

About the composer:

Kevin McKee is an active trumpeter, composer, and educator in the Washington DC area. A graduate of CSU, Sacramento (BM) and the University of Maryland (MM), Kevin is a member of the Great Noise Ensemble and the Britt Festival Orchestra in Jacksonville, OR. He has performed with the Virginia, Richmond and Mid-Atlantic Symphonies, the New York Opera Society, and the *The O'Jays*. He has also attended the Aspen Music Festival, the National Orchestral Institute, and the Music Masters Course in Kasusa, Japan. As a composer he has been commissioned on several occasions and his music has been performed on every continent (except Antarctica) by groups such as the National Symphony Brass Quintet, the Philadelphia Orchestra Brass Quintet, the Dallas Symphony Brass Quintet, the Tucson Symphony Brass Quintet, the Navy Brass Quintet, U.S. Army Trumpet Ensemble, Tromba Mundi and the All-Star Brass Quintet featuring brass greats Jens Lindemann, Ryan Anthony, Marty Hackleman and Patrick Sheridan. Several of his works have been recorded, some multiple times. As an educator, he teaches brass at the International School of Music and the Spencerville Adventist Academy in addition to his private studio. He is also a member of ASCAP. More info about Kevin and his music can be found at www.kevinmckee.com

About the piece:

When Albany, NY trumpeter Catherine Sheridan wrote to me about composing a piece for trumpet and piano, my first thoughts were of my late grandmother, Gertrude, who was always suggesting that I write a piece with Colorado as the subject. She loved that state. And while she lived most of her life in California, she always longed to go back to Colorado amongst the quaking aspens, the mountains, the rivers, and the vibrant colors. With this piece I have taken her up on her suggestion referencing the "Centennial State", a nickname given to Colorado for being inducted into the Union one hundred years after the signing of the Declaration of Independence. With two contrasting movements (*Aspen Grove* and *Roaring Gunnison*) connected by an interlude (*Alpenglow*), I have attempted to capture some of the beauty and adventure of what truly is an amazing place. The first movement in particular is an homage to her. Coincidentally, my grandmother was born in 1914, so this year, 2014, would have been her Centennial birthday.