

The Wind Through the Heather

Ryan Meeboer

The Heather is one of the national flowers of Scotland. This purple flower flourishes in the damp, rainy weather of Scottish moorland, glens and hills.

The piece opens with the instruments imitating the drone of the bagpipes. The main melody, running from measures 2 to 9, is simple yet carries enough motion to be memorable for audiences. Throughout this melody the drone must remain constant so performers need to properly stagger breathe to not leave any gaps. As breaths are taken, be sure the re-entries are smooth, without a definite tongue so it is gentle and not noticed by listeners.

At measure 10, the piece becomes more complex, as all instruments enter and the drone is replaced by changing harmonies. The main melody and its harmony need to balance with each other, with the new countermelody standing out a little more. Likewise, as the piece moves into the bridge at measure 18, the call and response melodic material should be kept well balanced. From measures 18-21, all pitches in the bass line need to be sustained, as performers may feel the need to add a little bounce to the eighth notes.

The bridge ends by building into a recap of the material from measures 10-17. Keep this final section strong until measure 33 when the piece dies off to recreate the opening feel of the piece.

PREVIEW ONLY

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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DURATION: 2:10

DIFFICULTY RATING: Easy-Medium

Interchangeable Woodwind Ensemble

THE WIND THROUGH THE HEATHER

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Refectively $\text{♩} = 72$

PART 1
Flute, Oboe,
Clarinet
mp

PART 2
Flute, Oboe,
Clarinet

PART 3
Clarinet,
Alto Saxophone
p

PART 4
Clarinet, Horn,
Tenor Saxophone
p

PART 5
Bass Clarinet, Bassoon,
Baritone Saxophone
p

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

4 *mf*

5 *mf*

PREVIEW ONLY

14

15

16

17

18 *mp* lead

19 *p*

20 21 22 23 24

mp *mp* not lead *mp* *mp*

25 26 27 28 29 30

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

PREVIEW ONLY

31 32 33 34 35

rit. *Slower ♩ = 60* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *p* *p*