

RWS VERY BEGINNING BAND SERIES

Grade: 1.5

Conductor Score: RWS-2522-01

War Hammer

Jeremy Smith

RWS
Very Beginning Band Series

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

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War Hammer

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INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1	F Horn	4
Flute	10	Trombone	6
Oboe	2	Euphonium B.C.	2
B $\flat$ Clarinet	12	Euphonium T.C.	2
B $\flat$ Bass Clarinet	2	Tuba	4
Bassoon	2	Mallet Percussion: Bells	4
E $\flat$ Alto Saxophone	8	Timpani	1
B $\flat$ Tenor Saxophone	2	Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Bass Drum	3
E $\flat$ Baritone Saxophone	2	Percussion 2: Suspended Cymbal, Hi-Hat, Brake Drum, Tambourine	4
B $\flat$ Trumpet 1	5		
B $\flat$ Trumpet 2	5		

PROGRAM NOTE

War Hammer was originally written for concert band in the winter of 2021. It was workshopped and recorded by Justin White and the University of Alabama Concert Band in the fall of 2023.

The title comes from the nickname of a good friend, Paris Foreman, who was the first to encourage me to explore the world of educational music. Much like Paris, this piece is energetic, determined, and fierce.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Maintain a steady and driving tempo. Use a clear, grounded beat pattern, particularly during syncopated or accented figures. Be mindful of maintaining forward momentum without losing clarity in texture—especially in repeated motifs.

Percussion is integral to the style. Work with the players to balance timbres: Brake Drum and Hi-Hat, in particular, can easily pierce the texture. Pay special attention to percussion timing and ensemble alignment.

This piece is a great opportunity to work on staccato and accented note shapes. For staccato, the air column should be started with the same tongue stroke as a normal legato articulation but stopped at 50% note length—air should not be stopped with the tongue but kept resonant.

Accents should be played with more air concentrated on the left side of the note, striving to make the tongue stroke the same as any other articulation, and the volume of air should taper off as you approach the end of each accented note. Accents in this piece should be played at full length.

I hope you and your ensemble enjoy working on this piece. Please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect!



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Dr. Jeremy Smith is a composer, arranger, educator, and entrepreneur whose work has been widely performed by ensembles such as the International Contemporary Ensemble, the Nashville Composers Collective, the Perimeter Flute Quartet, the Huntsville Youth Orchestra, and the University of Alabama Concert Band. His music has also been featured at festivals like Sound Now and the International Duo Symposium. Beyond the concert stage, he is a sought-after collaborator across genres, working with numerous pageantry groups, including Music City Drum and Bugle Corps, Chattanooga Independent Percussion Ensemble, Bartlett High School, Clarksville Audio Theatre, Music City Winds, and the University of Alabama Million Dollar Band. His musical contributions can also be heard on the Reckon Radio podcast Unjustifiable, which won the National Edward R. Murrow Award for Best Podcast and was narrated by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist John Archibald. He co-owns and operates SouthCoast Music & Design LLC, a company specializing in custom marching band, indoor percussion, and indoor wind shows. His involvement with SouthCoast has led to his designing, arranging, and consulting on over 200 unique productions across over a dozen states. Currently, he serves as the music designer and percussion arranger for the Memphis Blues Drum and Bugle Corps in Memphis, TN. Jeremy resides in Florence, AL, where he is the Executive Director of the Shoals Symphony at UNA. An alumnus of the University of North Alabama, he earned a Bachelor of Science in Instrumental Music with a minor in Philosophy. Additionally, he holds a Master's in Music Theory and Composition from Middle Tennessee State University and a doctorate in Composition from the University of Alabama. He is also an adjunct professor of music at both the University of Alabama and the University of North Alabama.



To Paris Foreman

WAR HAMMER

Conductor Score

RWS-2522-00

Jeremy Smith (ASCAP)

Resolutely ♩ = 132

Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

E♭ Alto Saxophone

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

F Horn

Trombone

Euphonium B.C.

Tuba

Mallet Percussion Bells

Timpani F, B♭

Percussion 1
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

Percussion 2
Suspended Cymbal
Hi-Hat
Brake Drum
Tambourine

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WAR HAMMER

Fl.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

WAR HAMMER

[illegible]

- 6 -

WAR HAMMER

Fl.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

25 26 27 28 29 30

WAR HAMMER

31

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Clar. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

A. Sax *f*

T. Sax *f*

B. Sax *f*

31

Trpt. 1 *f*

Trpt. 2 *f*

F Hn. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Euph. B.C. *f*

Tuba *f*

Mlt. *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1 *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Perc. 2 *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

31 32 33 34 35 36

39

Fl.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

39

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

37

38

39

40

41

42

WAR HAMMER

47

Fl. *f* *p* *f*

Ob. *f* *p* *f*

Clar. *f* *p* *f*

B. Cl. *p* *f* *mf*

Bsn. *p* *f* *mf*

A. Sax *f* *p* *f*

T. Sax *p* *f* *mf*

B. Sax *p* *f* *mf*

47

Trpt. 1 *f* *p* *f*

Trpt. 2 *f* *p* *f*

F Hn. *f* *p* *f*

Tbn. *p* *f*

Euph. B.C. *p* *f*

Tuba *p* *f*

Mlt. *f* *p* *f*

Timp. *f* *p* *f*

Perc. 1 *f* *p* *f*

Perc. 2 *f* *p* *f*

43 44 45 46 47 48 49

55

WAR HAMMER

Fl.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt. 1

Trpt. 2

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2