

Don Freund: *Five Elizabethan Dances* (from *Romeo and Juliet*)
for Concert Band

PROGRAM NOTES:

Five Elizabethan Dances is drawn from the music that sets the scene and provides the accompaniment for the Ballroom Scene from Don Freund's *Romeo and Juliet: A Shakespearean Music Drama* for singing actors and piano. The style of the dances is freely drawn from dances found in the *Fitzwilliam Virginal Book* (music from ca. 1562 to 1612), spiced up with changing meters and chromatic twists of melody and harmony reflecting a more recent musical language. Each of the dances represents a pivotal scene-within-a-scene:



1. **Galiard: Entry Dance** (pompous)

LORD CAPULET

Welcome, gentlemen! ladies that have their toes
Unplagued with corns will walk a bout with you.



2. **Basse danse: Romeo sees Juliet across the room** (tender)

ROMEO

Did my heart love till now? forswear it, sight!
For I ne'er saw true beauty till this night.



3. Dumpe: *Indignant Tybalt* (heavy, rugged)

TYBALT

This, by his voice, should be a Montague.
Fetch me my rapier!



4. Pavan: *The Lovers Touch* (cool on the surface, burning inside)

ROMEO

Then move not, while my prayer's effect I take.
(*They kiss.*)

Thus from my lips, by yours, my sin is purged.

JULIET

Then have my lips the sin that they have took.

ROMEO

Sin from thy lips? O trespass sweetly urged!
Give me my sin again. (*Kiss again.*)



5. La Volta: *Unmasking, Departure* (festive)

JULIET

Come hither, nurse. What is yond gentleman?

NURSE

His name is Romeo, and a Montague;
The only son of your great enemy.