Beginning Band



Grade 1

Wolverine Trail

(March)

Matthew R. Putnam

BPS118 INSTRUMENTATION

| Full Score | . 1 |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Flute | . 8 |
| Oboe (Opt. Flute 2) | . 2 |
| Clarinet in Bb | . 8 |
| Bass Clarinet in Bb | |
| Alto Saxophone in Eb | . 5 |
| Tenor Saxophone in B | |
| Baritone Saxophone in Eb | . 2 |
| Trumpet in Bb | |
| Horn in F | . 3 |
| Trombone, Euphonium, Bassoon | . 6 |
| Euphonium T.C. in Bb | . 2 |
| Tuba | . 3 |
| Mallet Percussion |] |
| Bells | 4 |
| Timpani | |
| Percussion 1 | . 3 |
| Snare Drum, Wood Block, Bass Drum | 2 |
| Percussion 2 | . s |
| | |



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BPS118 - Set BPS118F - Full Score BPS118P - Parts



About the Composition

When writing this piece, I was thinking of my beginning band students at Polk County Middle School. Our school is located at the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains and is surrounded by dense pine forests. The mascot of our school is rather fittingly the wolverine; hence, our school is located on the street named "Wolverine Trail." Learning to be a musician is not an easy trial, as it requires hard work, dedication, and endurance. However, the trail to becoming a musician is full of rewarding and breathtaking experiences. As I wrote this piece, I was inspired by the rugged beauty of our school's location and also how I am helping my beginner students to start on the trail to becoming mature musicians.

Wolverine Trail is a concert march for beginning bands and is rather helpful in introducing beginners to the march form and style. This piece is based in the key of El major and uses only the first seven notes taught in most method books. It is also rhythmically accessible to beginners, as simple eighth-note combinations are the most difficult rhythms in this march. The piece follows standard march form except that is does not modulate at the trio section which begins at m. 57. It is my hope that this piece will help you and your beginners start your own musical trailblazing.

About the Composer

Matthew Putnam is a North Carolina native who is a band and choral director, composer, arranger, and educator. He received his B.A. in Music Education from Limestone College in Gaffney, South Carolina. For twenty six years he has taught music in the North Carolina public school system. He also holds professional membership in both ASCAP and NAfME. Currently, he not only is the director of bands at Polk County Middle School in Mill Spring, North Carolina, but also, he is the director of music at Bethany Baptist Church in Forest City, North Carolina. Over the course of his career, he has written hundreds of custom arrangements and compositions for middle school, high school, and college bands across the country. He is deeply devoted to music, his students, his community, and his family.

























