

About *Turning Point*

"December 7th, 1941, a date which will live in infamy..." Those words by President Franklin D. Roosevelt are deeply etched into the fabric of American history. Remarkably, the comeback from Japan's devastating surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii occurred only months later, June 4 - 7, 1942, at and on the seas of the Pacific Ocean surrounding the tiny, but strategically important Midway Atoll during the Battle of Midway.

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz described Midway as "...the most crucial battle of the Pacific war, the engagement that made everything else possible." It was a triumph of creative code breaking and the brilliant deployment of the United States' limited air and sea assets against Japan's considerable naval resources. Despite those overwhelming odds, in one decisive engagement the United States Navy destroyed four Japanese aircraft carriers and effectively ended Japan's naval superiority in the Pacific. This spectacular success was brought by the determined, motivated and sacrificial dedication of many of America's Naval aviators, sailors and Marines.

Turning Point was commissioned by the United States Navy Band, Captain Ralph M. Gambone, Jr., Conductor, in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Midway. Under the direction of Captain Kenneth C. Collins, video and narration was added to the music and produced by the United States Navy Band as a multimedia performance for the annual Navy Birthday Concert in 2017 (the 75th anniversary). Much of the film is actual footage shot during the battle under the supervision of famed Hollywood director John Ford, then a Commander in the U. S. Navy.

Opening and closing with a poignant trumpet solo, *Turning Point* draws its musical structure from the sequence of events at Midway, capturing the emotion, tension and triumph of this momentous and consequential battle.

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION — Midway Monument

The World War II Midway Monument is located on Midway Atoll at the northwestern portion of the Hawaiian island chain. It marks the location of the pivotal Battle of Midway. This monument, a granite "memory stone," is etched with a historical tribute to America's Armed Forces.

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HONORS THE COURAGE, SACRIFICE, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE AMERICAN ARMED FORCES WHO SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED THIS ISLAND AND ITS SURROUNDING SEAS AGAINST THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN DURING THE PERIOD OF 4-7 JUNE 1942. OUTNUMBERED AND OUTGUNNED, THEY WITHSTOOD SAVAGE BOMBARDMENT, FOUGHT BACK, AND CARRIED THE FIGHT TO THE ENEMY. DARING AIR STRIKES IN THE FACE OF FIERCE RESISTANCE SANK FOUR ENEMY AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, TURNING THE TIDE OF WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC. AFTER THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY, THE UNITED STATES AND ITS ALLIES FORGED AHEAD WITH EVER INCREASING STRENGTH AND CONFIDENCE TO FINAL VICTORY, SECURING THE BLESSINGS OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY FOR GENERATIONS YET UNBORN.



Midway Monument American Battle Monuments Commission

Some musical points to keep in mind

- English horn and bassoon — exposed lines are cued in the clarinets and saxophones.
- Trumpet solo — the instruction to the soloist is to perform "as at a distance." In other words, the feel is one of loneliness and isolation, tension and apprehension. Keep the phrasing flowing and mostly in tempo.
- Brass range — the original orchestration places range demands on the trumpets and French horns that one would expect to find in a professional ensemble like the United States Navy Band. An alternative orchestration that lowers the range is indicated by cue-size notes. To maintain the integrity of the orchestration, where the lead note needs to be lowered, the notes in the lower parts should also play their respective lower cue notes.

About Bryan Kidd

With 26 years of service, Bryan Kidd retired as the Chief Composer and Arranger for the United States Navy Band, Washington, D.C. Bryan's writing, conducting, and teaching experience range from elementary through collegiate and professional levels. Currently, he is the Composer/Arranger-in-Residence for the *American Festival Pops Orchestra*, a professional ensemble affiliated with George Mason University, Fairfax, Virginia.