

The Darkest Hour

Ryan Meeboer (b. 1978)

Flute - 8
Oboe - 2
Bb Clarinet - 8
Bb Bass Clarinet - 2
Eb Alto Saxophone - 6
Bb Tenor Saxophone - 2
Eb Baritone Saxophone - 1
Bb Trumpet - 6
F Horn - 2
Trombone, Baritone, Bassoon - 6
Baritone Treble Clef - 1
Tuba - 2
String Bass - 1
Bells - 1
Timpani - 1
Snare Drum, Bass Drum - 1
Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Tambourine,
Suspended Cymbal, Tom-Tom (Low) - 4

EIGHTH NOTE PUBLICATIONS

The Darkest Hour

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The Darkest Hour is a musical depiction of an orc army ready to storm a castle. The piece opens with crescendo-ing, suspenseful chords, followed by a heavy bass and percussive line, representing the pounding of the orcs' weapons. The short trumpet solos at measures 9 and 13 sound the war horn, each followed by the war cries of the army before attacking.

One of the biggest challenges beginning musicians might find with this piece is the use of several accidentals. For many students, the fingerings of these notes will be new and take some time for them to get used to. Regular practice at a slower tempo of these sections to help performers work on these new fingerings, before playing at the required faster tempo.

Proper articulation and dynamics are key to making this piece successful, so spend time making sure musicians are performing these accurately and keeping dynamics balanced so the main melody can always be dominant.

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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Concert Band

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THE DARKEST HOUR

Ryan Meeboer

3

4

With Heaviness ♩=132

Flute *p* *f*

Oboe *p* *f*

B♭ Clarinet *p* *f*

B♭ Bass Clarinet *p* *f*

E♭ Alto Saxophone *p* *f*

B♭ Tenor Saxophone *p* *f*

E♭ Baritone Saxophone *p* *f*

B♭ Trumpet *p* *f*

F Horn *p* *f*

Trombone
Baritone
Bassoon *p* *f*

Tuba *p* *f*

Bells *p* *f*

Timpani
G - C *mp* *f*

Snare Drum
Bass Drum *mp* *f*

Crash Cymbals
Triangle
Tambourine
Suspended Cymbal
Tom-Tom (Low)

5

6

7

8

9

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn
Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Tri.
Tamb.

S.C.
T.T.

mf

mf

mf

mf

f

mf

10

11

12

13

14

FL

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn
Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Tri.
Tamb.
S.C.
T.T.

15

16

17

18

19

FL

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn

Bari

Bsn

Tuba

Bells

Timp

S.D.

B.D.

C.C.

Tri.

Tamb.

S.C.

T.T.

20

21

22

23

24

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn
Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Tri.

Tamb.
S.C.
T.T.

choke

This musical score page contains measures 20 through 24 of a piece titled 'THE DARKEST HOUR'. The score is written for a large ensemble, including woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone), brass (Trumpet, Horn, Trombone/Bassoon, Tuba), and percussion (Bells, Timpani, Snare Drum/Bass Drum, Cymbal/Triple Cymbal, Tambourine, Snare Drum, Tom-Tom). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. A large, diagonal 'Preview' watermark is overlaid across the center of the page. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, slurs, and dynamic markings like accents (^) and breath marks (v). The percussion parts are indicated by square notes on a single line. The bottom of the page is labeled 'THE DARKEST HOUR pg. 5'.

25

26

27

28

29

Fl

Ob

Cl *p*

B Cl *mp*

A Sax

T Sax *p*

B Sax *mp*

Tpt

Hn *p*

Trbn
Bari
Bsn *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Bells

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Tri. *Tri.*

Tamb. *mp*

S.C.
T.T.

This musical score page contains measures 25 through 29. The instrumentation includes Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Bassoon, Tuba, Bells, Timpani, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Conga, Triangle, Tom-tom, and Snare. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The score features various musical notations such as rests, eighth and sixteenth notes, beamed sixteenth notes, and slurs. Dynamics markings include *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A large, diagonal 'Preview' watermark is overlaid across the center of the page.

34

THE DARKEST HOUR pg. 7

35

36

37

38

39

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn
Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Tri.
Tamb.

S.C.
T.T.

p *mf* Tom *mf*

This musical score page contains measures 35 through 39. The instrumentation includes Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone (Baritone and Bass), Tuba, Bells, Timpani, Snare Drum (S.D.), Bass Drum (B.D.), Conga (C.C.), Triangle (Tri.), Tambourine (Tamb.), Snare Conga (S.C.), and Tom-Tom (T.T.). Measures 35-36 feature a melodic line in the Flute and Oboe, with the Clarinet and Bass Clarinet providing harmonic support. Measures 37-38 show a more active role for the woodwinds and brass, with the Trumpet and Horn playing a rhythmic pattern. Measures 39-40 conclude the section with a final chord in the woodwinds and a sustained note in the brass. The score includes dynamic markings of *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte), and a 'Tom' marking for the Tom-Tom drum.

THE DARKEST HOUR pg. 9

46

47

48

49

50

Fl

Ob

Cl

B Cl

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Tpt

Hn

Trbn
Bari
Bsn

Tuba

Bells

Timp

S.D.
B.D.

C.C.
Tri.
Tamb.
S.C.
T.T.

choke

This musical score page contains measures 46 through 50. The instrumentation includes woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone), brass (Trumpet, Horn, Trombone/Bassoon, Tuba), percussion (Bells, Timpani, Snare Drum/Bass Drum, Conga/Cajon, Triangle/Tambourine, Shaker/Tom-Tom), and strings. Measures 46-47 show the initial entry of the woodwinds and strings. Measures 48-49 feature a sustained brass and woodwind texture. Measure 50 is the final measure on the page, featuring a complex texture with woodwinds, brass, and percussion, including a 'choke' instruction for the strings.