

# Battlesong

By Randall Standridge

## Program Notes

**Battlesong** was written to provide a rhythmic and motivic challenge for developing musicians. The main musical idea being presented is that of motivic repetition and development. Beginning in measure 7, the motive of three ascending quarter notes is introduced in the trumpets. This is developed and joined by the saxophones, who enter with the motive on a different pitch level. The secondary motive, found in measure one, is the quick three note pattern of two eighths followed by a quarter. Again, this idea is developed and expanded throughout the piece. Draw your student's attention to the repetitions and explain how the piece develops using these two rhythmic ideas.

From a technical standpoint, the piece should be approachable by most junior high bands. The ranges are well within the range of most 2<sup>nd</sup> and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> year musicians. The clarinets never cross the break. Extensive study of the D minor and F major scales should accompany this piece. When preparing this piece practice these scales daily. This will aid in a successful preparation of this piece. Dynamic contrast should be very dramatic and obvious. Balancing the percussion section with the winds is critical for the appropriate sound.

From an artistic standpoint, the character of the piece should be militaristic and aggressive. Students should envision a large army, readying itself for battle. This is their call to war! Careful, safe performances of this piece are not encouraged at all. Attack!



**Randall Standridge** was born in Little Rock, Arkansas. He attended college at Arkansas State University, where he received a Bachelor of Music Education Degree. 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 as a composer, arranger, clinician, and designer all over the Mid-South.