

The Final Descent

Ryan Meeboer (b. 1978)

Flute - 8
Oboe - 2
Bb Clarinet 1 - 4
Bb Clarinet 2 - 4
Bb Bass Clarinet - 2
Eb Alto Saxophone 1 - 2
Eb Alto Saxophone 2 - 2
Bb Tenor Saxophone - 2
Eb Baritone Saxophone - 1
Bb Trumpet 1 - 2
Bb Trumpet 1 - 2
F Horn - 2
Trombone, Bassoon - 4
Baritone - 2
Baritone Treble Clef - 1
Tuba - 2
String Bass - 1
Bells - 1
Timpani - 1
Hi-Hat, Snare Drum, Bass Drum - 2

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The term 'final descent' has many meanings. This composition is a musical representation of the last push to achieve a goal: it is suspenseful, dramatic, exciting, emotional, and most importantly, fun to play!

In the opening measures, having a balanced crescendo finishing on the downbeat is key to creating the first dramatic effect of this piece. Be sure that all sections can be heard during the crescendo and everyone is in sync landing on the down beat in the following measure. The repetition of this material has more motion added by the percussion and bass line, as well as the clarinet and horn 'trill'.

There are a number of areas that make use of the forte piano. Spend time on these sections so that each instrument can be clearly heard and any sections with movement is prominent.

From measures 17-32, it is important that the 'shots' are strong, crisp, and played with clear tone. Make sure performers are not overblowing these.

The building section in the middle of the song has many exciting parts. As each part enters, allow for this new material to shine above what has already been performed.

As the piece builds to a close from measures 89-103, there is a lot happening. It is important that the melodic material performed by the trumpet, also saxophone and horn be heard above all else.

Ryan Meeboer is a music educator who obtained his degree through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. As a composer, he has written and arranged over 300 pieces for concert band, jazz band and small ensembles. His pieces are found on festival and contest lists throughout Canada and the USA. As a performer he has had experience in groups including concert and stage band, chamber choir, vocal jazz ensemble, acoustic duet and the Hamilton, Ontario based swing group, "The Main Swing Connection".

Ryan began studying music at the age of seven through private guitar lessons. During his years in elementary and secondary school, he gained experience in several families of instruments. Focusing on music education and theory (including composition and orchestration), he attended McMaster University where he achieved his honours degree in music. Ryan is currently a teacher for the Halton District School Board in Ontario, where he continues to compose and arrange.

*Please contact the composer if you require any further information about this piece
or his availability for commissioning new works and appearances.*

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THE FINAL DESCENT

With Intensity $\text{♩} = 156$



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Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophone 1

E♭ Alto Saxophone 2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

F Horn

Trombone

Bassoon

Baritone

Tuba

Bells

Timpani

G-B-C

Hi-Hat

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

S.D.

Preview