



Dedicated to the Spanish Fort Concert Band, Leslie Stover, Director

The Last Battle

RALPH FORD

INSTRUMENTATION

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 Conductor | 3 2nd B♭ Trumpet |
| 3 1st C Flute | 3 3rd B♭ Trumpet |
| 3 2nd C Flute | 2 1st Horn in F |
| 2 Oboe | 2 2nd Horn in F |
| 3 1st B♭ Clarinet | 2 1st Trombone |
| 3 2nd B♭ Clarinet | 2 2nd Trombone |
| 3 3rd B♭ Clarinet | 2 Baritone |
| 1 E♭ Alto Clarinet | 1 Baritone Treble Clef |
| 2 B♭ Bass Clarinet | 4 Tuba |
| 2 Bassoon | 3 Mallet Percussion
(Xylophone, Marimba, Vibraphone) |
| 2 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone | 1 Timpani |
| 2 2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone | 3 Percussion I
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Hi-Hat Cymbals) |
| 1 B♭ Tenor Saxophone | 3 Percussion II
(Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal, Wind Chimes) |
| 1 E♭ Baritone Saxophone | |
| 3 1st B♭ Trumpet | |

- 1 Percussion III (Congas)
2 Percussion IV (Cabasa, Beaded Gourd)

WORLD PARTS

Available for download from
www.alfred.com/worldparts

- 1st Horn in E♭
2nd Horn in E♭
1st Trombone in B♭ Bass Clef
2nd Trombone in B♭ Bass Clef
1st Trombone in B♭ Treble Clef
2nd Trombone in B♭ Treble Clef
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

Several factors in the late summer and fall of 1864 affected the decline of the Confederate States of America. The losses of the Confederacy grew with time from that point. Grant's siege on Richmond and Petersburg in Virginia; Sherman's capture of Atlanta and his march through Georgia; Admiral Farragut's victory in Mobile Bay; and the defeat of the army of Tennessee under Hood led to the downfall of the Confederacy in 1865.

Admiral Farragut's success in the Battle of Mobile Bay in August of 1864 led to the capture of Fort Morgan and Fort Gaines at the entrance to the bay. Mobile was considered one of the major targets of the Civil War, but fear of its strong fortifications around the City and a need for troop strength elsewhere delayed advancing on Mobile.

It was not until the spring of 1865 that Gen. Ulysses S. Grant made troops available to Gen. E. R. S. Canby to commence the Mobile Campaign. Their strategy was to attack Mobile from the eastern shore of Mobile Bay, defusing the protective forts of Spanish Fort and Blakely, four miles north, on the east side of the Tensaw River. The next steps toward Mobile were to knock down the marshland batteries of Fort Huger and Fort Tracy and then move across the Tensaw and Mobile rivers into the city. Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman suggested this easterly route in a letter to Canby.

On its western side, three lines of fortifications mounting 300 heavy artillery pieces surrounded Mobile. Water approaches to Mobile were defended by a series of underwater obstructions and island and shore batteries on the east. It was said to be the most heavily fortified city in the Confederacy.

After the disastrous defeat of the Confederate Army of Tennessee in the fall of 1864, a remnant of that army was sent to strengthen the Mobile defenses, increasing its garrison to almost 10,000 troops. Commanding the Confederate District of the Gulf from Mobile was Gen. Dabney H. Maury, like Canby, a West Point graduate.

Both the Union and the Confederate soldiers who fought at Spanish Fort and Blakely were veterans of almost every major battle that took place in the lower Mississippi River Valley. Canby's movement against Mobile was a two-pronged attack. One column was to advance from the lower part of Mobile Bay to invest Spanish Fort. The second column was to progress from Pensacola and center their efforts on Blakely.

Union troops of the first column were assembled by Gen. Canby at Dauphin Island to the west and to Mobile Point on the east of the entrance to Mobile Bay. These forces moved in a 32,000-man column from Fort Gaines by steam-boats and over land from Fort Morgan to Fish River in lower Baldwin County and on March 17 moved up the eastern shore of Mobile Bay in a joint movement of land and water. A force of light draft ironclad monitors stood offshore accompanying Canby's column as it moved northward toward the head of Mobile Bay. Both the land and naval columns arrived at the vicinity of Spanish Fort March 27.

Spanish Fort occupied the area north of present-day U.S. Hwy. 31 and west of State Hwy. 225. It had two major artillery fortifications that overlooked the river. On the land side, these two forts were protected by an infantry and light artillery earthwork two miles in length that was incomplete on its northern end. Three thousand five hundred veteran infantry and artillery troops garrisoned Spanish Fort. The area is now a real estate and commercial development.

On arrival at Spanish Fort, Canby's troops began a 13-day siege. By April 8 the incomplete Confederate line was breached and the garrison withdrawn, with the Confederates escaping by riverboats to Mobile. Loss was estimated to be 250 soldiers.

