

Score

GWYNETH WALKER

Ready to Swing!

for Concert Band



Ready to Swing!

duration 3:30

Commissioned by the New Canaan, CT Public Schools
for the Saxe 6th Grade Band, Janet Rosen, Director

Program Notes

Ready to Swing! is the culmination of a yearlong collaboration between the Saxe Middle School 6th Grade Band and local (New Canaan, CT) composer, Dr. Gwyneth Walker (herself a member of the Saxe Band in 1960!). Mrs. Rosen wanted her students to meet and collaborate with a living composer and learn how composers get ideas and inspiration for their works. The students also wanted to contribute some of their own ideas for a piece that would be fun and exciting for them to play.

In preparation for composing this new work, Dr. Walker visited with the band, attending several of their concerts, and spending time in the classroom as well. This interaction allowed the composer to get a sense of the skills of the players (they are good!) and their favorite sorts of music (they like something to *happen* in the piece!).

The audience will notice three special performance skills of this band: 1. there are many percussionists (who play with enthusiasm!), 2. the instrumentalists do not mind adding *choreography* to their playing, and 3. the conductor is not shy about verbally encouraging the audience or players. So – get **Ready to Swing!**

Instrumentation

Piccolo

Flutes 1 and 2

Oboe

B \flat Clarinets 1 and 2

B \flat Bass Clarinet

E \flat Alto Saxophones 1 and 2

B \flat Tenor Saxophone

B \flat Trumpets 1 and 2

Trombone

Baritone

Mallet Percussion: Glockenspiel

Percussion 1: Tambourine, Bongo, Ratchet

Percussion 2: Maracas, Temple Blocks, Sandpaper Blocks, Triangle

Percussion 3: Conga, Low Tom-Tom, Bass Drum

Drumset



Gwyneth Walker

Widely performed throughout the country, the music of American composer **Gwyneth Walker** is beloved by performers and audiences alike for its energy, beauty, reverence, drama, and humor. Dr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947) is a graduate of Brown University and the Hartt School of Music. She holds B.A., M.M. and D.M.A. degrees in Music Composition. A former faculty member of the Oberlin College Conservatory, she resigned from academic employment in 1982 in order to pursue a career as a full-time composer. For nearly 30 years, she lived on a dairy farm in Braintree, Vermont before returning to live in her childhood hometown of New Canaan, Connecticut.

Janet Rosen

Janet Rosen has been a music educator in CT for over 36 years. For the last 19 years she has been a band director at Saxe Middle School in New Canaan. During that time she established a district wide Student Recital Series at the New Canaan Inn and a yearly Holiday Concert at the New Canaan Library.

As an oboist, Janet is a member of the Norwalk, Greater Bridgeport and Waterbury Symphonies, and is a founding member of Harmonia V Wind Quintet, an ensemble dedicated to performing music by living composers and music of the 21st century. She resides in Milford, CT with her trombonist husband, George Sanders.



Ready to Swing!

Introduction

1. The conductor speaks to the band (loudly so that the audience can hear),
“Are you ready to swing?!”

One percussion plays a short, improvised, jazz-style “riff” in a swing rhythm, on any instrument.

The conductor and band punch their fists in the air, shouting, *“YES!”* || break

2. The conductor again speaks to the band, *“Are you REALLY ready to swing?!”*

Another percussion plays a different, improvised, jazzy “riff,” on another instrument

The conductor and band punch their fists in the air, shouting, *“YES! YES!”* || break

3. The conductor turns and points to the audience, asking, *“Are YOU ready to swing?!”*

Another percussion plays a different, improvised, jazzy “riff,” on yet another instrument

The conductor cues both the audience and band to shout, *“YES! YES! YES!”*

The conductor to everyone, *“Well then, Let’s do it!”*

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Ready to Swing!

for Concert Band

Gwyneth Walker

Leisurely tempo ♩ = 120

swing rhythm (♩ = ♩³ ♩)

Piccolo

Flute 1

Flute 2
Oboe

B♭ Clarinets 1
2

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto
Saxophones 1
2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

Leisurely tempo ♩ = 120
swing rhythm (♩ = ♩³ ♩)

B♭ Trumpets 1
2

Trombone
Baritone

Mallet Percussion
(Glockenspiel)

Percussion 1
(Tambourine,
Bongo, Ratchet)

Percussion 2
(Maracas, Temple
Blocks, Sandpaper
Blocks, Triangle)

Percussion 3
(Conga,
Low Tom-Tom,
Bass Drum)

Drum Set

Snare Drum

Suspended Cymbal

f

5

28 29

Picc. 

