

## The Wind Through the Heather

Ryan Meeboer

The heather is one of the national flowers of Scotland. This purple flower flourishes in the damp, rainy weather of Scottish moorland, glens and hills.

The piece opens with the instruments imitating the drone of the bagpipes. The main melody, running from measures 2 to 9, is simple yet carries enough motion to be memorable for audiences. Throughout this melody the drone must remain constant so performers need to properly stagger breathe to not leave any gaps. As breaths are taken, be sure the re-entries are smooth, without a definite tongue so it is gentle and not noticed by listeners.

At measure 10, the piece becomes more complex, as all instruments enter and the drone is replaced by changing harmonies. The main melody and its harmony need to balance with each other, with the new countermelody standing out a little more. Likewise, as the piece moves into the bridge at measure 18, the call and response melodic material should be kept well balanced. From measures 18-21, all pitches in the bass line need to be sustained, as performers may feel the need to add a little bounce to the eighth notes.

The bridge ends by building into a recap of the material from measures 10-17. Keep this final section strong until measure 33 when the piece dies off to recreate the opening feel of the piece.

PREVIEW ONLY

Ryan Meeboer is a music educator, who obtained his degree through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. As a composer, he has written and arranged many pieces for concert band, jazz band, and small ensembles. His young band piece, *Last Voyage of the Queen Anne's Revenge*, has been well received by performers, educators, and audiences, and his pieces are starting to be found on festival and contest lists. As a performer, he has had experience in several groups, including concert and stage bands, chamber choir, vocal jazz ensemble, acoustic duets, and the Hamilton based swing group, "The Main Swing Connection".

Ryan began studying music at the age of seven through private guitar lessons. During his years in elementary and secondary school, he gained experience in several families of instruments. Focusing on music education and theory (including composition and orchestration), he attended McMaster University to achieve his honours degree in music. Ryan is currently a teacher for the Halton District School Board in Ontario, where he continues to compose and arrange.

*Please contact the composer if you require any further information about this piece  
or his availability for commissioning new works and appearances.*

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DURATION: 2:10

DIFFICULTY RATING: Easy  
Brass Quintet

# THE WIND THROUGH THE HEATHER

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Reflectively  $\text{♩} = 72$

B $\flat$  Trumpet 1  
B $\flat$  Trumpet 2  
F Horn  
Trombone  
Tuba

mp  
p  
p  
p

8 9 10 11 12 13

mf  
mf  
mf  
mf

PREVIEW ONLY

14 15 16 17 18 19

lead  
mp  
p  
p

20 21 22 23 24

mp

p mp

mp

mp

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 20 through 24. It features five staves. The top staff has a melodic line starting at measure 22 with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The second staff has a similar melodic line starting at measure 21, with dynamics of piano (p) and mezzo-piano (mp). The third and fourth staves provide harmonic support with sustained notes and moving lines, both marked mezzo-piano (mp). The fifth staff is a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment, also marked mezzo-piano (mp).

25 26 27 28 29 30

p mf

p mf

p mf

mf

p mf

Detailed description: This system contains measures 25 through 30. The top two staves feature a melodic line that starts at measure 25 with a piano (p) dynamic and crescendos to mezzo-forte (mf) by measure 26. The third staff has a melodic line starting at measure 27 with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The fourth staff is a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment, marked mezzo-forte (mf). The fifth staff is a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment, marked piano (p) and mezzo-forte (mf).

31 32 33 34 35

rit. Slower ♩ = 60

mp

p

mp

p

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 31 through 35. Measure 33 is marked 'rit.' (ritardando). Measure 34 is marked 'Slower ♩ = 60'. The top staff has a melodic line starting at measure 31 with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The second staff has a melodic line starting at measure 31 with a piano (p) dynamic. The third staff has a melodic line starting at measure 31 with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The fourth staff is a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment, marked piano (p). The fifth staff is a bass line with a steady eighth-note accompaniment, marked piano (p).