

RWS BEGINNING BAND SERIES

Grade: 1

Conductor Score: RWS-2513-01

Iron Sharpens Iron

Mark Lortz

RWS

Beginning Band Series

RWS MUSIC
COMPANY

Iron Sharpens Iron

Mark Lortz

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1	Trombone.....	6
Flute.....	10	Euphonium B.C.....	2
Oboe.....	2	Euphonium T.C.....	2
B♭ Clarinet.....	12	Tuba.....	4
B♭ Bass Clarinet.....	2	Mallet Percussion 1: Bells.....	2
Bassoon.....	2	Mallet Percussion 2: Xylophone.....	2
E♭ Alto Saxophone.....	8	Timpani.....	1
B♭ Tenor Saxophone.....	2	Percussion 1: Cymbal Bell, Snare Drum, Bass Drum.....	3
E♭ Baritone Saxophone.....	2	Percussion 2: Suspended Cymbal, Mark Tree, Sleigh Bells, Crash Cymbals.....	2
B♭ Trumpet.....	10	Percussion 3: Triangle, Brake Drum.....	2
F Horn.....	4		

PROGRAM NOTE

After frequently hearing this phrase in reference to sports, the composer was inspired to write a piece entitled *Iron Sharpens Iron*. Often referenced in sports, this aphorism emphasizes how competition, teamwork, and perseverance drive growth. This piece embodies a spirit of resilience and progress and pushing each other to be better. Driving percussion and bold brass fanfares create intensity while soaring woodwinds evoke aspiration. Moments of tension and resolution mirror the struggles and triumphs of development, reinforcing that true strength, *Iron Sharpens Iron*, is a musical tribute to the power of challenge, unity, and collective growth.

NOTES TO CONDUCTOR

Directors should focus on articulations, dynamics, and percussion to capture the piece's intensity. Strong accents, marcato passages, and dynamic contrasts are essential, particularly in the brass and low winds.

Metallic percussion (such as Brake Drum) should be balanced to support the theme without overwhelming the ensemble.

Ensuring clear woodwind lines amid powerful brass and percussion will help maintain balance and highlight moments of tension and release, bringing out the piece's full energy and thematic spirit.

I hope you and your ensemble enjoy working on this piece. Please visit my composer page at rwsmusic.com to connect!

Mark Lortz

ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Mark Lortz is the Director of Music at Stevenson University. He holds a Ph.D. in Music Education from Temple University and degrees in percussion performance, music education, and music composition from The Peabody Institute of the Johns Hopkins University. His original compositions and arrangements have been performed internationally and are recognized by ASCAP. In addition to composing, Mark is a concert band editor for RWS Music, the brass arranger for the Reading Buccaneers Drum and Bugle Corps, collaborates with military ensembles and the Baltimore Ravens Marching Band, and has toured with The Dallas Brass and the Phantom of the Opera musical. He also adjudicates, lectures, and conducts honor bands, orchestras, and community ensembles throughout the mid-Atlantic region.



IRON SHARPENS IRON

Conductor Score

Mark Lortz (ASCAP)

RWS-2513-00

Aggressively $\text{♩} = 144-152$

Flute *f*

Oboe *f*

B♭ Clarinet *f*

B♭ Bass Clarinet *f*

Bassoon *f*

E♭ Alto Saxophone *f*

B♭ Tenor Saxophone *f*

E♭ Baritone Saxophone *f*

B♭ Trumpet *f*

F Horn *f*

Trombone *f*

Euphonium B.C. *f*

Tuba *f*

Mallet Percussion 1
Bells *f* Hard Plastic Mallets

Mallet Percussion 2
Xylophone *f* Hard Plastic Mallets

Timpani
C, G *f* Hard Felt Mallets

Percussion 1
Cymbal Bell
Snare Drum
Bass Drum *f* S.D. > B.D.

Percussion 2
Suspended Cymbal
Mark Tree
Sleigh Bells
Crash Cymbals *f* Cr. Cym.

Percussion 3
Triangle
Brake Drum *f* Brake Drum with hard mallets

1 2 3 4 5 6

10

18

FL. *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

Ob. *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

Clar. *mp*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax *mp*

T. Sax *mp*

B. Sax *mp*

Trpt. *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

F Hn. *mp*

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt. 1 *p* *mf* *mp*

Mlt. 2 *p* *mf* *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Perc. 1 *p* *mf* *mp*

Perc. 2 *mp*
Triangle

Perc. 3

13 14 *mp* 15 16 17 18

FL. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax *mp*

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt. *p* *mf* *Optional Straight Mute*

F. Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt. 1 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

Mlt. 2 *p* *mf* *mp*

Timp.

Perc. 1 *p* *mf* *mp*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

19 20 21 22 23 24

26

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Clar. *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

A. Sax *mf*

T. Sax *mf*

B. Sax *mf*

26

Trpt. *mf* Open

F Hn. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Euph. B.C. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Mlt. 1 *mf*

Mlt. 2 *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Perc. 3 *mf*

Sus. Cym. *p* *mf*

25 26 *mf* 27 28 29 30 *mf*

- 8 -

FL.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

37

38

39

40

41

42

Sus. Cym.

p

f

p

f

43

FL. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Clar. *mp*

B. Cl. *p* *mp*

Bsn. *p* *mp*

A. Sax *p* *mp*

T. Sax *p* *mp*

B. Sax *p* *mp*

43

Trpt. *mp*

F Hn. *p* *mp*

Tbn. *p* *mp*

Euph. B.C. *p* *mp*

Tuba *p* *mp*

Mlt. 1 *mp*

Mlt. 2 *mp*

Timp. *p* *mp*

Perc. 1 *p* *mp* S.D.
Cymbal Bell w/ Drum Stick

Perc. 2 *p* *mp* B.D.
Mark Tree

Perc. 3 *p* *mp*

43 44 45 46 47 48

FL.

Ob.

Clar.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax

T. Sax

B. Sax

Trpt.

F Hn.

Tbn.

Euph. B.C.

Tuba

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

51

Cr. Cym.

52

53

[illegible]