

# Breaking Point

By Michael Conti

## Program Notes:

*Breaking Point* was commissioned by the O.E. Dunckel Middle School Band, Farmington Hills, MI under the direction of Armand Hall in the spring of 2005. The piece was inspired by a desire to bring elements of popular music, including rock n' roll, into the concert band genre. These include recurring patterns; called ostinatos, form the foundation of the piece. The slow middle section provides a contrasting second melody to be performed by the low brass instruments. The "Breaking Point" occurs at measure 96 with a dramatic shift of tempo and material from the middle section.



**Michael Conti** recently completed a Doctorate of Musical Arts in Composition degree at Michigan State University. He has composed numerous pieces for the flute, saxophone, piano, voice, and chorus. In March 2002, his composition *Choric Song* won the Raymond W. Brock Memorial Student Composition Contest and was premiered at American Choral Directors Association Central Division Convention. He is the 2003 Steiner Chorale Original Composition Contest winner for *Have you got a brook*, for mixed chorus with piano accompaniment. *Duet for Flute and Alto Saxophone* was premiered at the World Saxophone Congress XIII in July 2003. His composition, *Songs of Valediction*, was chosen as Honorable Mention in the National Federation of Music Clubs 2003 Beyer Composition Competition in May 2003. *Three Rossetti Songs*, for mixed chorus and piano, won the Michigan State University 2004 Honors Composition Competition. *Duet for Flute and Saxophone* and *Three Short Works for Clarinet* have been published by Dorn Publications, Inc. *Choric Song* is published by Alliance Music Publications, Inc.

