# The Broom O' The Cowdenknowes

## The Arranger

Dan Adams is retired from the Wooster City Schools in Wooster, Ohio, where he served as Band and Orchestra director and Instrumental Music Coordinator for nearly three decades. Prior to Wooster he taught at Mount Anthony Union High School in Bennington, Vermont.

He received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from The Ohio State University (major instrument trombone) and a Master of Music in Band Conducting from Northwestern University where he studied with John Paynter.

Adams has decades of experience as an adjudicator, brass musician, and conductor. Present and past memberships include the Ohio Music Education Association, NAfME, ASCAP, College Band Directors National Association, and American Federation of Musicians Local 159.

## Program Notes

**The Broom O' The Cowdenknowes**, also known as "Bonny May," is a traditional Scottish ballad who's origin is unknown, but is traced to the seventeenth century. The first publication of the tune is found in 1651. It tells the story of a young shepherdess who falls in love with a passing stranger. Upon becoming pregnant, she is banished from her country. She later sets out to find her love and discovers him to now be a wealthy lord. They marry, but she never finds happiness away from her home country. She longs for her native countryside with its beautiful broom, a plentiful blooming shrub with golden petals.

How blithe each morn was I tae see
My love come over the hill,
He skipped the burn and ran tae me,
I met him wi' good will.

Chorus:
O the broom, the bonny, bonny broom,
The broom o' the Cowdenknowes,
Fain would I be in the north country
Herdin' my faither's ewes.

We neither wanted ewes nor lamb
While the flock near us lay,
Gaithered in the sheep ae nicht,
Cheered me a' the day.

Chorus

Hard fate that I should banished be,
Gang wearily and mourn,
Because I lo'ed the fairest man
That ever yet was born.

Chorus

Adieu, ye Cowdenknowes, adieu,
Fareweel a' pleasures there,
To wander by his side again
Is all I crave or care.

Chorus