Concert Band



Grade 3.5

To the Rubicon

George Sweet

CPS176 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	. 1
Flute	. 8
Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)	
Clarinet 1 in Rh	1
Clarinet 2 in B	. 4
Clarinet 3 in Bb	. 4
Bass Clarinet in Bb	. 2
Bassoon	. 2
Alto Saxophone 1 in Eb	. 2
Alto Saxophone 2 in Eb	
Tenor Saxophone in Bb	. 2
Baritone Saxophone in Eb	. 2
Trumpet 1 in B_{\flat}	. 4
Trumpet 2 in B_1, \ldots, A_n	. 4
Trumpet 3 in B_1, \ldots, A_n	
Horn in F	. 4
Trombone 1	. 3
Trombone 2	. 3
Euphonium	
Euphonium T.C. in Bb	
Tuba	. 4
Mallet Percussion 1	J ₂
Glockenspiel	3
Mallet Percussion 2	. 1
Xylophone Mallet Percussion 3	,
Marimba	. I
Timpani	1
Percussion 1	
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	_
Percussion 2	. 3
Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Gong	
Percussion 3	. 2
Triangle, Woodblocks	

About the Composition

A rubicon is a point or action that, when crossed or taken, cannot be undone or reversed. *To the Rubicon* represents a headlong rush towards just such a "point of no return." While a particular storyline is not provided, the performers and listeners are both encouraged to think of a rapid journey, full of excitement, anticipation, reflection, and doubt, eventually crossing the rubicon leading to the climactic and unknown result.

The piece opens with a rapid gesture in the upper woodwinds and mallets, followed by a statement of the main theme in the alto saxophone with echoes in the brass. The pitches E, D, and A represent the idea of the rubicon, and almost all harmonic and melodic material is drawn from the manipulation of these three pitches. Be careful to set a firm tempo at the beginning of the piece as it continues unchanging towards the eventual rubicon or finale. The A-theme material is then subjected to melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic variation. Much of the accompaniment and melodic variation is mechanical in nature, and care must be taken to balance all of the "working" parts evenly throughout the piece.

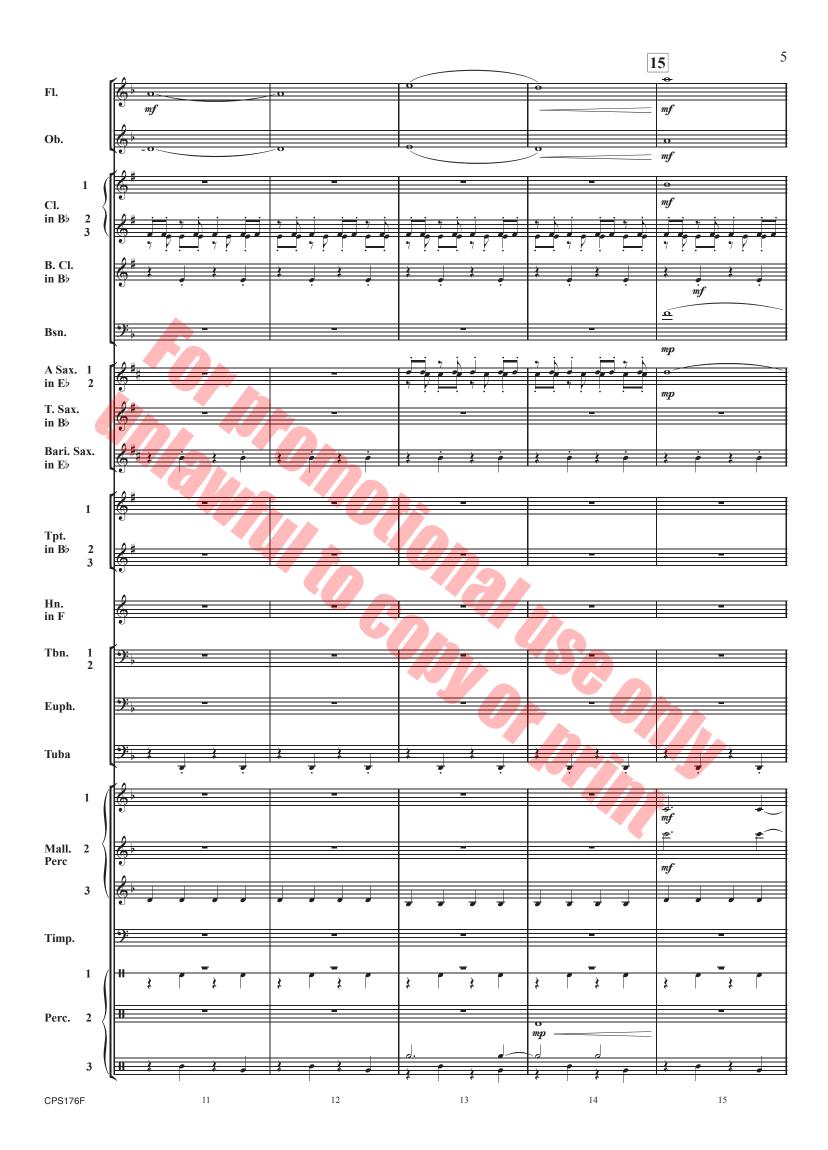
After two interjections of a quick, but aggressive B-section at mm. 58 and 82, a reflective C-section follows at m. 90. While this section is different in tone and mood, the tempo and rhythmic propulsion are unchanged. This section concludes in a dramatic, augmented statement of material from the B-section. The piece winds back up at m. 130, making a final varied statement of the A-material, and then abruptly reaches the "rubicon" at m. 158. This results in an aggressive, ambiguous, and abrupt ending, as we do not know what has happened after the rubicon has been passed.

