

Mood Swings for tuba and piano by Kenneth D. Friedrich. Available as pdf download or printed copy through kfsbrasschamber.com (KDF-10069) The price is \$15.50.

I found Mr. Friedrich's website very easy to navigate, including very helpful pdf and sound files of many works so you do not get the feeling of "buying blind" as is often the case. ALSO the website offered the option to download a soundfile of the accompanying part with each solo purchase to help with rehearsal if a "live" pianist is not readily available! (That, folks, is a bonus).

Kenneth Friedrich had his first tuba ensemble experience under Dr. Kenneth Singleton at New Mexico State University in 1983, and since then he has amassed a body of over 100 pieces mostly written for euphonium and tuba. He has done commission works and is available for school workshops and ensemble sessions. He is fortunate to have time for "a life" in Austin, TX with wife and kids!

Solo part ranges from: EEb to eb1, with nice excursions to both top and bottom end without spending so much time dwelling in either that one's face would cramp. The moods do swing from "amoroso" to "happily" through a more introspective "adagio" before finally gathering steam for a rollicking finish!! This through-composed work has nicely marked slurs, grace notes and different triplet figures. Much of the dynamic interpretation is left up to the performer, and there are several quasi-cadenza moments that can be nicely "juiced". They serve primarily as lead-ins to the next mood section, working well, leaving only the question, "why the double flats?" It could easily be a music writing program issue, or a "this is how the key is really spelled" issue. Another notation issue was grouping some of the "swing" rhythms in the faster sections over two beats – once you take a moment to figure the counting out, the groupings do remain consistent throughout. All that aside – the piece really works! I would probably play this on f tuba, but have read on CC and had a student read it on BBb (he wanted to borrow the solo immediately) The accompaniment is complimentary and is a nice vehicle for the solo without becoming overbearing. We are fortunate to have another solid solo work, suitable for college, professional, or advanced high School players that does not spend all day as a high note contest.

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