

## **About the Composition**

*Crossroads* for 4-part trombone choir and 8 percussion by Howard J. Buss was written during the summer of 2011 and is dedicated to Tom Brantley and Robert McCormick. The University of South Florida Trombone Choir and Percussion Ensemble premiered the work in Tampa, Florida on January 21, 2012 under the direction of Robert McCormick. The character of this music is strongly influenced by jazz and Latin music. The intriguing rhythms and soaring melodies combined with the implied theatre suggested by the staging, make this a sophisticated, yet accessible composition that is rewarding to perform and listen to.

### **Performance Notes:**

The four trombone parts may be performed with a quartet; however, it is desirable to have multiple players used on each part except in those areas where the score specifically specifies one player on a part for a particular passage.

The conductor remains onstage for the entire composition. The performers begin and end the work offstage. Trombonists 1 & 2 should be on one side with percussionists 1 through 4. Trombonists 3 and 4 should be on the other side with percussionists 5-8. If the performance venue does not allow for onstage/offstage positioning, the performers should be clustered on both sides of the stage in a similar fashion and away from their respective performance positions. When the performers enter and exit the stage they must do so silently as not to disturb the music. If the stage area is too small to accommodate movement by the performers, the work may be performed with all performers in place on stage as in a normal concert.

A large bass drum and medium suspended cymbal are located offstage on opposite sides. All other percussion instruments are clustered in the center of the stage. The trombonists are to be positioned on both sides of the percussion battery.

Performance Time: @ 15' 40"

## **Stage Setup**

Trb. 1                      Trb. 2                      Percussion                      Trb. 3                      Trb. 4

Conductor

*Cover design and graphics by Judy E. Buss*

## About the Composer

Howard J. Buss (b. 1951) is recognized internationally as an outstanding composer of contemporary classical music. His compositions have received critical acclaim and have been performed in more than 50 countries. His music is widely performed and frequently featured at national and international music conventions and festivals. They have been performed by faculty musicians from major universities as well as current and former members of prestigious organizations such as The Boston Symphony Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Buffalo Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, Vancouver Symphony, Atlanta Symphony, New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, etc. A copy of his patriotic composition *Fanfares* is included in the Presidential Collection of Ronald Reagan. Buss' more than 130 published works include instrumental solos, chamber music, symphonic, choral, and band works. They are fast becoming part of the standard repertoire in concert halls.

The legendary Leon Russianoff described Dr. Buss' style as "imaginative, sincere, rewarding to both performers and audiences, and without the gimmickry which is so prevalent in contemporary music today." Upon hearing his music critics have written: "By far the night's most memorable piece" - The Los Angeles Times, "This is truly one of the finest works in our idiom" - Robert McCormick in the Florida Percussive News, and "The evening's highlight" - The Maine Sunday Telegram.

Buss has received numerous awards and his commissioned works include original compositions as well as arrangements. He is a sought after guest composer, clinician, and contest adjudicator. His works are frequently selected to be included and analyzed in doctoral dissertations, lectures, professional music journals, and music literature bibliographies, and his compositions have been recorded on the Bottega Discantica (Italy), Crystal, Capstone, DUX (Poland), Equilibrium, HoneyRock, PL Productions, C. Alan, and Ravello (PARMA) labels.

Howard J. Buss received his B.A. in Applied Music from West Chester University, M.M. in Performance and M.M. in Composition from Michigan State University, and D.M.A. in Composition from the University of Illinois. He is the founder and editor of Brixton Publications (ASCAP) and Buss Publications (BMI) which publish contemporary American concert music.