Louisiana Blue

Commissioned by the Monroe Symphony Orchestra
and premiered in Monroe, Louisiana on April 26, 2003

Text by
L. B. Morgan

Music by
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Louisiana Blue

for baritone voice, flute, piano
& chamber orchestra

Louisiana Blue was commissioned by the Monroe Symphony Orchestra for their annual 2003 Lagniappe Concert. It was premiered in Monroe, Louisiana at the Grace Episcopal Church on April 26, 2003.

Program Notes

During the fall of 2002, I was approached by the Monroe Symphony Orchestra and asked to compose a piece for the Louisiana Trio and the Orchestra to be performed on their 2003 Lagniappe Concert. Early in Fall of 2002, I had worked with the poet, Miss. L. B. Morgan, and composed a SATB choir piece, with guitar accompaniment, called ***Blue Jay Sing a Tune***. I have always liked her poetry and in keeping with the spirit of Louisiana's Bicentennial, I asked Miss. Morgan to write a poem about the spirit of adventure and exploration in Louisiana. Her response was the poem, ***Louisiana Blue***.

Many of the compositional decisions were based on the original poem and on my love of popular music. After a brief introduction, the "A" section, first introduced in the piano, is based on a reoccurring pattern, or ostinato. The middle, or "B" section, is based on contrasting material and is more virtuoso in nature and features the trio. The piece concludes with the opening "A" section returning with the ostinato. The choice of compound meter, the ostinato, and the syncopated vocal part were subjectively suggested to me while listening to two of Vanessa Carlton's songs, ***Ordinary Day*** and ***Paradise***. The melodic material, harmonic structure, choice of timbres, and the other rhythmic decisions are purely my own. The orchestration for the piece was based on the projected list of instruments which would be available for the Lagniappe concert.

Louisiana Blue is dedicated to four people. I would like to thank L. B. Morgan and Vanessa Carlton for their help in inspiring the creation of ***Louisiana Blue***. Next, thanks to Dr. Alan Goldspiel for his friendship and constant support of my compositional endeavors since I arrived in Louisiana. And finally, to my wife Mary, for her love, support and inspiration for this piece, and all of the other works which I have created in the past last eleven years.

Duration

Louisiana Blue c. 8:00

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Louisiana Blue by L. B. Morgan

We left all we knew
To search this life
Colored Louisiana Blue
All the miles
Passing behind us
Old stories made new.

We watch our footsteps
Making waves in the clay
Like families branching out
All here to stay.

When the moon peeks about
Lighting our travels
And pointing out
We can see a path in view
Mysterious color,
of Louisiana Blue.

