



Southeastern Massachusetts
Community Concert Band

13 April 1997
at Milford High School

Narrated by
Dr. Fred Blader

"The Lord of the Rings"

Sunday, April 13, 1997
3:00 P.M.



Milford High School Auditorium
31 West Fountain Street, Milford, MA

I. Gandalf (The Wizard)

The first movement is a musical portrait of the wizard Gandalf, one of the principal characters of the trilogy. His wise and noble personality is expressed by a stately motif which is used in a different form in movements IV and V. The sudden opening of the Allegro vivace is indicative of the unpredictability of the grey wizard, followed by a wild ride on his beautiful grey horse "Shadowfax".

II. Lothlorien (The Elvenwood)

The second movement is an impression of Lothórien, the elvenwood with its beautiful trees, plants, exotic birds, expressed through woodwind solo's. The meeting of the Hobbit Frodo with the Lady Galadriel is embodied in a charming Allegretto; in the Mirror of Galadriel, a silver basin in the wood, Frodo glimpses three visions, the last of which, a large ominous Eye, greatly upsets him.

III. Gollum (Sméagol)

The third movement describes the monstrous creature Gollum, a slimy, shy being represented by the soprano saxophone. It mumbles and talks to itself, hisses and lisps, whines and snickers, is alternately pitiful and malicious, is continually fleeing and looking for his cherished treasure, the Ring.

IV. Journey in the Dark

The fourth movement describes the laborious journey of the Fellowship of the Ring, headed by the wizard Gandalf, through the dark tunnels of the Mines of Moria. The slow walking cadenza and the fear are clearly audible in the monotonous rhythm of the low brass, piano, and percussion. After a wild pursuit by hostile creatures, the Orcs, Gandalf is engaged in battle with a horrible monster, the Balrog, and crashes from the subterranean bridge of Khazad-Dûm in a fathomless abyss. To the melancholy tones of a *Marcia funèbre*, the bewildered Companions trudge on, looking for the only way out of the Mines, The East Gate of Moria.

V. Hobbits

The fifth movement expresses the carefree and optimistic character of the Hobbits in a happy folk dance; the hymn that follows emanates the determination and noblesse of the hobbit folk. The symphony does not end on an exuberant note, but is concluded peacefully and resigned, in keeping with the symbolic mood of the last chapter, "The Grey Havens" in which Frodo and Gandalf sail away in a white ship and disappear slowly beyond the horizon.