

Brian Slawson

Tale of the Dragon

for percussion ensemble



Tale of the Dragon. by Brian Slawson
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Performance Notes

Tale of the Dragon was designed to address musical elements often overlooked in selections commonly performed by young musicians. Designed for large ensembles with no member limits, it is an inclusive piece intended for many uses.

First, if need be and instrument inventory allows, parts may be doubled without compromising the integrity of the composition. Once students have a firm technical grasp of the piece, they may enjoy rotating in order to gain a deeper understanding of how pitched and non-pitched instruments work cooperatively.

There are two elements contained herein that, if handled properly, are bound to help students develop valuable skills. One is tempo. In this case, the tempo is quite slow which always provides for unique challenges in performance, particularly for the young. This is an excellent opportunity to emphasize the importance of subdividing while not rushing (particularly as their volume increases). Students who are playing sparse parts should be encouraged to listen to the busier patterns played by their peers and always balance to the melody.

Next, a musician's best friend is dynamics, applied here in the gradual sense. Students should be aware that they are telling a musical story of an amazing dragon that, at first, is barely heard in the distance. The statement of the melody represents the approaching dragon, now visible. By virtue of a slow, steady crescendo, the piece eventually builds to a massive climax, one truly worthy of a mythical, larger than life creature, inspiring the imagination!

- Brian Slawson

Instrument list

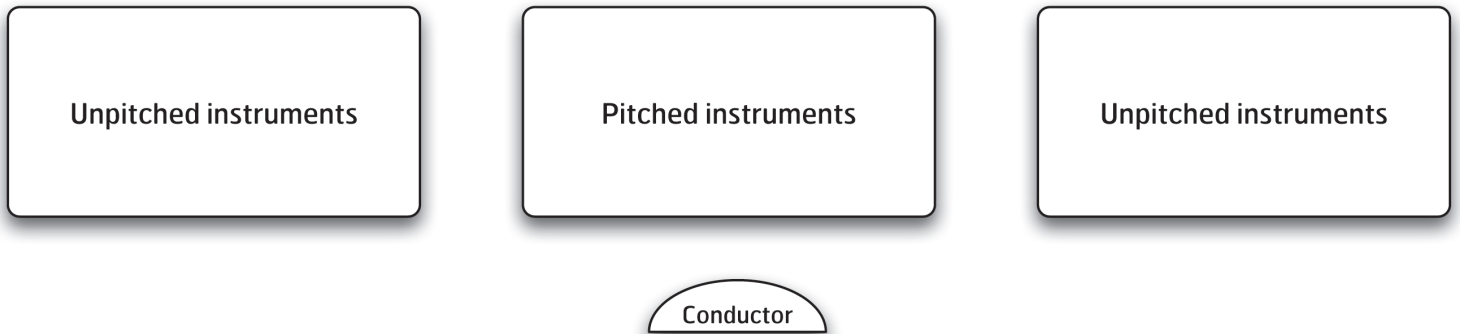
Tale of the Dragon is written to be performed by a large elementary ensemble using the following instrumentation.

- Triangle
- Zils (optional)
- Claves
- Maracas
- Vibra slap
- Temple blocks
- Tom-tom
- Gong
- Bass drum
- Glockenspiel
- Soprano Xylophone
- Alto Xylophone
- Five Bass Bars (low to high = B, D, E, F, G)

