

Grade: Multi-level
Conductor Score: RWS-2698-01

First Steps Together

Travis J. Weller

Preview Only
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RWS ALL TOGETHER SERIES

First Steps Together

Travis J. Weller

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1	F Horn A/B	8
Flute A	10	Trombone A - Euphonium A	8
Flute B - Oboe A/B	14	Trombone B - Euphonium B	8
Clarinet A	12	Euphonium T.C. A	4
Clarinet B	12	Euphonium T.C. B	4
Bass Clarinet A/B	4	Tuba A/B	8
Bassoon A/B	4	Mallet Percussion A: Bells	4
Alto Saxophone A	6	Mallet Percussion B: Bells	4
Alto Saxophone B	6	Timpani A/B	2
Tenor Saxophone A/B	4	Percussion 1A: Snare Drum, Bass Drum	3
Baritone Saxophone A/B	4	Percussion 1B: Snare Drum, Bass Drum	3
Trumpet A	10	Percussion 2 A/B: Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals	4
Trumpet B	10	Percussion 3 A/B: Triangle, Tambourine, Low Wood Block	6

PROGRAM NOTE

We close our concert this evening with a piece written to bring musicians of all ages together in a shared moment of celebration. The piece reflects the idea that every performer on stage, no matter their experience level, began their musical journey with the same first steps and continues to grow - both musically and personally - through playing together. Each section in every group contributes to this piece highlighting the joy of making music as a community. **First Steps Together** serves as a reminder that this performance is not an ending, but the beginning of many steps still to come.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Massed band performances - is there anything like it in instrumental music education? During my 22 years of public school teaching, I did this several times with my students in grades 7-12. Some directors who do grades 5-12 go it alone. Some director teams must collaborate and communicate for months to make that musical moment happen. Wherever you find yourself on that continuum - this piece is for all of you.

As I considered the difference between a student who is perhaps just completing their first year of instruction on their instrument and a senior at their final performance, there are obviously some big differences. But both students must take steps to improve - sometimes a scale step, sometimes in different aspects - and getting them to take steps together is a gratifying way to help unify all students in band. For younger students, it possibly sits them next to their musical role models. For mid-level students it reassures them they belong and still have much to look forward to. For older students it challenges them to lead by example, and when possible, help those around them take a step forward.

At the heart of the work is the idea of step-wise motion in the melodic lines. Directors at all levels working on this piece can reinforce scale accuracy. Another aspect vital to conveying the intent of the work is encouraging the band to play with dynamic contrast that is never louder than their most beautiful, resonant tone. The section at 33 provides an opportunity for call and response between the groups to highlight where students start and where they finish. At measure 37, directors might want to utilize confident soloists in each of the group to create a small chamber like moment that contrasts nicely against passages played by the full ensemble. Encourage each musician to play with characteristic tone and even articulation that allows each note to speak.

I am deeply appreciative of Susan, Kim, and the entire creative team at RWS Music to provide music like this for such an opportunity for your program. Your work to inspire your students and build a strong band program in your community is never more important than it is right now. I thank you in advance for your support of this music, and hope that this piece serves your band program well as all students take **First Steps Together**.

Travis J. Weller

ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Travis J. Weller (1973) is currently serving as the Assistant Chair for the Music Department at Messiah University. In addition to that position, he is the Director of Music Education. His duties at Messiah include supervising instrumental music education students, teaching methods courses, working with graduate students, and conducting the Symphonic Winds.

He holds degrees from Kent State University, Duquesne University, and Grove City College. Travis is a member of Phi Beta Mu (Nu Chapter), ASCAP, and the National Band Association. He recently completed his second term on the Phi Beta Mu International Board of Directors as the Educational Outreach Chair and previously served as President for Nu (PA) Chapter. He will serve the International organization as the President in 2026. Travis previously served as an officer for PMEA District 5, District 7 Higher Education Representative, PCMEA State Chapter Adviser, and is currently on the editorial board for the PMEA Journal. He frequently presents on instrumental music education at professional development conferences like the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic and state music conferences. Travis has been a contributing author for articles in *Teaching Music*, *The Instrumentalist*, *National Band Association Journal*, *The PMEA Journal*, and *The Phi Beta Mu International Newsletter*. He performs with the Musician's Concert Band and works with the Pittsburgh Creator's Project.

He is in frequent demand as a guest conductor for honor bands and composer in residence sessions with school bands across the Eastern United States. As a composer, Travis has published works available from multiple publishers including Wingert-Jones, The FJH Music Company, Murphy Music Press, Grand Mesa Music, C.L. Barnhouse Music Publishers, Bandworks Publications, Carl Fischer, Ludwig-Masters and Manhattan Beach Music. Travis resides in Grove City with his wife, their three daughters and a son.

FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

Conductor Score
RWS-2698-00

Travis J. Weller
(ASCAP)

Proudly $\text{♩} = 120$

Flute A

Flute B
Oboe A/B

Clarinet A

Clarinet B

Alto Saxophone A

Alto Saxophone B

Tenor Saxophone A/B

Trumpet A

Trumpet B

F Horn A/B

Trombone A
Euphonium A

Trombone B
Euphonium B

Bass Instrument A/B
Tuba
Bassoon
Bass Clarinet
Baritone Sax

Mallet Percussion A
Bells

Mallet Percussion B
Bells

Timpani A/B
F, Bb, Eb

Percussion 1A
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

Percussion 1B
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

Percussion 2A/B
Suspended Cymbal
Crash Cymbals

Percussion 3A/B
Triangle
Tambourine
Low Wood Block

1 2 3 4 5

FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

FL. A

FL. B
Ob. A/B

Cl. A

Cl. B

A. Sax. A

A. Sax. B

T. Sax. A/B

Tpt. A

Tpt. B

F Hn. A/B

Tbn. A
Euph. A

Tbn. B
Euph. B

Bass A/B

Mlt. A

Mlt. B

Timp. A/B

Perc. 1A

Perc. 1B

Perc. 2A/B

Perc. 3A/B

Sus. Cym.

Tamb.

6 7 8 9 10

- 4 -

FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

13

FL. A

FL. B
Ob. A/B

Cl. A

Cl. B

A. Sax. A

A. Sax. B

T. Sax. A/B

Tpt. A

Tpt. B

F Hn. A/B

Tbn. A
Euph. A

Tbn. B
Euph. B

Bass A/B

Mlt. A

Mlt. B

Timp. A/B

Perc. 1A

Perc. 1B

Perc. 2A/B

Perc. 3A/B

11 12 13 14 15

- 5 -

This image shows a preview of a musical score for a 12-voice choir. The score is arranged in a system of 12 staves, with 4 staves for each voice part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass). The music is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score includes a large red watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Legal Use Requires Purchase". The music shows the beginning of the piece, with the Soprano and Alto parts starting with a melodic line, and the Tenor and Bass parts providing harmonic support. The dynamic marking "mf" (mezzo-forte) is visible on several staves.

[illegible]

21

Fl. A

Fl. B
Ob. A/B

Cl. A

Cl. B

A. Sax. A

A. Sax. B

T. Sax. A/B

21

Tpt. A

Tpt. B

F Hn. A/B

Tbn. A
Euph. A

Tbn. B
Euph. B

Bass A/B

Mit. A

Mit. B

Timp. A/B

Perc. 1A

Perc. 1B

Perc. 2A/B

Perc. 3A/B

Tamb.

21 22 23 24 25

- 7 -

FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

[illegible]

FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

FL. A

FL. B
Ob. A/B

Cl. A

Cl. B

A. Sax. A

A. Sax. B

T. Sax. A/B

Tpt. A

Tpt. B

F Hn. A/B

Tbn. A
Euph. A

Tbn. B
Euph. B

Bass A/B

Mit. A

Mit. B

Timp. A/B

Perc. 1A

Perc. 1B

Perc. 2A/B

Perc. 3A/B

Tamb.

31 32 33 34 35 36

- 9 -

FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

FL. A

FL. B
Ob. A/B

Cl. A

Cl. B

A. Sax. A

A. Sax. B

T. Sax. A/B

Tpt. A

Tpt. B

F Hn. A/B

Tbn. A
Euph. A

Tbn. B
Euph. B

Bass A/B

Mit. A

Mit. B

Timp. A/B

Perc. 1A

Perc. 1B

Perc. 2A/B

Perc. 3A/B

W.B.

37

38

39

40

41

41

Opt. Solo/Soli

f

sub. p

tutti

div.

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This image shows a preview of a musical score for a 12-voice choir. The score is arranged in four systems, each containing three staves (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass). The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mf'. A large, diagonal red watermark is overlaid across the entire page, reading 'Preview Only' and 'Legal Use Requires Purchase'. The watermark is semi-transparent, allowing the musical notation to be seen underneath. The score appears to be for a contemporary or modern choral piece, given the use of 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and the complex, overlapping vocal lines. The first system shows the beginning of the piece, with the Soprano part starting on a high note and the other parts following in a similar fashion. The second system shows a continuation of the vocal lines, with some parts having rests. The third system shows a more complex texture with multiple voices moving in different directions. The fourth system shows the end of the preview, with some voices still sounding and others having rests. The overall impression is of a high-quality, professional musical score.

49

- 12 -

FIRST STEPS TOGETHER

FL. A

FL. B
Ob. A/B

Cl. A

Cl. B

A. Sax. A

A. Sax. B

T. Sax. A/B

Tpt. A

Tpt. B

F Hn. A/B

Tbn. A
Euph. A

Tbn. B
Euph. B

Bass A/B

Mit. A

Mit. B

Timp. A/B

Perc. 1A

Perc. 1B

Perc. 2A/B

Perc. 3A/B

52

53

54

55

56

- 13 -