

## **A Significant Influence on Percy Grainger's Style of Composition**

### **ABSTRACT**

One of the most respected and innovative wind-band composers of the twentieth-century was the Australian-born Percy Aldridge Grainger. Grainger wrote an array of compositions not only for the band medium, but for many chamber ensembles. He left a long legacy of artful folk-song repertoire which displays his orchestration talents in using new sonorities. Even so, his compositional style was partially developed as a result of his exploration and pursuit of a sound concept that he described as "free music."

As a young lad and through his professional career, Grainger spent a great deal of time pondering and developing this concept of free music. His pursuit to recreate elements of free music in large or small measures no doubt influenced and shaped his compositional style. He provided ample evidence of this in his wind-band repertoire, and the libraries of the band community have been significantly enriched by his music.