

BEN BLESSING

LOSS

For Concert Band, Grade 2

Instrumentation

Flute
Oboe
Bassoon
B♭ Clarinet 1 & 2
B♭ Bass Clarinet
E♭ Alto Saxophone
B♭ Tenor Saxophone
E♭ Baritone Saxophone
B♭ Trumpet
Horn in F
Trombone
Euphonium
Euphonium T.C.
Tuba
Timpani
Glockenspiel, Chimes (opt.)
Percussion: Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal
Piano

Full Set-\$68.00

Extra Score-\$15.00

Extra Part-\$3.00

Tender Toes Publications

Every mile a measure, every measure a mile



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Program Notes

Composed in November 2020, *Loss* is a reflection on the profound silence that enveloped the world during a time of unprecedented global disruption. Written in the solitude of an empty music classroom, the piece seeks to capture the emotional weight and anguish of a year marked by loss and uncertainty.

The composition begins and ends with a haunting, unresolved C, symbolizing the lingering effects of grief. The music gradually builds in intensity, reaching a chilling climax at measure 47, before subsiding to its original state. Through its sonic landscape, *Loss* aims to evoke a sense of emotional depth and introspection that transcends the limitations of language. It was rescored in 2024 after the decommissioning of the Compass Public Charter School Band Program.

Conductor Notes

There is a Grade Five version, this is the Grade Two version. Both are very similar, this version has been adapted to fit the length and range for middle school ensembles.

About the Composer

Ben Blessing (b. 1984) is a composer, conductor, and educator based in Nampa, Idaho. A former Marine and a long-serving member of the Idaho Army National Guard, he currently serves with the 25th Army Band in Boise. Blessing holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition from Northwest Nazarene University and a Master's in Music Education from the American Band College.

His compositions have garnered national recognition, with his *Symphony No. 4* and *Grandma's Coat* named finalists for The American Prize in 2025. His music is published through GPG Music, Knightwind Music, and Randall Standridge Music, and has been featured on the American Band College Top 100 List. His piece *Standhope Peak* won the 2022 NFMC Armed Forces Composition Competition.

Mr. Blessing is passionate about creating music that resonates with performers and audiences alike, writing extensively for concert band, orchestra, choir and electronic mediums. As an educator and conductor, he is the band director for the Baker School District in Baker City, Oregon.

Outside of music, he's an avid ultramarathon runner and the founder of the Standhope Ultra Challenge. He cherishes time spent with his wife, children, and their two dogs, balancing a life of artistry, adventure, and service.



Loss

Ben Blessing (ASCAP)

Largo $\text{♩} = 63$

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Fl. *p* *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Ob. (Fl. 2) *p* *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Cl. 1 in Bb *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Cl. 2 in Bb *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Bs. Cl. in Bb *pp* *<mf>* *p*

A. Sax. in Eb *pp* *p* *pp* *<mf>* *p*

T. Sax. in Bb *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Bar. Sax. in Eb *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Bsn. *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Tpt. 1 in Bb *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Hn. in F *pp* *<f>* *pp* *p* *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Tbn. *pp* *<f>* *pp* *p* *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Euph. *pp* *<f>* *pp* *p* *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Tba. *pp* *<f>* *pp* *p* *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Timp. *pp* *<f>* *pp* wood mallets Ch. *pp* *<mp>*

Glock. *pp*

Perc. *pp*

Pno. *pp* *<mf>* *p*

Tpt. 1 in Bb *pp* *<mf>* *p*

28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Fl.

Ob.
(Fl. 2)

Cl. 1
in B $\flat$

Cl. 2
in B $\flat$

Bs. Cl.
in B $\flat$

A. Sax.
in E $\flat$

T. Sax.
in B $\flat$

Bar. Sax.
in E $\flat$

Bsn.

Tpt. 1
in B $\flat$

Hn.
in F

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc.

Pno.

49

50

51

52

53

54

Tender Toes

COMPOSER

BEN BLESSING

Publications

ff

p

f

(8)

55

Fl.

Ob.
(Fl. 2)

Cl. 1
in B $\flat$ *opt. 8va*

Cl. 2
in B $\flat$

Bs. Cl.
in B $\flat$

A. Sax.
in E $\flat$

T. Sax.
in B $\flat$

Bar. Sax.
in E $\flat$

Bsn.

Tpt. 1
in B $\flat$ *div.*

Hn.
in F

Tbn. *bell up*

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. *l.v.*

Pno.

8. 55 56 57 58 59 60 61

f *ff* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

COMPOSER

BEN BLESSING

Tender Toes

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63

Fl.

Ob.
(Fl. 2)

Cl. 1
in B $\flat$

Cl. 2
in B $\flat$

Bs. Cl.
in B $\flat$

A. Sax.
in E $\flat$

T. Sax.
in B $\flat$

Bar. Sax.
in E $\flat$

Bsn.

Tpt. 1
in B $\flat$

Hn.
in F

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc.

Pno.

Solo

p

Bsn. solo

mp

Solo

p

Bsn. solo

mp

solo, molto espressivo

mp

Euph. stagger breath

pp

stagger breath

pp

stagger breath

pp

pp

pp

mf

pp

Tender Toes

BEN BLESSING

COMPOSER

Publications

(8) 62 63 64 65 66 67 68

[illegible]

rit.

The musical score is for a piece titled "Tender Toes" by Ben Blessing. The score is written for a large ensemble, including Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (Bs. Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bar. Sax.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Glockenspiel (Glock.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The score is in 4/4 time and features a large green footprint watermark in the center. The watermark contains the text "Tender Toes" and "COMPOSER BEN BLESSING Publications". The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamics (pp, p, l.v.). The page number 14 is in the top left corner, and the page title "Loss-Full Score" is in the top center. The tempo marking "rit." is in the top right corner. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 76 through 82 indicated at the bottom.

Fl.

Ob.
(Fl. 2)

Cl. 1
in B $\flat$

Cl. 2
in B $\flat$

Bs. Cl.
in B $\flat$

A. Sax.
in E $\flat$

T. Sax.
in B $\flat$

Bar. Sax.
in E $\flat$

Bsn.

Tpt. 1
in B $\flat$

Hn.
in F

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc.

Pno.

cup mute

pp

cup mute

pp

l.v.

pp

p

l.v.

pp

p

76

77

78

79

80

81

82