

# BATTLE OF THE BAND

## The Composer

Dan Adams is currently Band and Orchestra director at Wooster High School and Instrumental Music Coordinator for the Wooster City Schools in Wooster, Ohio. He received a Bachelor of Music Education degree from The Ohio State University and a Master of Music in Band Conducting from Northwestern University where he studied with John Paynter. Adams is active as an adjudicator, brass musician, and conductor. Memberships include the Ohio Music Education Association, ASCAP, College Band Directors National Association, and American Federation of Musicians Local 159.

## Performance Concerns

The premise of the piece is that the sections of the band (woodwinds, brass, percussion) are battling, or competing, against one another. The middle section of the piece represents this standoff. The woodwinds and brass are instructed to stand prior to their **sol** sections after letter **C**. Have players play in the direction of the competing sections, then, as is instructed (“congrats. high-fives, etc.”), players should celebrate their fine playing with self-absorbed congratulations. The percussion section should likewise strike a cocky pose with a backwards lean, arms crossed, and head cocked.

All this standing and playing assumes that these passages are memorized for the performance to allow for optimal theatrics. In general, don’t be afraid to have fun with this piece – be dramatic!

At letter **D** the brass mouthpiece buzz is notated at the appropriate pitch, however, if players do not hit the pitches with total accuracy, the effect should be accomplished just fine. The woodwind effects should be played with as much obnoxious flair as is possible.

At letter **E** the conductor becomes increasingly irritated with all this activity and waves wildly for the group to stop, then exclaims, “Alright, everybody... please SIT DOWN.” Players sit, then grab “music” from their stand, wad it, and through it at conductor (this should be another piece of paper at the player’s stand). Defeatedly, the conductor pulls a white hanky and waves it in surrender. Ideally, the percussion section should begin the **a tempo** without direction from the conductor.

The snare drum part is intended to be played by at least two separate players on two drums. If available, the second drum should have the deep sound of a military field drum. In general, the Percussion 2 parts are critical and should be covered. If not enough percussionists are available, consider other members of the band.

See if the players can identify the short song references: **When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again** and **Battle Hymn Of The Republic**.

## Program Notes

Commissioned by the 2012-2013 Battlefield Middle School 7th & 8th Grade Band, Fredericksburg, VA, Patrick Woodward, Director, **BATTLE OF THE BAND** pits the different sections of the band against one another. Who will be victorious? The woodwinds, the brass, or percussion?