

The Darkest Hour

Ryan Meeboer

The Darkest Hour is a musical depiction of an orc army ready to storm a castle. The piece opens with crescendo-ing, suspenseful chords, followed by a heavy bass and percussive line, representing the pounding of the orcs' weapons. The short solos at measures 9 and 13 sound the war horn, each followed by the war cries of the army before attacking.

One of the biggest challenges beginning musicians might find with this piece is the use of several accidentals. For many students, the fingerings of these notes will be new and take some time for them to get used to. Regular practice at a slower tempo of these sections to help performers work on these new fingerings, before playing at the required faster tempo.

Proper articulation and dynamics are key to making this piece successful, so spend time making sure musicians are performing these accurately and keeping dynamics balanced so the main melody can always be dominant.

Ryan Meeboer is a music educator who obtained his degree through the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. As a composer, he has written and arranged over 300 pieces for concert band, jazz band and small ensembles. His pieces are found on festival and contest lists throughout Canada and the USA. As a performer he has had experience in groups including concert and stage band, chamber choir, vocal jazz ensemble, acoustic duet and the Hamilton, Ontario based swing group, "The Main Swing Connection".

Ryan began studying music at the age of seven through private guitar lessons. During his years in elementary and secondary school, he gained experience in several families of instruments. Focusing on music education and theory (including composition and orchestration), he attended McMaster University where he achieved his honours degree in music. Ryan is currently a teacher for the Halton District School Board in Ontario, where he continues to compose and arrange.

*Please contact the composer if you require any further information about this piece
or his availability for commissioning new works and appearances.*

ryan.meeboer@enpmusic.com

ISBN: 9781778931550
CATALOG NUMBER: BQ225587

COST: \$15.00
DURATION: 2:15

DIFFICULTY RATING: Easy
Brass Quintet

THE DARKEST HOUR

Ryan Meeboer

With Heaviness ♩ = 132

Score for The Darkest Hour, featuring B♭ Trumpet 1, B♭ Trumpet 2, F Horn, Trombone, and Tuba. The score is in 4/4 time and includes measures 1 through 15.

Measures 1-5: B♭ Trumpet 1, B♭ Trumpet 2, F Horn, Trombone, and Tuba play a melodic line. Dynamics range from *p* (piano) to *f* (forte). Measure 5 includes an accent (^).

Measures 6-10: The melodic line continues. Measure 9 includes a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measures 6-10 show rests for the upper instruments and active bass lines for the lower instruments.

Measures 11-15: The melodic line continues. Measures 11-15 show active parts for all instruments, with mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamics indicated for the upper instruments.

16 17 18 19 20

21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30

This musical score is for measures 16 through 30 of a piece. It is written for five staves: four treble clefs and one bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measures 16-20 feature a melody in the treble staves with accents (^) and a strong bass line in the bass staff marked with a forte (f) dynamic. Measures 21-25 show a continuation of the melody, with dynamics shifting to piano (p) and mezzo-piano (mp). Measure 25 includes a 'lead' section for the bass staff. Measures 26-30 consist of sustained notes in the treble staves and a more active bass line. A large 'PREVIEW' watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

31 32 33 34 35

p *mf* lead *mf* *mf* *mf*

36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44 45 lead

lead *f* *f* *f* *f*

This musical score page contains measures 31 through 45. It is written for a five-part ensemble: Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, and Bass. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The score is divided into three systems. The first system (measures 31-35) features a piano (*p*) dynamic at measure 32, followed by mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamics for measures 33-35. A 'lead' part is indicated for measure 33. The second system (measures 36-40) continues the musical development. The third system (measures 41-45) begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic at measure 41, which continues through measures 42-45. A 'lead' part is also indicated for measure 45. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

46 47 48 49

This musical score consists of five staves. The first four staves are in treble clef, and the fifth is in bass clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 46 features a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B-flat4 in the first staff, with a dotted half note G4 in the second staff. Measure 47 continues with quarter notes A4, B-flat4, and C5 in the first staff, and a dotted half note A4 in the second staff. Measure 48 contains a whole rest in the first four staves and a dotted half note G4 in the fifth staff. Measure 49 features eighth notes A4, B-flat4, and C5 in the first staff, with a dotted half note A4 in the second staff. The fifth staff has a dotted half note G4. The final measure of the system (measure 50) features a half note G4, a quarter note A4, and a half note B-flat4 in the first staff, with a dotted half note G4 in the second staff. The fifth staff has a dotted half note G4. The system concludes with a double bar line.