***Of Sailors and Whales* (1990)**

**by W. Francis McBeth (1933-2012)**

*Of Sailors and Whales (Five Scenes from Melville)* is a five-movement work based on scenes from Herman Melville's Moby Dick. It was commissioned by and is dedicated to the California Band Directors Association, Inc., and was premiered in February 1990 by the California All-State Band, conducted by the composer. The work is sub-dedicated to Robert Lanon White, Commander USN (Ret.), who went to sea as a simple sailor.

The composer provided this note for the fifth movement:

V. The White Whale - "Moby Dick seemed combinedly possessed by all the angels that fell from heaven. The birds! - the birds! They mark the spot ... The whale, the whale! Up helm, up helm! Oh, all ye sweet powers of air, now hug me close ... He turns to meet us ... My God, stand by me now!”

*-Program note from score.*

***The Seal Lullaby* (2004/2011)**

**by Eric Whitacre (b. 1970)**

*The White Seal* is a beautiful story, classic Kipling, dark and rich and not at all condescending to kids. Best of all, Kipling begins his tale with the mother seal singing softly to her young pup. (The opening poem is called The Seal Lullaby).

      Oh! Hush thee, my baby, the night is behind us,

      And black are the waters that sparkled so green.

      The moon, o’er the combers, looks downward to find us,

      At rest in the hollows that rustle between.

      Where billow meets billow, then soft be thy pillow,

      Oh weary wee flipperling, curl at thy ease!

      The storm shall not wake thee, nor shark overtake thee,

      Asleep in the arms of the slow swinging seas!

      Rudyard Kipling, 1865-1936

I was struck so deeply by those first beautiful words, and a simple, sweet Disney-esque song just came gushing out of me. I wrote it down as quickly as I could, had my wife record it while I accompanied her at the piano, and then dropped it off at the film studio.

*-Program note from score.*

***'Aquarium' for Symphonic Band,* opus 5 (1991)**

**by Johan de Meij (b. 1953)**

The suite *Aquarium* is Johan de Meij's third composition for symphonic band and features six tropical fishes, each of them represented by a motif, and surfacing as such in several guises.

The neon tetra motif functions as a kind of 'leitmotiv' and describes the beautifully colored, frisky fish. A number of variants have been derived from this theme and will also appear in the other movements. The electric eel is fact is not represented by a motif, but by a rhythm based on the restless electric pulses made audible in some aquaria. The angel fish is represented by elegant chord clusters.

*-Program note from score.*

***Heroes of the Sea* (2006)**

**by Dennis O. Eveland (b. 1960)**

*Heroes of the Sea*is dedicated to the men and women of our Navy and Coast Guard. In this composition, you will hear both the Nacy and Coast Guard Hymns. Exciting musical lines, dynamic percussion, and a lot of colors are part of this energetic work.

*-Program note from score.*

***Highlights from The Little Mermaid* (1991)**

**by Alan Menken (b. 1949) arr. by Michael Sweeney (b. 1952)**

*The Little Mermaid* is a 1989 American animated musical fantasy film produced by Walt Disney Feature Animation and released by Walt Disney Pictures. Based on the Danish fairy tale of the same name by Hans Christian Andersen, *The Little Mermaid* tells the story of a beautiful mermaid princess who dreams of becoming human. Written, produced, and directed by Ron Clements and John Musker, with music by Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, the film features the voices of Jodi Benson, Christopher Daniel Barnes, Pat Carroll, Samuel E. Wright, Jason Marin, Kenneth Mars, Buddy Hackett, and René Auberjonois. The tunes in this medley from the Disney movie *The Little Mermaid* are "Fathoms Below," "Kiss the Girl," "Part of Your World," and "Under the Sea."

*-Program note from the Wind Repertory Project.*

***El Gato Montés* (The Wildcat) Concert March (2014)**

**by Manuel Penella (1880-1939) arr. by Shelley Hanson**

In a famous moment from Manuel Penella's 1916 opera *El Gato Montés (“The Wildcat”)*, a matador sings exuberantly to his beloved young gypsy woman that he will fight the bulls for her. The march that uses the melody from this scene is well known and frequently performed in Spain and Latin America. In this marvelous adaptation, Shelley Hanson combines the march melody from this scene along with another melody from the opera in creating a well-balanced and appealing work for the concert stage.

*-Program note from score.*