

FULL CONDUCTOR SCORE Catalog No: 024-5062-01

Balzor's Fire

Ed Huckeby





Rising Band Series (Grade levels 1½ - 2)

The Rising Band Series is carefully designed and written to serve the performance needs of the developing band program. In addition to providing quality performance literature for your concert program, each title in the series provides an appropriate musical setting for the conductor/teacher to reinforce musical concepts and skills that have been addressed in the first two years of instruction. Written at two grade levels (1 1/2 and 2), the Rising Band Series provides a variety of musical works that employ the note and rhythm sequence used in most band method books. The Rising Band Series is a sound fundamental approach leading to a command of the concert band.

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Instrumentation

Full Conductor Score	1
Flute	10
Oboe	2
1st B ^b Clarinet	6
2nd B Clarinet	6
B ^I Bass Clarinet	2
Bassoon	2
E ^I , Alto Saxophone	8
B Tenor Saxophone	2
E , Baritone Saxophone	2
1st B ^J Trumpet	5
2nd B Trumpet	5
F Horn	4
Trombone	6
Baritone B.C.	2
Baritone T.C	2
Tuba	4
Mallet Percussion: Xylophone, Bells	4
Timpani	1
Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Bass Drum	3
Percussion 2: Concert Toms	1
Percussion 3: Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Triangle	
Piano/Keyboard (optional)	1

Program Note

Balzor, the most ferocious of all mythical fire-breathing dragons, wreaks havoc on the entire kingdom, setting barns, fields, and even houses ablaze with his fiery breath. His anger was caused by an evil spell cast on his entire family by the wicked witch from a far-away kingdom. Because of his intense anger and fire-breathing talents, none of the king's knights could win a battle with Balzor...until, by a stroke of fate, Balzor's family is saved from the spell by the king's most faithful knight, Kreston. Balzor and Kreston become close friends and proceed to work together, doing noble deeds in the kingdom for the rest of time.

Rehearsal Suggestions

Balzor's theme is introduced in the first four measures, which should be played in a fiery and aggressive manner. Balzor wreaks havoc on the entire kingdom beginning in measure 5, so a dark, dramatic mood of destruction should be conveyed. Because of Balzor's intense anger and fire-breathing talents, none of the king's knights could win a battle with him...until, by a stroke of fate (beginning in m. 21), Balzor's family is saved from the spell by the king's most faithful knight, Kreston. This section should convey a change from darkness to light. Balzor and Kreston become close friends and allies (m. 31) and proceed to work together, doing noble deeds in the kingdom. Focus especially on contrast throughout, conveying the story of Balzor through interpretive dynamics and dramatic style.

I hope you enjoy rehearsing and performing Balzor's Fire.



About the Composer



Ed Huckeby is an arts consultant and freelance composer, arranger, conductor and clinician. His career has included roles in higher education and arts administration, most recently serving as President of Southwestern Christian University in Bethany, Oklahoma, until his retirement in 2014. Prior to his appointment at SCU, he was Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Music at Northeastern State University-Broken Arrow (OK). Huckeby also served as an arts administrator for

Tulsa Ballet Theatre, Inc., and holds the title of Emeritus Professor of Music at Northwestern Oklahoma State University where he served for over two decades as Music Department Chairman and Dean of the Graduate School. He spent eight years teaching instrumental music in the public schools of Oklahoma, where his marching, concert and jazz bands won state and regional acclaim. His success in the public schools led him into the college teaching ranks where he became internationally recognized as an outstanding music educator and composer of almost 200 published works for concert and marching band. Ed's ability to write interesting and accessible instrumental music can be attributed to his experience at a variety of musical levels.

Huckeby's performance background and experience is very eclectic, having been a member of a symphony orchestra (horn), a jazz band (trumpet), and a contemporary Christian quintet (bass guitar, keyboards and vocals), as well as having served regularly as a church organist and pianist. His outstanding contributions to the concert and marching band literature have played an important role in the development of the contemporary band repertoire.

Ed holds a bachelor's degree in music education from East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, a master's degree in music education from the University of Oklahoma, and a doctorate in administration from Oklahoma State University with additional study at the University of North Texas. He has written music education articles for The Instrumentalist, The American Music Teacher, and The Journal of the International Horn Society, and has held memberships in Music Educators National Conference, Oklahoma Music Educators Association, Oklahoma Bandmasters Association, ASCAP, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Phi Beta Mu, where he served as a member of the national board of directors and state chapter president. Huckeby was selected as an "Outstanding Young Man in America," is listed in the "International Who's Who in Music," and was inducted into the Oklahoma Bandmasters Association "Hall of Fame" in 1996. He has created over 50 commissioned works and has served as a clinician, adjudicator and conductor for instrumental ensembles around the world, including Japan, Australia, Canada and across the United States.



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