**Concert Band** 

Grade 3



# Mystic Portal

# Sean O'Loughlin

## CPS110 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	.1
Flute 1	
Flute 2	
Oboe	.2
Clarinet 1 in Bb	
Clarinet 2 in Bb	
Clarinet 3 in Bb	
Bass Clarinet in Bb	.2
Bassoon	.2
Alto Saxophone 1 in Eb	.2
Alto Saxophone 2 in Eb	.2
Tenor Saxophone in Bb	
Baritone Saxophone in Eb	
Trumpet 1 in Bb	
Trumpet 2 in Bb	
Trumpet 3 in Bb	.4
Horn 1 in F	
Horn 2 in F	.2
Trombone 1	.3
Trombone 2	.3
Euphonium T.C. in Bb	.2
Euphonium B.C	
Tuba	.4
Mallet Percussion	2
Chimes, Bells	
Timpani	
Percussion 1	2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	6
Whip Tambourine Tam-tam	

#### **Program Notes**

From the mysterious opening to the energetic and heroic fast section, *Mystic Portal* is a dramatic journey for the developing concert band. The music is highly influenced by my love for historial-based novels. My intention is to portray all the tension and action in the written word in a musical context.

The low voices begins the piece with a motive in parallel fifths that gives way to the main melody in the horn and alto saxophones. A main rhythmic idea appears at m.12 that will act as glue throughout the piece. The main melody than appears in its full form in the trumpets and horns in m. 18. After some development, the rhythmic idea returns at m. 44 and begins its own development. This all builds to a big arrival point at m. 65. The mysterious opening material returns at m. 87 with some more contrapuntal motion. This gives way to the rhythmic idea at m. 102. Make sure you keep this section as soft as possible to set up the main melody's return at m. 114. The energy stays high right through to the climactic ending.

#### **About the Composer**

Sean O'Loughlin (b.1972) is a fresh voice and a rising name in the music world. His music is characterized by vibrant rhythms, passionate melodies, and colorful scoring. Commissions from the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra highlight and showcase his diverse musical abilities. As a conductor, he has led performances with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Grant Park Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra. He was the conductor and arranger for a recent orchestral tour with the band The Decemberists.

As an arranger and orchestrator, he has worked with such artists as Natalie Merchant, Chris Isaak, Feist, Blue Man Group, Pink Martini, Christian McBride, Belle and Sebastian, Josh Ritter, and others. The Los Angeles Times calls his orchestrations "...colorful" while adding "...even more dimension..." to the compositions. Daily Variety heralds Sean's writing as "most impressive ..." with a "wide range of coloring in the orchestra..." that "...adds heft and rolling energy."

Growing up in Syracuse, NY, Sean displayed a passion for music and showed musical talent at an early age. Sean benefitted from loving parents who supported his musical aspirations and challenged him to explore music as a career. During his undergraduate years at Syracuse University, Sean's musical career began to take shape with the guidance of Larry Clark. As Vice-President at Carl Fischer Music, Larry continues to be a major influence in Sean's professional career as mentor and friend.

An avid supporter of music education, Sean frequently writes for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's youth concert series. Through his growing number of commissions and published works, Sean is excited to continue contributing to the rich history of orchestral and wind band literature. An annual ASCAP Special Awards winner, Sean was a composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, and holds degrees from New England Conservatory and Syracuse University. His music is published exclusively by Carl Fischer. Sean and his wife Dena reside in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit Sean's web-site at www.grayslacks.com.



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