

QUICKLY, NOW WHATS BIG, BRIGHT, BOLD AND BRASSY? PROUD AND POWERFUL? COLORFUL AS A MOUNTAIN RAINBOW? AN EVER-CHANGING MELTING POT OF TALENTS?

SUPPOSE YOU ANSWERED, "THE U. S., ON THE THRESHOLD OF IT'S THIRD CENTURY."

YOU'D BE ABSOLTELY CORRECT.

BUT WHAT IF YOU GUESSED, "THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY MARCHING BAND, SALUTING THE COUNTRY'S ACHIEVEMENTS IN A MELODIC OUTPOURING OF PATRIOTIC FERVOR."

RIGHT AGAIN - AND VERY PERCEPTIVE!

OHIO STATE, WHICH HAS BEEN MAKING BRASS BAND HISTORY FOR DECADES, HAS CHOSEN TO PIONEER SOME RICH MUSICAL GROUND FOR THIS COMMEMORATIVE ALBUM. IT'S A POTPOURRI OF AMERICANA, WITH HEAVY EMPHASIS - AS MIGHT BE EXPECTED - ON TUNES TO INSPIRE LISTENERS OF BUCKEYE PERSUASION.

CONSIDER THE OPENING NUMBERS: "BUCKEYE BATTLE CRY," AND THE CLEVERLY-ARRANGED MEDLEY OF "DOWN BY THE OHIO," "BEAUTIFUL OHIO" AND "ACROSS THE FIELD," ALL GUARANTEED TO DELIGHT ANY AUDIENCE AROUND COLUMBUS. BUT THE SURPRISE MINI-ARRANGEMENT OF " THE WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE" WILL HAVE A UNIVERSAL APPEAL, AND SO WILL ED MONTGOMERY'S "BOOGIE," AN ORIGINAL SALUTE TO THE FORTIES.

IF YOU'RE PARTIAL TO A POTENT RENDITION OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM PLAYED WITHOUT GIMMICKS, YOU'LL FIND IT ON SELECTION NO. 10. FOLLOWED BY THE STIRRING "STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER" AND " SEMPER SOUSA," AN ARRANGEMENT RIPE WITH THE ENDURING SPIRT OF THE GREAT BANDMASTER AND COMPOSER.

ENJOY THE BUCKEYES' PROVOCATIVE ARRANGEMENT OF "YANKEE DOODLE," WHICH CAPTURES THE RAW VITALITY OF A COCKY YOUNG NATION; AND, IN SHARP CONTRAST, THE SENSITIVE RENDITION OF THE CONTEMPORARY "MACARTHUR PARK."

IN ALL, AN EXTRAORDINARY CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S FIRST COUPLE OF HUNDRED YEARS BY ONE OF THE GIANTS OF THE COUNTRY'S COLLEGIATE SCENE. AND, LEST THERE BE DOUBTS ABOUT THE THIRD HUNDRED, REST ASSURED THAT JOYFUL SOUNDS WILL CONTINUE TO EMANATE FROM THE SUPERCHARGED MUSICIANS AT OHIO STATE.

AS LONG AS AMERICA WAVES THE STARS AND STRIPES, THE BUCKEYE BAND WILL PROVIDE THE BRASS.

-JIM GALLAGHER