

# Rollercoaster Ride

## 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

The image of a rising and falling rollercoaster track provides a great way to reinforce the understanding of **crescendo** and **diminuendo**. Eighth notes are grouped on strong beats and are well within the reach of even very young players – no finger changes within beats.

**Foot Rumbles** are intended to replicate an approaching coaster as it moves along the track. A wood stage floor will bring this about nicely.

The **spoken announcements** in the introduction should sound like a mic coming on followed by an amusement park worker. This can be a member of the band on stage with a big voice (try cupping hands over mouth), or with an actual off-stage mic.

The “**psssssss**” sound by all the players represents the air-breaks as the coaster comes to an abrupt halt.

The **bass drum** should be tilted flat, dampened, and played with two fairly hard mallets.

**Arrows** (accompanied by “**Whoa**”) indicate that band members should raise their arms above their heads and move them in a synchronized motion. It should look as if they are all experiencing wild turns on a fast-moving rollercoaster. Use your best judgement as to where the instrument should go during this move (lap? hands? floor?).

## Program Notes

Close your eyes and imagine the scene as you prepare to hop aboard for a wild **Rollercoaster Ride**. The car climbs the hill and takes off, propelling you on a fun-filled musical adventure. “Please keep your hands and arms inside the car at all times.”