

BEN BLESSING

BITTERROOT TRAIL MARCH

FOR BEGINNING BAND

Tender Toes



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COMPOSER

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Bitterroot Trail March

For Beginning Band

Grade Level: 1

Instrumentation

Flute /Oboe

Clarinet in Bb 1, 2

Alto Saxophone in Eb

Tenor Saxophone in Bb (doubles Horn in F)

Trumpet in Bb

Horn in F

Trombone/Euphonium/Low Reeds (all play the same line)

Tuba

String Bass (doubles tuba)

Mallets

Timpani

Percussion 1 (2 players): Bass Drum, Snare Drum

Crash Cymbal

Transposed Score

Duration: ca. 1:45

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Program Note

"Bitterroot Trail March" is a spirited and energetic piece that evokes the rugged beauty and adventurous spirit of the Bitterroot Mountains in Northern Idaho. The march begins with a bold and driving introduction, establishing a sense of forward motion and anticipation. The first strain, characterized by a strong, rhythmic motif, captures the rugged terrain and the determination of the pioneers who traversed these challenging trails.

The second strain introduces a more lyrical and melodic theme, reflecting the breathtaking scenery and the sense of awe inspired by the majestic mountains. The breakup strain builds intensity, culminating in a powerful and exciting climax. The trio offers a contrasting and more reflective mood, perhaps with a slower tempo and a more lyrical melody, suggesting moments of quiet contemplation amidst the grandeur of the wilderness.

Finally, the march concludes with a triumphant and exhilarating finish, celebrating the spirit of adventure and the enduring legacy of the Bitterroot Trail.

About the Composer

Ben Blessing, (1984) hails from Nampa, ID. A former Marine and current member of the 25th Army Band in Boise ID, he is a long-serving member of the Idaho Army National Guard. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition from Northwest Nazarene University and a Master's in Music Education from the American Band College. He has studied with Dr. Walden Hughes, Dr. Eric Alexander, SFC Sara Corry, and Adam Schoenberg. In demand as a composer and conductor, his works have been received with enthusiasm from many audiences. A number of his works have been recognized by the American Band College on their Top 100 List, and his original work "Standhope Peak" is the winner of the 2022 NFMC Armed Forces Composition Competition. Mr. Blessing enjoys writing music for concert band, orchestra, and electronic avenues as well. In his off time, he enjoys writing music, running ultramarathons, and spending quality time with his wife, children, and dogs. He is the Race Director for the Standhope Ultra Challenge and the band director for the Baker School District in Baker City, Oregon.



Allegro $\text{♩} = 122$

5 13

Flute *f* *mf*

Oboe *f* *mf*

Bassoon *f* *mf*

Bb Clarinet 1, 2 *f* *mf*

Bass Clarinet in Bb *f* *mf*

Alto Saxophone *f* *mf*

Tenor Saxophone in Bb *f* *mf*

Baritone Saxophone *f* *mf*

Bb Trumpet *f* *mf* div.

