

RWS BEGINNING BAND SERIES

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Catalog No: RWS-2211-01

Man Against Machine

(The Legend of John Henry)

Joseph Benjamin Earp

RWS
Beginning Band Series

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

RWS BEGINNING BAND SERIES

Man Against Machine

(The Legend of John Henry)

Joseph Benjamin Earp

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1	F Horn	4
Flute	10	Trombone	6
Oboe	2	Euphonium B.C.	2
B $\flat$ Clarinet	12	Euphonium T.C.	2
B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	2	Tuba	4
Bassoon	2	Bells	4
E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	8	Timpani	1
B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	2	Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Bass Drum	3
E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone	2	Percussion 2: Crash Cymbals, Triangle	2
B $\flat$ Trumpet	10		

PROGRAM NOTE

This exciting composition honors the life of John Henry, a “steel driving man” who was known as the strongest, fastest, and most powerful man working on American railroads in the late 1800s. Around the same time, steam drilling machines were being developed to do the work that John Henry and his co-workers did every day on the railroad lines. In a legendary duel of man versus machine, John Henry competed against the steam machine ultimately beating the drill with a 10-pound hammer in each hand. According to legend and lore, John Henry died from exhaustion from completing this astonishing feat, he will forever be known as one of the world’s greatest folk heroes.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Careful attention should be given to articulations, dynamic changes and phrasing throughout the rehearsal and performance of the piece.

The beginning builds to the melodic line stated at measure 13. The same melodic line is restated at measure 32 in the lower voices and then augmented at measure 50. This melody represents John Henry’s battle against the machine.

The percussion section should remain energetic throughout as they are the driving force for the composition and ensemble.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Joseph Benjamin Earp is the Director of Instrumental Music at Pfeiffer University in Misenheimer, North Carolina. He received his undergraduate degree in Music Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Master of Music in Music Education from Anderson University (Anderson, South Carolina), and Doctor of Music Education degree from Liberty University (Lynchburg, Virginia).

His professional teaching career began in 2006 as Director of Bands at Seneca High School in South Carolina. After two years, he then taught at Robbinsville Middle and High Schools for a year before becoming the founding Director of Bands at Cox Mill High School in Concord, North Carolina. After eight years of numerous achievements at Cox Mill High School, he moved into his role at Limestone University (Gaffney, South Carolina) as Director of Athletic Bands, elevating many elements of Limestone’s athletic band program.

In addition to teaching, Dr. Earp is an active published composer and clinician with his music being performed internationally. His major compositional accomplishments include being winner of the 2010 Claude T. Smith Composition Contest in Missouri, winner of the 2018 Thornton Community Band Composition Contest in Colorado, and multiple J.W. Pepper Editors’ Choice awards. He currently resides in Concord, North Carolina with his wife Mary Beth and sons Jackson and Jasper.

More about Dr. Earp can be found at www.joeemusic.com. Follow Dr. Earp on Twitter @earpcomposer. Find him on Instagram as earpcomposer.



13

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

13

B. Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

f

f

f

f

f

Bls.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mf

mf

f

f

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

f

f

27

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

mf

f

mf

f

mf

mf

mf

27

B. Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

Bls.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mf

mp

f

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

mp

41

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B. Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Bls.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

37 38 39 40 41 42

f

p *f*

41

41

44

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

A. Sx. *ff*

T. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. *ff*

44

B. Tpt. *ff*

F Hn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Bls. *f*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Cr. Cyms.

43 44 45 46 47 48 49

50

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Cl.

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

A. Sn. *ff*

T. Sn. *ff*

B. Sn. *ff*

50

B. Tpt. *ff*

F Hn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Bls.

Timp. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2

50 51 52 53 54 55 56

ff *ff*

58

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

58

B. Tpt.

F. Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Bls.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Triangle

57 *ff* 58 59 60 61 62

Preview Only
Legal Use Requires Purchase