

"Myths and Legends"
For Trombone Quartet
Movement 1

Soloist (playing all 4 parts): TIM HUTCHENS of the United States Navy Band Southwest

Program notes: "Myths and Legends" was written for the Rittenhouse Trombone Quartet, a fantastic ensemble of four students who were studying at the Curtis Institute of Music. They premiered the work in 2001, when it was literally "hot off the press"! The first movement is a joyful, contrapuntal work, allowing the trombone to display its wide variety of colors and expressions -- sometimes bright and celebratory with fanfare-like flourishes and sometimes playful and light with musical gestures tossed from instrument to instrument. One interesting detail of the work is a quote I put in the music from Beethoven's Waldstein Piano Sonata! (Beethoven loved the trombone -- he is generally credited with helping introduce trombones to the standard orchestras of his time -- and he also wrote a trombone quartet himself ("Equali for Trombone Quartet"). SO, I wanted to put in a nod to Beethoven in my piece! At 1'18" you will hear a quote from Beethoven's Waldstein Piano Sonata! It is the chordal progression from the opening of the Waldstein that you'll hear! (I'm not the only one who has borrowed from Mr. Beethoven! The opening measures of "Climb Every Mountain" from "The Sound of Music" uses that chord progression from the Waldstein, too! In my "steal" I have those chords repeated just a bit, too -- BUT with sort of jazzy rhythms!

My thanks to Tim Hutchen's for his fantastic virtual performance, and to my lifelong composer friends from my college days who have all come together for this virtual concert/recording gathering, spearheaded by David Snow! They are family!