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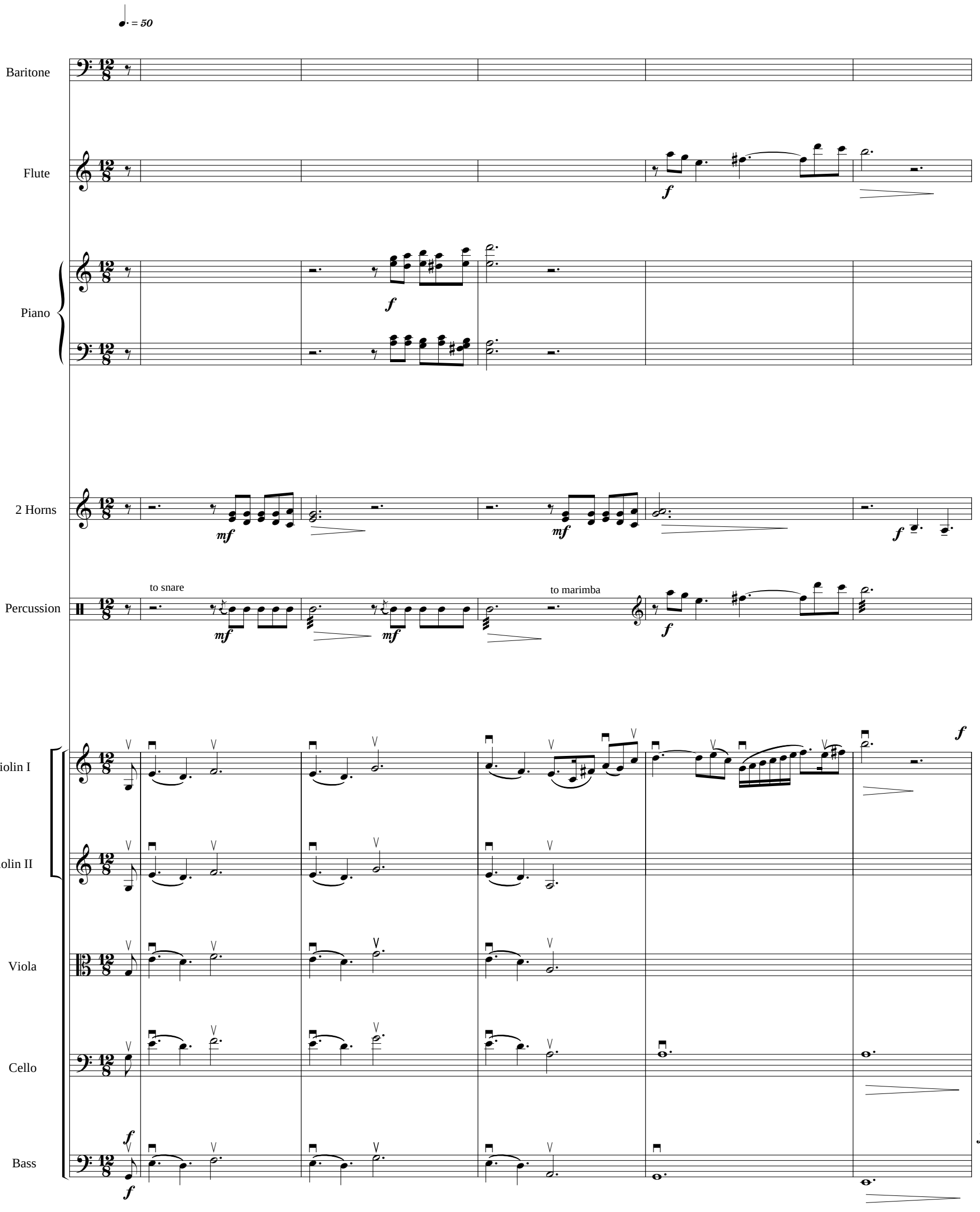

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6

rit.

A tempo

Bar.

Fl.

f

Pno.

mf

mp

mp

Hn.

Perc.

mp

Vn I

Vn II

f

Va

f

Cello

Bass

f

11

Bar.

11

Fl.

mf

Pno.

mf

11

Hn.

1.

p

Perc.

mf

11

Vn I

11

Vn II

11

Va

11

Cello

mp

Bass

mp

15

Bar.

f

We left all we knew We left all

15

Fl.

f

Pno.

15

Hn.

a 2

pp

Perc.

to sus. cymbal

mf

15

Vn I

mp

pizz.

p

15

Vn II

mp

pizz.

p

15

Va

mp

pizz.

p

15

Cello

simile

pp

Bass

simile

pp

19

Bar.

we knew To search this life this life this life

19

Fl.

Pno.

Hn.

19

Perc.

to snare

Vn I

19

arco

mf

Vn II

19

arco

mf

Va

19

arco

mf

Cello

19

p

Bass

p

Bar.

23

Col - ored Lo - uis - i - an - a Blue

Fl.

23

mf

f

Pno.

Hn.

23

mp

1.

f

Perc.

mf

to marimba

Vn I

23

p

Vn II

23

p

Va

23

p

Cello

23

pp

Bass

pp

27

Bar.

ffff

All the miles_____

27

Fl.

Pno.

mf

Hn.

27

mf

a 2

Perc.

f

mp

Vn I

27

Vn II

27

Va

27

Cello

27

mp

Bass

mp

31

Bar.

Pas - sing - be - hind us Old stor - ies made new. Old stor - - - - -

31

Fl.

f

Pno.

31

Hn.

1.

mf

Perc.

to sus. cymbal

31

Vn I

pizz.

