

GWYNETH WALKER

Ready to Swing!

for Concert Band



Ready to Swing!

duration 3:30

Commissioned by the New Canaan, CT Public Schools
for the Saxe 6th Grade Band, Janet Rosen, Director

Program Notes

Ready to Swing! is the culmination of a yearlong collaboration between the Saxe Middle School 6th Grade Band and local (New Canaan, CT) composer, Dr. Gwyneth Walker (herself a member of the Saxe Band in 1960!). Mrs. Rosen wanted her students to meet and collaborate with a living composer and learn how composers get ideas and inspiration for their works. The students also wanted to contribute some of their own ideas for a piece that would be fun and exciting for them to play.

In preparation for composing this new work, Dr. Walker visited with the band, attending several of their concerts, and spending time in the classroom as well. This interaction allowed the composer to get a sense of the skills of the players (they are good!) and their favorite sorts of music (they like something to *happen* in the piece!).

The audience will notice three special performance skills of this band: 1. there are many percussionists (who play with enthusiasm!), 2. the instrumentalists do not mind adding *choreography* to their playing, and 3. the conductor is not shy about verbally encouraging the audience or players. So – get **Ready to Swing!**

Instrumentation

Piccolo

Flutes 1 and 2

Oboe

B \flat Clarinets 1 and 2

B \flat Bass Clarinet

E \flat Alto Saxophones 1 and 2

B \flat Tenor Saxophone

B \flat Trumpets 1 and 2

Trombone

Baritone

Mallet Percussion: Glockenspiel

Percussion 1: Tambourine, Bongo, Ratchet

Percussion 2: Maracas, Temple Blocks, Sandpaper Blocks, Triangle

Percussion 3: Conga, Low Tom-Tom, Bass Drum

Drumset



Gwyneth Walker

Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont before returning to live in her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Janet Rosen

Janet Rosen has been a music educator in CT for over 36 years. For the last 19 years she has been a band director at Saxe Middle School in New Canaan. During that time she established a district wide Student Recital Series at the New Canaan Inn and a yearly Holiday Concert at the New Canaan Library.

As an oboist, Janet is a member of the Norwalk, Greater Bridgeport and Waterbury Symphonies, and is a founding member of Harmonia V Wind Quintet, an ensemble dedicated to performing music by living composers and music of the 21st century. She resides in Milford, CT with her trombonist husband, George Sanders.

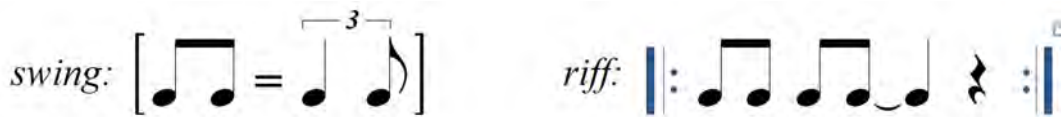


Ready to Swing!

Introduction

1. The conductor speaks to the band (loudly so that the audience can hear),
“Are you ready to swing?!”

One percussion plays a short jazz-style “riff” in a swing rhythm, on any instrument, similar to the upcoming Music:



The conductor and band punch their fists in the air, shouting, “YES!”

2. The conductor again speaks to the band, “Are you *REALLY* ready to swing?!”

Another percussion plays a different jazzy “riff,” on another instrument

The conductor and band punch their fists in the air, shouting, “YES! YES!”

3. The conductor turns to the audience and asks, “Are *YOU* ready to swing?!”

Another percussion plays a different jazzy “riff,” on yet another instrument

The conductor cues both the audience and band to shout, “YES! YES! YES!”

The conductor to everyone, “Well then, Let’s do it!”

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Gwyneth Walker

♩ = 120, swing rhythm (♩ = ♪³♪)

Piccolo

Flute 1

Flute 2
Oboe

B♭ Clarinets
1
2

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto
Saxophones
1
2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

B♭ Trumpets
1
2

Trombone
Baritone

Mallet Percussion
(Glockenspiel)

Percussion 1
(Tambourine,
Bongo, Ratchet)

Percussion 2
(Maracas, Temple
Blocks, Sandpaper
Blocks, Triangle)

Percussion 3
(Conga,
Low Tom-Tom,
Bass Drum)

Drum Set

Snare Drum

Suspended Cymbal

f

f with energy

a2

a2

5

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2
Ob.

Cls. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxs. 1
2

T. Sax.

5

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.
Bar.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3
Conga (w/ hands)

D. S.

The image shows a page of a musical score for a concert band. It features ten staves of woodwinds and brass instruments, and five staves of percussion. The woodwinds include Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2/Oboe, Clarinet 1/2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1/2, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet 1/2, and Trombone/Euphonium. The percussion section includes Mallet Percussion, Percussion 1 and 2, Percussion 3 (Conga), and Drums. The score is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). A rehearsal mark '5' is placed at the beginning of the first system. The woodwinds and brass play a melodic line starting in the second measure, marked with a forte 'f' dynamic and accents. The percussion section provides a rhythmic accompaniment, with the Conga playing a steady eighth-note pattern. The first two measures of the woodwinds and brass are marked with a forte 'f' dynamic. The percussion section is marked with a forte 'f' dynamic. The score is divided into four measures. The first measure is a rest for all instruments. The second measure begins the main melodic line. The third and fourth measures continue the melodic line. The percussion section plays a steady eighth-note pattern throughout the four measures.