About the Composer

George Sweet was born in York County, South Carolina, in 1979. He received a Master's Degrees in Composition and Instrumental Conducting from Northern Arizona University, and a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Mars Hill College in North Carolina. As a student, George was the winner of the 2004-2005 Music Teachers National Association Young Artist Composition Competition, sponsored by Warner Bros. Publications, for both the state of Arizona and all of the Southwest Region. His compositions have been performed extensively throughout the United States and worldwide. George's music has been heard at various Honor and Regional Band and Orchestra Festivals, Disney's Magic Music Days, Bands of America, the College Band Directors National Association Southwest Conference, and the Concurso de Musica Festival at the Nueva Acropolis in Peru. His various commissions include those from professional performers, public schools, university ensembles, and also a video game under a grant from the Hewlett Foundation. George has taught theory, band, chorus, and orchestra at both public school and university levels. He is a member of ASCAP, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, MENC, and is an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi. George's music is published exclusively by Carl Fischer Publications of New York. For more information about the music of George Sweet please visit: georgesweet.net.













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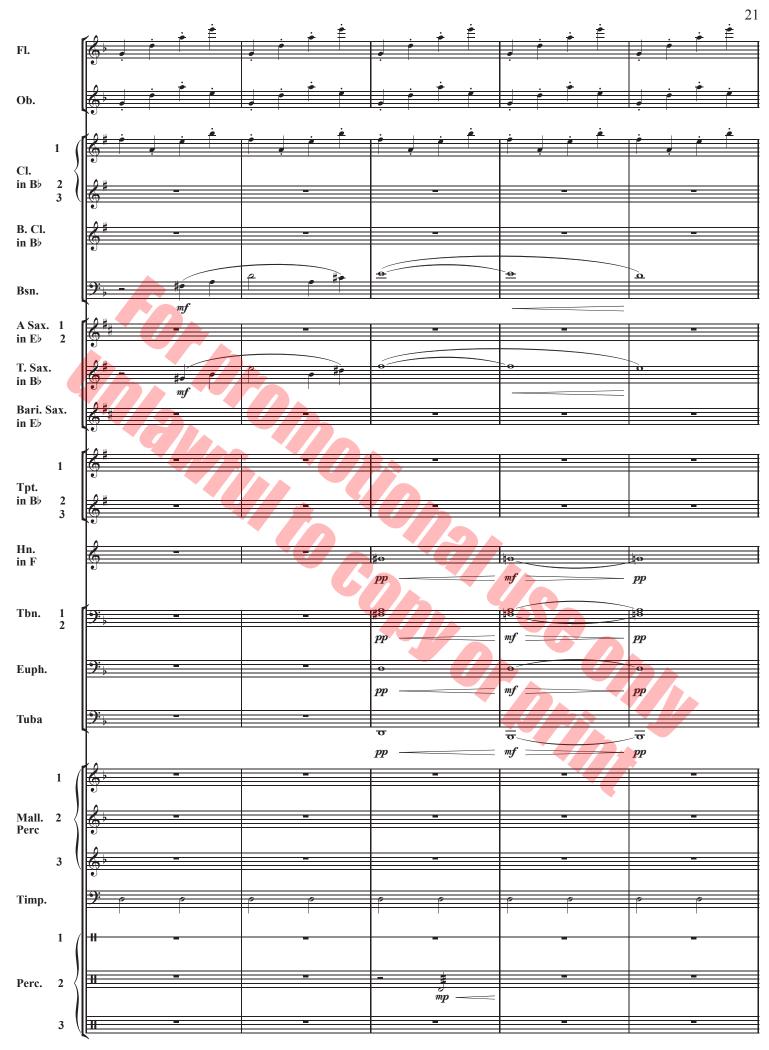




