUSPENDED CYMBAL, TEMPLE BLOCKS, SNARE DRUM, BASS DRUM, SUSPENDED SIZZLE CYMBAL, SUSPENDED BRAKE DRUM, SANDPAPER BLOCKS, TAMBOURINE, WOOD BLOCK, CRASH CYMBALS, TAM-TAM, HARP, AND STRINGS.

The members of the Central Oregon Symphony are proud to present a world premiere at these concerts. Because of your generous support, we have been able to bring in wonderful guest soloists to perform with the COS. On this occasion, your generosity has enabled us to commission a work to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Bend, Oregon. You can read about the composer of ***Centenary!***, John Cheetham, in his biography presented earlier in the program booklet. If you compare his bio to mine, you will notice a similarity in educational institutions: indeed, he was one of my music professors at the University of Missouri-Columbia. I have been a fan of Dr. Cheetham's work since I was a graduate student and have been working to get a commission from him for several years. I know that you will enjoy this work, not simply because it was written for us, but because it is wonderful music. The music of ***Centenary!*** is elegant, descriptive, filled with beautiful melodic invention, rhythmic surprises, and lush harmonic fabrics, all intertwined into a beautiful Central Oregon tapestry.

Typically, I would give descriptions of each movement in these program notes, but in this case I am going to make an exception. Since this work was commissioned for a specific event, it was Dr. Cheetham's request to have information about Bend's history for inspiration. Below is one of the many items that I sent to Dr. Cheetham regarding the history of Bend. It is a brief essay composed by John Frye that ably encapsulates the past 100 years of our community. Reading this history will prepare you as well, if not better, than any musical description that I might provide. As each movement begins think about the title it has been given by the composer and ponder what sounds you might create in order to describe in music what the title suggests to you.

The first settlers in Central Oregon were stockmen from the Willamette Valley who were looking for grazing lands for cattle. Prior to that time, Native Americans were the only beings living here. In 1856, Army General John E. Wool forbade white settlement east of the Cascades. By the 1860s, wagon roads were being laid out and settlers were starting to travel through the area on the way to other locations. Although the Warm Springs Reservation was established in 1855, renegades were a problem for the first attempts at settlement. In 1868, Barney Prine started a saloon, blacksmith shop and store, which became Prineville, a successful hub for the cattlemen, miners and travelers in Central Oregon.

By the 1870s, cattlemen and travelers were going north and south through the area that is now Bend. At that time, they skirted the lava beds to the south and traveled through Prineville to the northeast.

They usually camped near the bend of the river where the Old Mill District is located today, in order to provide water and forage for their livestock. Since it was a long way to find water in either direction, this spot was a welcome sight for them. The location was often called Farewell Bend by these cattlemen as they prepared to leave the security of the river and continue on their long, dry journey. Following suit, early newspapers also referred to this area as Farewell Bend, but also used abbreviated forms of the name including The Bend, or just Bend. Several early ranches occupied the future town site, and one established a post office with the official name Bend in 1899. In 1900, Alexander Drake (of Drake Park fame) arrived with his wife Florence and, seeing the potential of a community based on irrigation and timber, started a development company. In just five years, a bustling town was built. Bend became a legally incorporated community on January 4, 1905.

Homesteaders flocked to the area in hopes of farming and ranching. Timber speculators came to buy up the timberlands. Townspeople built businesses and promoted the community. Land speculators set up offices and boasted about the irrigation projects and the wonderful future the new settlers would have. The town boomed. Talk of a railroad to open up commerce with the outside world was on everyone's lips. It was said that the sound of hammering went on day and night as people flocked to the community.

Within a few years, a harsh reality set in for many of the newcomers: farming was not as easy in the high desert country as the promoters implied. Some irrigation projects failed and several years of unusually wet weather came to an end, dashing the dreams of many homesteaders. Times were tough for many people, however, with the coming of the railroad to Bend in October of 1911, The area began to expand. The railroad opened the way for lumber to get to the outside world and in 1916, two of the biggest pine mills in the world, Shevlin-Hixon and Brooks-Scanlon, started operation in Bend. World War I and the timber industry gave many of the starving homesteaders jobs and started a new boom in Bend. As the years passed, timber became the mainstay of the community. Additionally, a second reputation began to develop as highways opened travel into the area in the 1920s. The beauty of the rivers and mountains became known nationwide. Hunting, fishing, mountain climbing and skiing that were locally popular in the early days were now enticing tourists to Bend.

By 1950, the timberlands were nearly exhausted. With not enough timber left to support both big mills, Shevlin-Hixon sold out to Brooks-Scanlon, casting a pall on the community. How would Bend survive? Steadily, over the next forty years, smaller mills, skiing and recreational tourism began to support the region. When the remaining big mill closed in 1994, the transition to a radically different economy for the region was complete. The new (and current) economy is based on tourism; retired wealth; the service industry; and continued construction, which in itself, has fueled many jobs. Land and home sales continue to boom. Thus with the arrival of a new breed of

homesteader seeking the dreams and promises of Central Oregon in the 21st century, our region has in many ways come completely full circle over the course of the past 100 years.