13 **17**

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1 *mf*

Fl. 2
Ob. *mf*

Cls. 1
2 *mf*

B. Cl.

A. Saxs. 1
2 *p* *mf*

T. Sax.

13 **17**

Tpts. 1
2 *p* *mf*

Tbn.
Bar.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 (Tamb.) (hold up) *p* *mf*

Perc. 2 Sandpaper Blocks held high for audience to see

Perc. 3

D. S.

18 21

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1 *f*

Fl. 2
Ob. *f*

Cls. 1
2 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Saxs. 1
2 *f* a2 a2

T. Sax. *f*

Tpts. 1
2 *f* a2

Tbn.
Bar. *f* unis.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1 (Tamb.) *f*

Perc. 2 (SP. Blks.) *f* Triangle *f*

Perc. 3 *f* Conga *f*

D. S.

Detailed description of the musical score: This is a page of a musical score for a concert band, page 5. It contains staves for various instruments and percussion. The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 18-20) includes Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2/Oboe, Clarinets 1 and 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophones 1 and 2, and Tenor Saxophone. The second system (measures 21-23) includes Trumpets 1 and 2, Trombone/Euphonium, and a Percussion section with four parts: Mlt. Perc., Perc. 1 (Tambourine), Perc. 2 (Spanish Blocks and Triangle), and Perc. 3 (Conga). Dynamics are marked with 'f' (forte) for many parts. Performance instructions include 'a2' (second octave) for saxophones and trumpets, and 'unis.' (unison) for trombones. The percussion parts include specific instrument names like 'Tamb.', 'SP. Blks.', 'Triangle', and 'Conga'. Measure numbers 18, 21, and 21 are indicated at the top of the page.

Everyone sway! (once per measure)

33 L R L R

Musical score for measures 33-36. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2/Ob., Cls. 1/2, B. Cl., A. Saxs. 1/2, and T. Sax. The second system includes Tpts. 1/2, Tbn. Bar., Mlt. Perc., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, and D. S. The woodwind parts (A. Saxs., T. Sax., Tpts., Tbn. Bar.) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with rests, marked *very short and crisp* and *p*. The percussion parts (D. S.) play a pattern of eighth notes with rests, marked *Susp. Cym. (or make up your own pattern)*. The brass and woodwind parts (Picc., Fl., Cls., B. Cl.) have rests in all measures.

Stop swaying

37 L R L R

very short and crisp

Picc.

Musical staff for Piccolo with notes and rests.

p

very short and crisp

Fl. 1

Musical staff for Flute 1 with notes and rests.

p

very short and crisp

Fl. 2
Ob.

Musical staff for Flute 2/Oboe with notes and rests.

p

very short and crisp

Cls. 1
2

Musical staff for Clarinets 1 and 2 with notes and rests.

p

very short and crisp

B. Cl.

Musical staff for Bass Clarinet with notes and rests.

p

very short and crisp

A. Saxs. 1
2

Musical staff for Alto Saxophones 1 and 2 with notes and rests.

T. Sax.

Musical staff for Tenor Saxophone with notes and rests.

p

very short and crisp

37

Stand up and face the audience

Tpts. 1
2

Musical staff for Trumpets 1 and 2 with notes and rests.

Tbn.
Bar.

Musical staff for Trombone/Baritone with notes and rests.

Mlt. Perc.

Musical staff for Multiple Percussion with notes and rests.

Perc. 1

Musical staff for Percussion 1 with notes and rests.

Perc. 2

Musical staff for Percussion 2 with notes and rests.

Perc. 3

Musical staff for Percussion 3 with notes and rests.

S. D. (or make up your own, similar to cymbal)

D. S.

Musical staff for Snare Drum with notes and rests.

68 69 sit down

Picc. sit down

Fl. 1 sit down

Fl. 2
Ob. sit down

Cls. 1 2 a2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes. 1 2 a2

T. Sax. *f*

69 a2

Tpts. 1 2 *f* a2

Tbn.
Bar. unis. *f*

Mlt. Perc. (Glock.)

Perc. 1 Ratchet *f*

Perc. 2 Sandpaper Blocks *f*

Perc. 3 (Conga)

D. S.

75 Very Forcefully

73

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2
Ob.

Clas. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxs. 1
2

T. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.
Bar.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S.

unis.

a2

Bass Drum

f

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a concert band, covering measures 73 to 76. The score is written for various instruments: Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2/Oboe, Clarinet 1/2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1/2, Tenor Saxophone, Trumpet 1/2, Trombone/Baritone, Multiple Percussion, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3, and Drums. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 2/2. Measure 73 starts with a dynamic marking of *f* and includes accents (^) and breath marks (v) for the woodwinds. Measure 74 continues with similar dynamics and includes the instruction 'unis.' for the Flute 2/Oboe. Measure 75 is marked '75 Very Forcefully' and features a strong dynamic *f* and accents. Measure 76 concludes the section. The percussion parts include a prominent Bass Drum line starting in measure 75, marked with a dynamic *f* and breath marks (v). The Drums (D. S.) part is mostly silent with some rests.

Band shouts all together, pumping fist in air and holding until conductor signals to lower it.

79 Percussion cadenza*

77

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2
Ob.

Cls. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes. 1
2

T. Sax.

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

79 Percussion cadenza*

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.
Bar.

YES!

YES!

*Each player plays a "jazz riff" on their favorite instrument, overlapping and creating much chaos, noise and celebration!

cut-off

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3
(B. D.)

D. S.

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!