Horn in F *f* *mf*

Trombone/Euphonium *f* *mf*

Tuba *f* *mf*

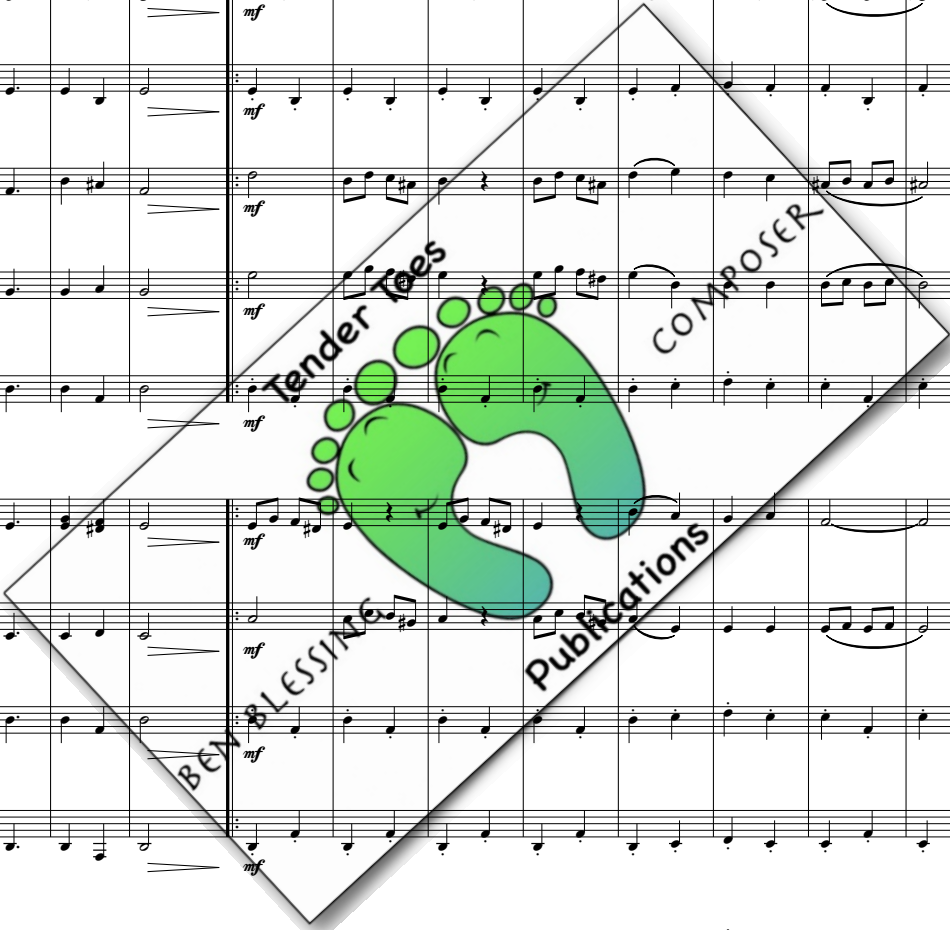
String Bass *f* *mf*

Glockenspiel *f* *mp*

Timpani *f* *mf* TUNE: F, G, C, D

Percussion 1 *f* *p* S.D. B.D.

Crash Cymbals *f* *p*



Bitterroot Trail March-Full Score

Fl. 1

Ob.

Bsn.

Bb Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

Alto Sax.

T. Sax.
in Bb

Bari. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn. in F

Tbn./Euph.

Tba.

S. Bass

Glock.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Crash Cym.

1.

2.

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f

Bitterroot Trail March-Full Score

7

31 39%

Fl. 1

Ob.

Bsn.

Bb Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

Alto Sax.

T. Sax. in Bb

Bari. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn. in F

Tbn/Euph.

Tba.

S. Bass

Glock.

Tim.

Perc. 1

Crash Cym.

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p

Bitterroot Trail March-Full Score

Fl. 1

Ob.

Bsn.

Bb Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

Alto Sax.

T. Sax.
in Bb

Bari. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn. in F

Tbn./Euph.

Tba.

S. Bass

Glock.

Tim.

Perc. 1

Crash Cym.

To Coda [55]

47

42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55

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Bitterroot Trail March-Full Score

9

63

D.S. al Coda

Fl. 1

Ob.

Bsn.

Bb Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

Alto Sax.

T. Sax.
in Bb

Bari. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn. in F

Tbn./Euph.

Tba.

S. Bass

Glock.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Crash Cym.

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56

57

58

59

60

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62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

Bitterroot Trail March-Full Score

♣ Coda

Fl. 1

Ob.

Bsn.

Bb Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

Alto Sax.

T. Sax.
in Bb

Bari. Sax.

Tpt.

Hn. in F

Tbn./Euph.

Tba.

S. Bass

Glock.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Crash Cym.

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Choke