

The Last Line of Defense

Ryan Meeboer

The *last line of defense* is a term that refers to the final means of defense before the opponent reaches its goal, particularly in a war situation. This piece reflects that definition, as it has the fierce excitement of a war and represents the bravery of the men and women that risk their lives to defend what is important to them.

The piece opens with strong chords played by all. Although this can be very exciting for young performers, they should not over blow, risking the chance of losing good tone.

As the main body of the piece enters at measure 17, Trumpet 2 plays the melody and the remaining parts striking chords together. Extra rehearsal time may need to be spent focusing on playing the 'shot' chords tightly and cleanly. This feeling continues at measure 33, and gives the trombone player an opportunity to shine as they perform a counter melody.

The Trio section was composed to reflect the style of a traditional march, with a standard bass line and smooth melody. This section is to be played with a light bounce, in order to effectively contrast the rest of the piece. Be sure the counter melody does not dominate the main melody, even though it is new material and should normally be meant to shine.

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 many pieces for concert band, jazz band, and small ensembles. His young band piece, *Last Voyage of the Queen Anne's Revenge*, has been well received by performers, educators, and audiences, and his pieces are starting to be found on festival and contest lists. As a performer, he has had experience in several groups, including concert and stage bands, chamber choir, vocal jazz ensemble, acoustic duets, and the Hamilton 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 to achieve 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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DIFFICULTY RATING: Easy-Medium
Brass Quintet

THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE

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Boldly ♩ = 126

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

F Horn

Trombone

Tuba

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

lead

ff

tr

f

lead

f

f

f

f

to Coda

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

lead
mf

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

p *mf*

not lead

p

p

57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64

p

65 not lead 66 67 68 69 70 71 72

f

f

f

not lead

f

f

73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80

lead
mp

81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88

mp

89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 not lead

mf

97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104

105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 D.C. al Coda

⊕ Coda

113 114 115 lead 116 117 118 119

120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127

128 129 130 131 132 133

fp *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

This musical score is for measures 120 through 133 of a piece titled 'The Last Line of Defense'. The score is written for a five-part ensemble: four staves of Treble Clef (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and a second Soprano) and one staff of Bass Clef (Bass). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measures 120-127 show a steady rhythmic pattern with eighth and quarter notes. Measures 128-133 feature a crescendo, with dynamic markings *fp* (fortissimo piano) at measure 131 and *ff* (fortissimo) at measures 132 and 133. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs. A large, diagonal 'Preview' watermark is overlaid across the center of the page.