The second column of 13,000 Union soldiers commanded by Gen. Frederick Steele moved out from Pensacola March 20 with instructions to take Fort Blakely from the rear. It moved northward, deceptively, to appear as if heading toward Montgomery Alabama. At the railroad track at Pollard, Alabama, 50 miles north of Pensacola, it turned west toward the Tensaw River and then moved south to invest Blakely. A Union cavalry brigade from the Pensacola column overran an outpost of Confederate infantry at Blakely the afternoon of April 1. The next day, April 2, heavy skirmishing commenced as the Union infantry and light artillery moved into position opposite the Blakely fortifications.

Fort Blakely was a formidable entrenchment built of nine connected earthen artillery redoubts mounting 41 artillery pieces. It was protected by several ironclad vessels of the Confederate Navy.

After Spanish Fort fell April 8, the Union troops attacked simultaneously the three miles of Blakely breastwork at 5:30 p.m. April 9, 1865. The strength of the 16,000 Union soldiers overpowered Blakely's near 4,000 contingent. From Blakely, overall some 3,400 soldiers were taken as prisoners of war to Ship Island, 250 died in battle, and some 200 escaped via the waterways.

The fall of Fort Blakely signaled to Maury in Mobile to begin evacuation of the remaining Confederate troops in the city. April 12, Mobile was declared an open city and the remaining Confederate garrison retreated with the intention of joining the remains of the Army of Tennessee, then in North Carolina. The surrender of the Army of Tennessee to Sherman April 26 prevented that option, and surrender of the Mobile garrison took place May 5, 1865, in Citronelle, Alabama. This small force out of Mobile was the last Confederate army to surrender east of the Mississippi river. The surrender of the Confederate forces in Texas took place later in June of 1865. The May 27, 1865 issue of Harper's Weekly, reporting on the Battle of Blakely, stated, "Probably the last charge of this war, it was as gallant as any on record."

It has long been accepted by the news media and general public that the American Civil War ended April 9, 1865, with the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee's army of Northern Virginia to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Civil War research has shown that the Battle of Blakely was the last major battle of the Civil War, occurring six hours after Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

"The Last Battle" is a musical depiction of the final siege of the Civil War at Fort Blakely and Spanish Fort, Alabama. Composed for the concert band, the piece employs the use of dissonant harmonies as well as aleatoric (random) compositional techniques in addition to conventional melodic and harmonic content. The opening tempo should be performed furiously at no less than 160 bpm. The reflective section beginning at measure 74 (marked "mysterious") features solos for flute, clarinet, and alto saxophone. The piece ends with a powerful concluding statement that must be played with great intensity. I hope you, your students, and your audiences enjoy "The Last Battle."

Ralph Ford

CONDUCTOR

Dedicated to the Spanish Fort Concert Band, Leslie Stover, Director

THE LAST BATTLE

By RALPH FORD

With fury! $J = 160-172$

With fury! $J = 160-172$

C Flutes

Oboe

B♭ Clarinets

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

E♭ Alto Saxophones

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpets

Horns in F

Trombones

Baritone

Tuba

**Mallet Percussion
(Xylophone, Marimba,
Vibraphone)**

Timpani

**Percussion I
(Snare Drum, Bass Drum,
Hi-Hat Cymbals)**

**Percussion II
(Crash Cymbals, Suspended
Cymbal, Wind Chimes)**

**Percussion III
(Congas)**

**Percussion IV
(Cabasa, Beaded Gourd)**

Conductor - 2

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV
Beaded Gourde **ff**

Conductor - 2

7 8 9 10 11 12

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Conductor - 3

18 Tempo I

18 **Tempo I**

Fls. 1 2
Ob. 1 2
Cls. 1 2 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn. sim.
A. Saxes 1 2 sim.
T. Sax. sim.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1 2 3 sim.
Hns. 1 2 sim.
Tbns. 1 2 sim.
Bar. sim.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

Review Required

18 **Tempo I**

to Marimba
Marb. rit.
H.H. rit.
ch rit.
rit.
rit.

18 **Tempo I**

Mrb. rit.
H.H. rit.
ch rit.
rit.

1
Fls.
2
Ob.

1
Cl.
2
3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.

1
A. Saxes
2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

1
Tpts.
2
3
Hns.
1
2

1
Tbns.
2
Bar.
Tuba

Mit. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
1
2
3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
1
2
A. Saxos
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
1
2
3
Hns. 1
2
Tpts. 1
2
3
Hns. 1
2
Tbn. 1
2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

1

Cl. 2

3

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

1

Cue: Cl. 2

2

Cue: Cl. 3

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

1

34

2

Tpts. 2

3

Hns. 1

2

Tbns. 1

2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Tim.

