

Caveman Gets A Haircut

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

This is a great piece for introducing staccato as well as several dynamic elements all in a large group setting. Every percussion solo should be played with confidence and with the instrument held high. A quick tempo helps this piece quite a bit – it also presents a great opportunity to reinforce a nice “du” articulation on unmarked eighth notes. All eighths within each beat are repeated, so the fast tempo becomes quite accessible. “Huh!” is a low, “caveman-like” sound – no shyness allowed.

Program Notes

Caveman Gets A Haircut was written for and dedicated to the 2001 Wooster City Schools All-City 6th Grade Band. It gets its name from three important elements in this young band piece. First, the melody, stated initially by the low winds, has a sort of plodding, caveman-like quality to it. Secondly, the members of the band vocalize a caveman’s “grunt”. Thirdly, you will hear an important “two-bit” quote at the end of the tune that is echoed from brass to woodwinds: “Shave And A Haircut...”