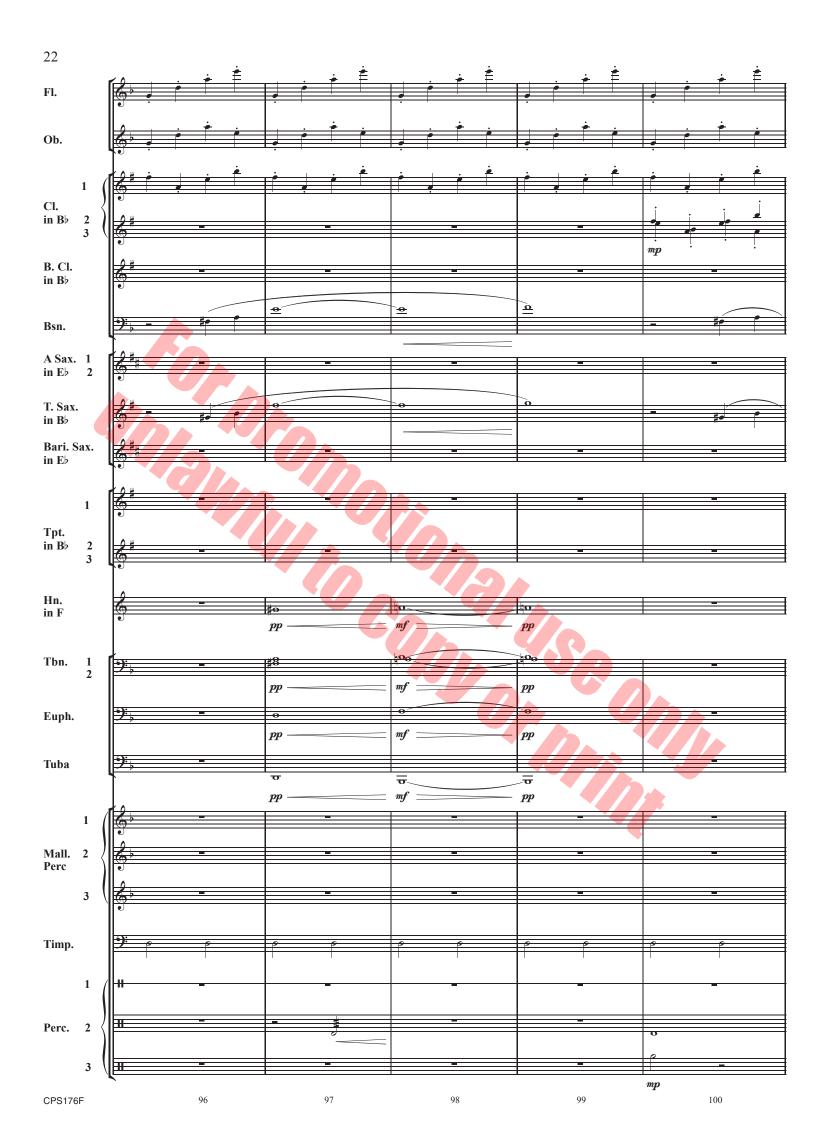




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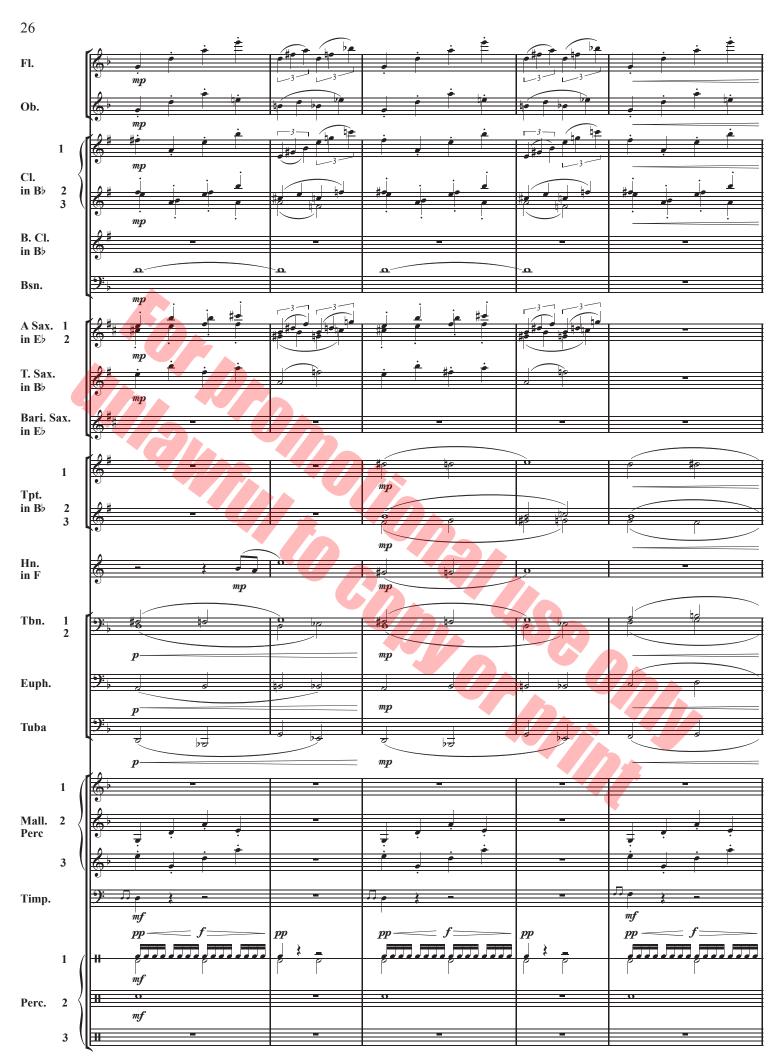


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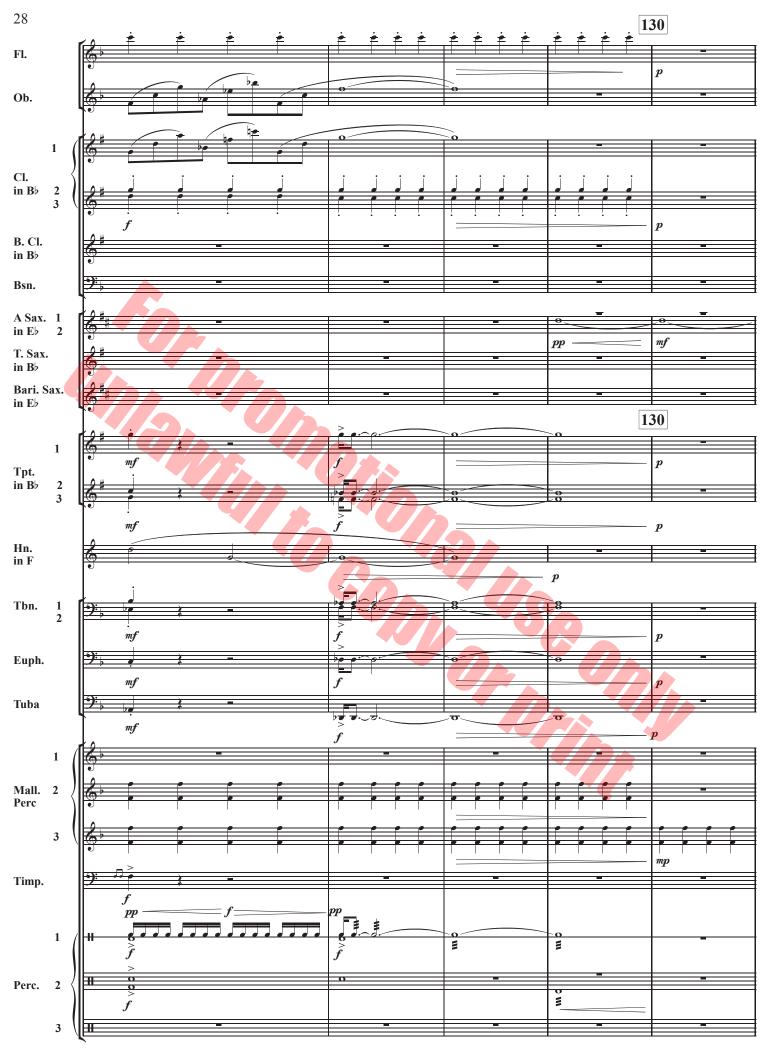


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CPS176F





CPS176F 131 132 133 134 135













CPS176F 157 158 159 160 161





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CPS176 — Set CPS176F — Full Score CPS176P — Parts