Conductor - 7

42

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl.
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sax.
2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
1
Tpts. 2
3
Hns. 1
2
Tbns. 1
2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Tim.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

Review Use Requires Purchase

Conductor - 8

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

Conductor - 9

Conductor - 9

50

Fls.

Ob.

Cl.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Tbns.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV

50

Cue: Bsn.

50

Mrb.

ch

f

mf

51

52

53

Conductor - 10

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cls. 1
Cls. 2
Cls. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
sim.
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar.
Tuba
sim.
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

58

54 55 56 57 58 59

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Conductor - 11

Conductor - 11

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cls. 1
Cls. 2
Cls. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

60 61 62 63 64 65

Conductor - 12

66

Fls. 1 f stacc.

Ob. 2 f stacc.

Cl. 1 f stacc.

Cl. 2 f stacc.

Cl. 3 f stacc.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Saxes 1 f random, as fast as possible

A. Saxes 2 f random, as fast as possible

T. Sax. Play f

Bar. Sax.

66

Tpts. 1 f sfp

Tpts. 2 f sfp

Hns. 1 f sfp

Hns. 2 f sfp

Tbns. 1 f sfp

Tbns. 2 f sfp

Bar. f sfp

Tuba f sfp

Mlt. Perc. Xyl. f

Timp. f

Perc. I f

Perc. II f

Perc. III f

Perc. IV f

Conductor - 13

74 Mysteriously $J = 72$

74 Mysterious J = 72

Solo "bluesy"

74 Mysterious J = 72

pedal ad lib. (slowly)

Wind Ch. (ad lib.)

Purchased by Legg

Solo

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sax. 1
A. Sax. 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Tim. *pedal ad lib. (slowly)*
Perc. I
Perc. II
Susp. Cym. w/metal scraper
Perc. III
Perc. IV

82 **Tempo I**

tutti

82 Tempo I

p

Preview Use Requires Purchase Only

78 79 80 81 82 83

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cls. 1
Cls. 2
Cls. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

tutti *p* *mp*

Cue: Hn. 1 *p* *p*

Cue: Hn. 2 *p*

Mrb. *p*

BDM03029C 84 85 86 87 88 89

A page from a musical score showing multiple staves of music for various instruments. The instruments listed on the left include Flutes (1, 2), Oboe, Clarinets (1, 2, 3), Bassoon, Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophones (1, 2), Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trombones (1, 2), Horns (1, 2), Tuba, Bass Trombone, Baritone Trombone, Tuba, Mallet Percussion, Timpani, Percussion I, Percussion II, Percussion III, and Percussion IV. The score includes dynamic markings like mp, mf, and forte, as well as performance instructions like 'tutti' and 'div.'. A large red diagonal watermark reading 'Review in use requires purchase' is overlaid across the page.

A page from a musical score, page 98. The score is for a large ensemble, likely an orchestra and band. The instrumentation listed on the left includes: Flutes (2 staves), Oboes (2 staves), Clarinets (3 staves), Bassoon, Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Saxophones (2 staves), Trombones (2 staves), Horns (2 staves), Baritone Saxophone, Trumpets (3 staves), Tuba, Mallet Percussion, Timpani, Percussion I, Percussion II, Suspended Cymbal, Percussion III, and Percussion IV. The music consists of two systems of staves. The first system starts with woodwind entries (Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets) followed by brass entries (Trombones, Horns). The second system begins with a cue for Bassoon (Bsn.) to play, followed by entries from various instruments including Mallet Percussion, Timpani, and Percussion sections. Dynamic markings such as *f*, *mf*, and *sforzando* (sfz) are present throughout. A large red watermark reading "Review Required Purchase" is diagonally across the page.

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cls. 1
Cls. 2
Cls. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
St. mute
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
St. mute
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

100 101 102 103 104 105

Conductor: [redacted]

106

Fls. 1, 2
Ob.
Cl. 1, 2, 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxos 1, 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

106

Tpts. 1, 2, 3
Hns. 1, 2
Tbns. 1, 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

Conductor - 20

114

Review requires purchase

114

115

Fls. 1
f stacc.

Fls. 2
f stacc.

Ob.
f stacc.

Cls. 1
f stacc.

Cls. 2
f stacc.

Cls. 3
f stacc.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Saxes 1
sfp

A. Saxes 2
sfp

T. Sax.
Play f

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1
sfp

Tpts. 2
sfp

Tpts. 3
sfp

Hns. 1
sfp

Hns. 2
sfp

Tbns. 1
sfp

Tbns. 2
sfp

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. I

Cr. Cyms.

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV

add Xyl.
-Mrb.

118

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II
Perc. III
Perc. IV

117 118 119 120 121

BDM03029C

Conductor - 22

Tempo I

Tempo I

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