



# Blunderbuss Battles

## Adventure on the High Seas

RALPH FORD (ASCAP)

### INSTRUMENTATION

1 Conductor  
10 Flute  
2 Oboe  
10 B♭ Clarinet  
2 B♭ Bass Clarinet  
6 E♭ Alto Saxophone  
4 B♭ Tenor Saxophone  
2 E♭ Baritone Saxophone  
8 B♭ Trumpet  
4 F Horn  
6 Trombone/Baritone/Bassoon

2 Baritone Treble Clef  
(World Part Trombone in B♭ Treble Clef)  
4 Tuba  
1 Mallet Percussion  
(Bells)  
1 Optional Timpani  
(Tune: F, B♭)  
4 Percussion 1  
(Large Tom or Optional Snare Drum [snare off],  
Bass Drum)  
3 Percussion 2  
(Suspended Cymbal, Triangle/Brake Drum)

### WORLD PARTS

Available for download from  
[www.alfred.com/worldparts](http://www.alfred.com/worldparts)

Horn in E♭  
Trombone/Baritone in B♭ Bass Clef  
Tuba in E♭ Bass Clef  
Tuba in E♭ Treble Clef  
Tuba in B♭ Bass Clef  
Tuba in B♭ Treble Clef

### PROGRAM NOTES

*Blunderbuss Battles (Adventure on the High Seas)* is a musical depiction of the ship-to-ship (and often close range) combat between pirates and the Royal Navy during the days of exploration and the shipping trade. A Blunderbuss (translated as "thunder stick") was one weapon of choice in 'clearing the decks' of the opposing ship as they pulled alongside one another. So, shiver me timbers and load the Blunderbuss...a rich musical reward awaits all who dare embark on this high seas adventure!

### NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

This piece was composed to provide the beginning musician with experience in utilizing chromatic tones within the B♭ scale. While the clarinet part does not extend above the break, it does provide the opportunity for performance in the chalumeau register. With a tempo of  $\text{♩} = 132 \text{ bpm}$ , the piece is suitable for an introduction into the concept of  $\frac{3}{4}$  time as one beat per measure (dotted half would equal 44 beats per minute, and may be increased slightly depending upon interpretation).

This piece provides many textures, alternating between tutti, brass, and woodwind choirs, as well as unison section lines throughout. Additionally, there are many opportunities to study and discuss dynamic interpretations and shading.

Regarding the percussion: after the initial player assignments to cover all written parts, the director is encouraged to find low toms for all remaining percussionists and assign them to the tom part on Percussion 1. Should no toms be available, perform the part on snare drums with the snare turned off throughout the entirety of the piece. If the number of players required presents a problem, please eliminate the brake drum part in Percussion 2.

AAAHR!

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# Blunderbuss Battles

Adventure on the High Seas

By Ralph Ford (ASCAP)

FULL SCORE

Approx. Duration - 3:00

Boldly ♩ = 132

Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto  
Saxophone

B♭ Tenor  
Saxophone

E♭ Baritone  
Saxophone

Boldly ♩ = 132

B♭ Trumpet

F Horn

Trombone/Baritone/  
Bassoon

Tuba

Mallet Percussion  
(Bells)

Optional  
Timpani

Percussion 1\*  
(Large Tom or  
Optional Snare Drum  
[snare off], Bass Drum)

Percussion 2  
(Suspended Cymbal,  
Triangle/Brake Drum)

1

2

3

4

5

6

\*Tom part may be doubled by as many players/instr. that are available.  
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9

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

9

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Bells

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Susp. Cym.

7 8 9 10 11 12



**P**

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar/  
Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Trgl.

p

f

mf

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20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

27

Tpt. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

27 28 29 30 31 32

35

Fl. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Ob. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

A. Sax. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

T. Sax. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Bar. Sax. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

35

Tpt. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Tuba *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Mlt. Perc. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Timp. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. 1 *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. 2 *f* *p* *mf* *p*



39

Fl. *mf* *fp* trill up 1/2 step

Ob. *mf* *fp* trill up 1/2 step

Cl. *mf* *fp* trill up 1/2 step

B. Cl. *mf* *fp* trill up 1/2 step

A. Sax. *mf* *fp* trill up 1/2 step

T. Sax. *mf* *fp*

Bar. Sax. *mf* *fp*

39

Tpt. *mf* *fp*

Hn. *mf* *fp*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. All *mf* *fp*

Tuba *mf* *fp*

Mlt. Perc. trill up 1/2 step

Timp. *fp*

Perc. 1 *fp*

Perc. 2 *p*

39 40 41 42 43 44 45

46

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Brake Dr. w/metal beater

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46

47

48

49

50

51

*To Coda* ☐

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

*To Coda* ☐

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

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58

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

58

Tpt. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. Perc. *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *f*

58 59 60 61 62

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**Fl.**

**Ob.**

**Cl.**

**B. Cl.**

**A. Sax.**

**T. Sax.**

**Bar. Sax.**

**Tpt.**

**Hn.**

**Tbn./Bar./Bsn.**

**Tuba**

**Mlt. Perc.**

**Timp.**

**Perc. 1**

**Perc. 2**

rit.

pp

mp

pp

pp

mf

p

mf

63

64

65

66

67

68

70 Mysteriously ♩ = 84-90

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

(Hn.)

*p*

*p*

70 Mysteriously ♩ = 84-90

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

*p*

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

78

78

75 76 77 78 79 80

*D.S. % al Coda*

**rall. rubato accel.**

**Fl.** *p*

**Ob.** *p*

**Cl.** *p*

**B. Cl.** *p*

**A. Sax.** *p*

**T. Sax.** *p*

**Bar. Sax.** *p*

**rall. rubato accel.**

**Tpt.** *p*

**Hn.** *p*

**Tbn./Bar./Bsn.** *p*

**Tuba** *p*

**Mlt. Perc.**

**Timp.** *p*

**Perc. 1** *p*

**Perc. 2** *p*

**81 82 83 84 85**



**Coda**

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

B. Cl. (Tbn.) *f*

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

Bar. Sax. *f*

**Coda**

Tpt. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn./Bar./Bsn. *f*

Tuba

Mlt. Perc. *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

*f* 86 87 88 89 90

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

91 92 93 94 95

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Play

98

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

98

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

96 97 98 99 100

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Bar./Bsn.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

101 102 103 104 105

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The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone) and brass section (Trumpet, Horn, Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon, Tuba) are in the upper staves. The percussion section (Mallet Percussion, Timpani, Percussion 1, Percussion 2) is in the lower staves. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The score shows measures 101 through 105. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page. The percussion parts include dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo), *f* (forte), and *p* (piano).