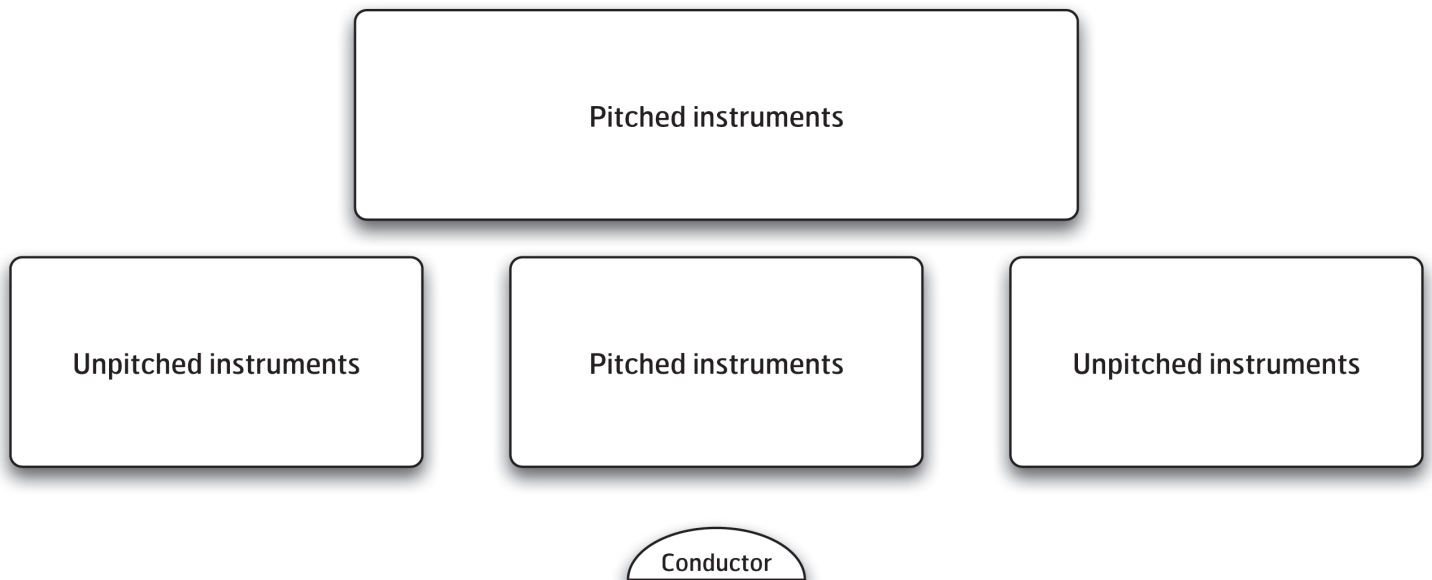
*NOTE: Pitched instrument parts are written to be played on whichever instruments are available, regardless of written octave placements. Distribute pitched parts between available glockenspiels, xylophones, metallophones, and bass bars.

Suggested Setups

Setup A:



Alternate setup: (for larger ensembles to double melodics)



About Brian Slawson

Since his scholarship studies at The Juilliard School, **Brian Slawson** has continued to pioneer innovative paths in percussion. Grammy-nominated as 'Best New Classical Artist,' Brian has appeared on NBC's Tonight Show, Entertainment Tonight, The CBS Morning News and NPR's "All Things Considered." Mr. Slawson has an extensive discography, including solo releases on the Sony/CBS and Belltone labels. His smash debut, *Bach On Wood* hit Billboard's Top 10 and remains one of the world's premier vehicles for exposing new audiences to classical music.

Brian has shared the stage with classical luminaries Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland, recorded with pop icons from Stevie Ray Vaughan to Marie Osmond and punctuated jokes for comedians Bill Maher, Eddie Murphy, and Jerry Seinfeld. He is the voice of "Gusto the Bulldog" in Warner Bros. *Music Expressions* and a featured artist in McGraw-Hill's *Spotlight on Music*. In addition to serving as Principal Timpanist of the Brevard Symphony Orchestra, Brian's multi-media company, Slawsongs, has created award-winning custom music for feature films, television and radio.

Mr. Slawson proudly endorses Ludwig-Musser, Zildjian, Vic Firth, Remo, Grover Pro Percussion, Rhythm Tech, Alternate Mode and Sibelius. His teachers have included Saul Goodman, Buster Bailey, Alexander Lepak, David Smith and Drew Grouse.

Legendary vibraphonist, Lionel Hampton, described Brian Slawson as "one of the finest percussionists to come along in many years." *Modern Drummer* magazine calls Brian "a visionary, be it performer, producer or composer."

Level: Easy
Duration: 2'00"

Tale of the Dragon

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Maestoso ♩ = 62

Triangle & Zils

Claves

Maracas

Vibra Slap

Temple Blocks

Tom-tom

Gong

Bass Drum

Sample Image

The musical score is written for a percussion ensemble. It begins with a tempo marking of 'Maestoso' and a metronome setting of 62 beats per minute. The time signature is 4/4. The instruments are listed on the left: Triangle & Zils, Claves, Maracas, Vibra Slap, Temple Blocks, Tom-tom, Gong, Bass Drum, and Xylophone. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, and dynamic markings (mf, mp, p). A large, stylized dragon illustration is overlaid on the bottom left of the page.

8 **A**

Tr

Cl *mp*

Mrcs.

VS

TB *mf*

Tom

Gn

BD

G *mf*

SX

AX

BB

Sample Image

TSPCE-29

20

Tr

Cl

Mrcs.

VS

TB

Tom

Gn

BD

G

SX

AX

BB

Sample Image

24

C

Tr

Cl

Mrcs.

VS

TB

Tom

Gn

BD

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

Sample
Image



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