

Aggressivo!

By Randall D. Standridge

Aggressivo! is a piece intended for young band that explores aggressive rhythmic patterns and musical expression. The piece begins with a two measure rhythmic motif that serves as the main idea for the entire composition. This motif is heard in melodic, accompaniment, ostinato, and fragmented forms throughout this composition. The band director should challenge students to identify this main theme every time it occurs, and discuss how it is used. The secondary idea occurs later in the piece at measure measure 39. This melodic element is a very rhythmic, chromatic theme that creates a shocking dissonance. Encourage players to embrace the dissonance and allow the notes to "grind" against each other. The piece culminates with both main ideas battling against one another at measure 78, before uniting in the main idea at the end.

Attention to style will play an important part in a successful performance. Accents should be performed in a "detached" manner, but not overly short, as this will result in a lack of tone. Dynamics should be exaggerated, especially whenever there is a piano to forte crescendo. The director may find it helpful and beneficial to use the chromatic sections (examples m.39-40) to teach and/or practice alternate fingerings in the woodwinds, wherever they may occur. You should make effort to perform this piece at the marked tempo (144 b.p.m.).



Randall Standridge was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended college at Arkansas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education. During this time, he also studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor. Randall Standridge is currently the Director of Bands at Harrisburg Public Schools in northeast Arkansas, where he is in charge of band instruction for grades 6-12. He is also the director of United Vision Winterguard in Jonesboro, AR. He lives in Jonesboro, AR, and is in demand in the northeast Arkansas area as a composer, arranger, clinician, and designer.