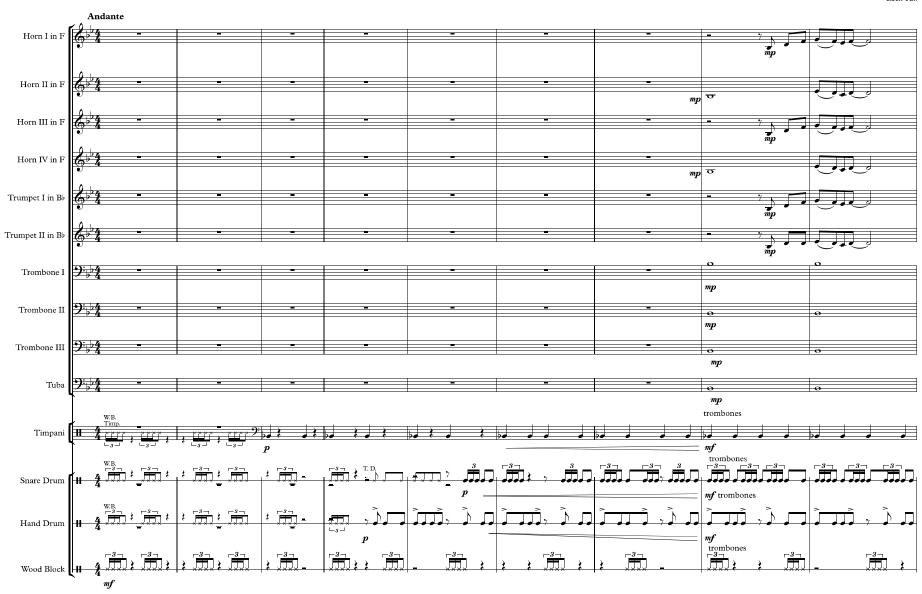
A Fanfare for Captain Coote's Paradise

For brass and percussion

By Leen Tuk

One of the oldest communities at the Head of Lake, the Town of Dundas had its formal beginnings when town lots were surveyed along the waterway now known as Spencer Creek in 1797. Before that time there was a small community in that location known as Coote's Paradise. Captain John Coote was a military officer stationed with the British contingent at Fort George near what was then known as Newark and is now Niagara-on-the-Lake. Captain Coote and his co-officers often made the trek from Fort George to the coastal marsh through which the waters of Spencer Creek and other streams emptied in the harbour at the west end of Lake Ontario. The marsh was an excellent location for hunting as huge numbers of waterfowl used it as a resting and staging area during the times of migration in the spring and fall. It was thus considered a hunter's paradise and as Captain Coote was one of the prominent hunters to frequent the area, it became known as Coote's Paradise. The community at the end of the marsh was also given the name Coote's Paradise until 1797 when it was renamed Dundas, in honour of Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville, Secretary of State for the Home Department from 1791 until 1801.







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