

Ruckachuckarucka

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 Suggestions

Here is a great way to introduce eighth notes in performance. All eighth notes are repeated on the same pitch in order to make them more accessible as students learn to develop ensemble techniques. Work on legato tonguing to keep these notes from becoming too staccato. The capped accents should be played with a marked difference from the surrounding pitches – really bring them out.

Program Notes

The title of **Ruckachuckarucka** comes from the repeated eighth note pattern that begins the piece in the trumpet section. It recurs throughout, giving all the students a chance to perform this challenging rhythm. A heavy beat four caps off the move to the end of the measure. Feel free to tap your toe to this fun piece!