## The Final Descent

## Ryan Meeboer

The term 'final descent' has many meanings. This composition is a musical representation of the last push to achieve a goal: it is suspenseful, dramatic, exciting, emotional and most importantly, fun to play!

In the opening measures, having a balanced crescendo finishing on the downbeat is key to creating the first dramatic effect of this piece. There are a number of areas that make use of the forte-piano. Spend time on these sections so that each instrument can be clearly heard and any sections with movement is prominent.

From measures 17-32, it is important that the 'shots' are strong, crisp, and played with clear tone. Make sure performers are not overblowing these.

The building section in the middle of the song has many exciting parts. As each part enters, allow for this new material to shine above what has already be performed.

As the piece builds to a close from measures 89-103, there is a lot happening. It is important that the melodic material be heard above all else

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.

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