Fl. 1 

Fl. 2
Ob. 

Cls. 1
2 

B. Cl. 

A. Saxs. 1
2 

T. Sax. 

29

Tpts. 1
2 

Tbn.
Bar. 

unis.

Mlt. Perc. 

Perc. 1 

(Bongo)

Perc. 2 

(Tri.)

Perc. 3 

(Tom-Tom)

D. S. 

Everyone sway! (once per measure)

33 **L** **R** **L** **R**

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2
Ob.

Cls. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxes. 1
2 *very short and crisp*
p

T. Sax.

33 *very short and crisp*
p

Tbn.
Bar. *very short and crisp*
p

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S. *Susp. Cym. (or make up your own pattern)*

Stop swaying

37 **L** **R** **L** **R**

very short and crisp

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2
Ob.

Cls. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxs. 1
2

T. Sax.

37

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.
Bar.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3





























D. S.

S. D. (or make up your own, similar to cymbal)

Stand up and face the audience

41 Big band style!

[Players stand while performing and sit when finished.
(opt. swaying choreography)

Picc.    
 Fl. 1    
 Fl. 2
 Ob.    
 Cls. 1
 2    
 B. Cl.    
 A. Saxs. 1
 2    
 T. Sax.    

Stand up and face the audience

41 Big band style!

Bells up, sway from side to side *(harmony is opt.)*

Tpts. 1
 2    
 Tbn.
 Bar.    
 Mlt. Perc.    
 Perc. 1    
 Perc. 2    
 Perc. 3    
 D. S.    

L R L R L R L R a2 sit down
 Temple Blocks
 f

45

Picc. Fl. 1 Fl. 2 Ob.

Raise bell of Clarinet from low to high with slide.

Clars. 1 2

a2 port. *p* *f* a2 port. *p* *f* a2 port. *p* *f* a2 port. *p* *f* sit down

B. Cl.

A. Saxs. 1 2

T. Sax.

Stand up and face the audience

45

Tpts. 1 2

unis. (match Clarinet dynamics)

Tbn. Bar.

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Mlt. Perc.

Tamb. move hands low to high (w/ Cl. gliss.) (match Clarinet dynamics)

Perc. 1

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S.

58

Stand up and face the audience

61

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2
Ob.

Cls. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxs. 1
2

T. Sax.

61

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.
Bar.

Mlt. Perc. (Glock.)

Perc. 1 (Sticks)

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S.

The image shows a page of a musical score for a concert band. The page is numbered 14 in the top left corner. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts at measure 58 and ends at measure 60. The second system starts at measure 61 and ends at measure 65. The first system includes staves for Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2/Oboe, Clarinets 1 and 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophones 1 and 2, and Tenor Saxophone. The second system includes staves for Trumpets 1 and 2, Trombone/Euphonium/Baritone, Mallet Percussion (Glockenspiel), Percussion 1 (Sticks), Percussion 2, Percussion 3, and Drums. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (f), and articulations (accents, slurs). The instruction "Stand up and face the audience" is written above the Piccolo staff at measure 61. The measure numbers 58, 61, and 61 are enclosed in boxes.

68 69 sit down

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1 *f* sit down

Fl. 2
Ob. *f* sit down

Cls. 1 *f* a2
2 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Saxs. 1 *f* a2
2 *f*

T. Sax. *f*

69 a2

Tpts. 1 *f*
2 *f*

Tbn. *f* unis.

Bar. *f*

Mlt. Perc. (Glock.)

Perc. 1 Ratchet *f*

Perc. 2 Sandpaper Blocks *f*

Perc. 3 (Conga)

D. S.

Band shouts all together,
pumping fist in air and
holding until conductor
signals to lower it.

79 *Percussion cadenza**

78

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2
Ob.

Cls. 1
2

B. Cl.

A. Saxs. 1
2

T. Sax.

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

79 *Percussion cadenza**

Tpts. 1
2

Tbn.
Bar.

YES!

YES!

YES!

* Each player plays a "jazz riff" ad lib. on their favorite instrument, starting with one player, and adding on the others, one-by-one, to create much chaos, noise and celebration! Conductor may encourage the audience and the rest of the band to join in clapping on the off-beats.

Mlt. Perc.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

D. S.

cut-off

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!

YES!