31

Vn II

pizz.

31

Va

31

Cello

pizz.

f

Bass

pizz.

f

35

Bar.

ies

35

Fl.

f *ff*

Pno.

f

Hn.

35

Perc.

sul ponticello
arco

35

Vn I

p

arco
sul ponticello

35

Vn II

p

arco
sul ponticello

35

Va

p

arco
sul ponticello

35 div.

Cello

p

arco
sul ponticello

Bass

p

39

Bar.

Old sto - ries made new.

39

Fl.

39

Pno.

f

Hn.

39

Perc.

to marimba

mf

to snare

f

39

Vn I

39

Vn II

39

Va

39

Cello

Bass

43

Bar.

43

Fl.

f

Pno.

mf

Hn.

43

mp

Perc.

to marimba

mf

Vn I

43

Vn II

43

Va

43

normal

Cello

mp

normal

Bass

mp

47

Bar.

mf

We watch our foot-steps our foot-steps Ma-king waves in the clay

47

Fl.

47

Pno.

p

p

47

Hn.

p

Perc.

p

47 normal

Vn I

p

pp

47 normal

Vn II

p

pp

47 normal

Va

p

pp

47

Cello

pp

Bass

pp

51

Bar.

Like fam - ilies bran - ching out All here to

Fl.

mf *ff*

Pno.

Hn.

Perc.

Vn I

Vn II

Va

Cello

Bass

sfz *mp*

Bar.

stay.

Fl.

Pno.

f

Hn.

Perc.

Vn I

Vn II

Va

Cello

div.

unision

Bass

div.

unision

mf

mf

60

Bar.

60

Fl.

f

mp

p

Pno.

mf

mp

60

Hn.

Perc.

60

pizz.

Vn I

mp

60

pizz.

Vn II

mp

60

pizz.

Va

mp

60

simile

Cello

p

simile

Bass

p

64

Bar.

When the moon peeks a - bout

64

Fl.

mf

f

Pno.

64

Hn.

64

Perc.

64

Vn I

arco

mp

64

Vn II

arco

mp

64

Va

arco

mp

64

Cello

Bass

68

Bar.

When the moon peeks a - bout Light - ing our tra - - - - -

68

Fl.

f

Pno.

68

Hn.

Perc.

68 *pizz.*

Vn I

mp

68 *pizz.*

Vn II

mp

68 *pizz.*

Va

mp

68

Cello

Bass

Bar.

72

vels

And point - - - ing out

Fl.

72

p *mf*

Pno.

Hn.

72

Perc.

Vn I

72

col legno

normal

Vn II

72

col legno

normal

Va

72

col legno

normal

Cello

72

Bass

76

Bar.

We can see

76

Fl.

f

Pno.

1.

a 2

76

Hn.

mf

Perc.

76

Vn I

76

Vn II

76

Va

76

Cello

Bass

80

Bar.

a path in view Mys - ter - i ous co - lor of.

80

Fl.

mf

f

Pno.

80

Hn.

1.

mp

Perc.

80

Vn I

col legno

mf

80

Vn II

col legno

mf

80

Va

col legno

mf

80

Cello

pizz.

mf

Bass

pizz.

mf

Bar.

84

Lou - is - i - an - - - - - a Blue

Fl.

84

f

Pno.

f

Hn.

84

Perc.

to snare

Vn I

84

normal

sfz

mf

Vn II

84

normal

sfz

mf

Va

84

normal

sfz

mf

Cello

84

normal

sfz

mf

Bass

normal

sfz

mf

88

rit.

A tempo

Bar.

Fl.

Pno.

Hn.

Perc.

Vn I

Vn II

Va

Cello

Bass

div.

unision

93

Bar.

93

Fl.

f *f* *ff*

Pno.

p *ff*

93

Hn.

mf

97

Perc.

f *mp* *f*

93

Vn I

p *f*

93

Vn II

mp *f*

93

Va

mp *f*

93

Cello

p *f*

Bass

mp *f*

The composer welcomes any questions concerning ***Louisiana Blue*** and would greatly appreciate hearing about performances. Inquires and programs should be sent to:

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