

RWS BEGINNING BAND SERIES

Grade: 1.5

Conductor Score: RWS-2616-01

Short Fuse

Heather Ellis Koehn

RWS
Beginning Band Series

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1	F Horn	4
Flute	10	Trombone	6
Oboe	2	Euphonium B.C.	2
B ^b Clarinet	12	Euphonium T.C.	2
B ^b Bass Clarinet	2	Tuba	4
Bassoon	2	Mallet Percussion: Bells	4
E [♭] Alto Saxophone	8	Timpani	1
B ^b Tenor Saxophone	2	Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Bass Drum	3
E [♭] Baritone Saxophone	2	Percussion 2: Hi-Hat, Crash Cymbals, Cowbell	3
B ^b Trumpet	10		

PROGRAM NOTE

The idiom "short fuse " refers to a quick temper or something ready to explode at any moment. Bursting with rhythmic energy and dynamic contrasts, **Short Fuse** keeps listeners on edge as tension builds and releases in waves of sound. Percussion drives the pulse while bold brass and woodwind lines spark with intensity. It's an exciting musical journey that reminds us how quickly things can ignite when the fuse is lit!

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Short Fuse offers developing bands an opportunity to explore precision, energy, and style within a rhythm-driven framework. The piece is infused with jazzy articulations, syncopation, and crisp releases, giving the music its edge and forward motion. Make sure to emphasize lightness and clarity in tonguing, particularly in the upper winds and brass, to achieve the intended "spark."

Midway through the piece, in measures 29-36, a call-and-response section provides a moment of contrast. The Saxophone and Trumpet parts can be performed as solo or as a section soli. Feel free to have these players stand and play with some swagger and style! Throughout the piece, encourage students to listen across the ensemble for rhythmic precision and to really feel the groove. Dynamic shaping and attention to articulation detail will make this "fuse" burn bright right to the explosive finish.

Please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect!



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Heather Ellis Koehn is an Oklahoma-based composer, arranger, and educator described as a "brutally honest and gifted musical storyteller" (The American Prize, 2021). Her works draw inspiration from nature, history, humor, personal experience, and social causes, and have been performed across the United States and in Europe. Her music has received awards and recognition from organizations including The Dallas Winds and The American Prize. Koehn is also a nationally respected marching band arranger whose clients have earned numerous state and Bands of America titles. Ms. Koehn currently serves as Associate Director of Bands at Bartlesville Public Schools with her husband and teaching partner, Chris. When not teaching, performing, or composing, she can be found exploring backcountry trails all over the USA.

SHORT FUSE

Conductor Score
RWS-2616-00

Heather Ellis Koehn
(ASCAP)

Explosive ♩ = 152+

5

Flute
Oboe
B♭ Clarinet
B♭ Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
E♭ Alto Saxophone
B♭ Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone

Musical score for woodwinds and saxophones, measures 1-7. The score includes parts for Flute, Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, E♭ Alto Saxophone, B♭ Tenor Saxophone, and E♭ Baritone Saxophone. The music is in 4/4 time and marked 'Explosive' with a tempo of ♩ = 152+. Dynamics include *f* and accents. A large red watermark 'Preview Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Explosive ♩ = 152+

5

B♭ Trumpet
F Horn
Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

Musical score for brass instruments, measures 1-7. The score includes parts for B♭ Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The music is in 4/4 time and marked 'Explosive' with a tempo of ♩ = 152+. Dynamics include *f* and accents. A large red watermark 'Preview Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

Mallet Percussion
Bells
Timpani
A, D
Percussion 1
Snare Drum
Bass Drum
Percussion 2
Hi-Hat
Crash Cymbal
Cowbell

Musical score for percussion instruments, measures 1-7. The score includes parts for Mallet Percussion Bells, Timpani A, D, Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum), and Percussion 2 (Hi-Hat, Crash Cymbal, Cowbell). The music is in 4/4 time and marked 'Explosive' with a tempo of ♩ = 152+. Dynamics include *f* and accents. A large red watermark 'Preview Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid on the score.

1 2 3 4 6 7

SHORT FUSE

9

13

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

mp

mp

mp

mp

p

mp

mp

mp

9

13

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Bells

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mp

p

p

mp

mp

mp

mp

8 *mp* 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

SHORT FUSE

29

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Alto Sax. *f* Optional Solo/Soli

Ten. Sax. *f* Optional Solo/Soli

Bari. Sax. *f*

29

Tpt. *f* Optional Solo/Soli

F Hn. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

Bells *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *mp*

29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

SHORT FUSE

37 42

Fl. *p* *f* *mp*

Ob. *p* *f* *mp*

Cl. *p* *f* *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *mp* *f* *mp*

Bsn. *mp* *f* *mp*

Alto Sax. *tutti p* *f* *p* *mf*

Ten. Sax. *tutti p* *f* *p* *mf*

Bari. Sax. *mp* *f* *mp*

37 42

Tpt. *p* *f* *mp*

F Hn. *p* *f* *mp*

Tbn. *mp* *f* *mp*

Euph. *mp* *f* *mp*

Tba. *mp* *f* *mp*

Bells *p* *f* *mp*

Timp. *p* *f* *mp*

Perc. 1 *p* *f* *mp*

Perc. 2 *p* *f* *mp*

mp tutti div.

a2

p *f* *mp*

37 38 39 40 41 42 43

SHORT FUSE

58

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

58

Tpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Bells

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Cr. Cym.

52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59

SHORT FUSE

66

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p* div.

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *mp*

Alto Sax. *p*

Ten. Sax. *p*

Bari. Sax. *mp*

Tpt. *mf* *a2* *p* div.

F Hn. *mf* *p*

Tbn. *mf* *mp*

Euph. *mf* *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Bells *p*

Timp. *p*

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *p*

60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67

SHORT FUSE

71

Fl. *f mp f*

Ob. *f mp f*

Cl. *f mp* a2 div. a2 div. a2

B. Cl. *f mp f*

Bsn. *f mp f*

Alto Sax. *f mp f*

Ten. Sax. *f mp f*

Bari. Sax. *f mp f*

71

Tpt. *f mp f* a2 div. a2 div. a2

F Hn. *f mp f*

Tbn. *f mp f*

Euph. *f mp f*

Tba. *f mp f*

Bells *f mp f dampen*

Timp. *f mp f dampen*

Perc. 1 *f mp f p f dampen*

Perc. 2 *f mp f C.B. Cr. Cym. C.B. Cr. Cym. choke*

68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75