

TSUNAMI

For Trombone Octet

by

David F. Wilborn

Program Notes

Tsunami was commissioned in 2021 by The University of North Carolina and the Carolina Trombone Project consortium. The music is written for trombone octet (6 tenors and 2 bass trombones) for moderate-advanced levels.

A tsunami is a massive fast moving water wave or a series of water waves formed in the ocean. These horrific, powerful waves are known for hitting coastal lines with intense force. Tsunamis are exceptionally large thus capable of producing large-scale property destruction. Some people believe that if one can actually see a tsunami, it is too late to outrun it. The fast-moving current of a tsunami forms after a large displacement of ocean water is triggered by such events as earthquakes or volcano eruptions. These massive waves are particularly known by island dwellers who live in the Pacific.

Tsunami, for eight trombones, is designed to capture some of the energy and drama of a tsunami wave speeding towards a coastline. The opening musical themes are powerful and bold. These melodies are accompanied by pulsating and aggressive rhythms. After a while, the tension of the music subsides as a calm serene sound of Polynesian music emerges. Here the joyful entertaining atmosphere is a total contrast to the previous themes. The scene captures a moment of frivolity and images of participants who are totally unaware of impending danger. But that moment is brief as the tsunami music abruptly returns. The work concludes by capturing the image of the powerful tsunami wave racing for the coastline. At this point, a tsunami siren blares, and the music builds with great intensity. Upon hearing unexpected silence followed by a loud minor chord, it becomes clear that the massive wave has hit the coast. The destruction is done and the dreadful event is over. All seems well, until the siren once again sounds and the infamous opening tsunami music returns.

David F. Wilborn (1961)

David Wilborn is Associate Professor of Music at Texas A&M University in College Station, where he teaches the low brass studio and coordinates small ensembles. Wilborn studied composition with Donald Grantham and trombone with Donald Knaub and John Marcellus. He holds the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of Texas at Austin, the Master of Music degree from the Eastman School of Music, and the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Texas.

Wilborn is the composer of several award-winning works for brass instruments. His *Excursions for Six Trombones* was selected as the winner of the 2003 Allen E. Ostrander Trombone Choir Composition Prize; his brass quintet entitled *Escapades* was selected as one of the winning compositions at the Appalachian State 2004 Brass Chamber Music Festival Composition Contest; and his *Three Movements for Brass Sextet* won second place at the 2005 Humboldt Composition Contest for Brass Chamber Music. In February 2008, Wilborn performed the solo bass trombone part in the New York premiere of *Concertante Caprice* with the Texas A&M University Wind Symphony in Carnegie Hall. Rorianne Schrade, music critic for the *New York Concert Review*, praised the work for its “freshness and excitement.”

Wilborn has served as a conductor, trombonist, lecturer, and clinician throughout the United States, Europe, and Puerto Rico. He is the author of numerous articles dealing with low brass and band pedagogy. His professional affiliations include: the International Trombone Association, College Music Society, National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors, Music Teacher's National Association, Texas Music Educators Association, Texas Bandmasters Association, Texas Music Teacher's Association, American Society of Composers Authors, and Publishers, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonians, Phi Beta Mu National Bandmaster's Fraternity, Pi Kappa Lambda National Honor Society, and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society.

About the Optional Siren

In measure 237, the music sets the scene for a tsunami racing towards a Polynesian island. It is at this point that the inclusion of a weather siren is recommended to enhance the musical effect. Types of sirens that will work include:

- A portable siren that is paired with a rotating strobe light
- a portable hand crank air raid siren (allowing the audience to see someone cranking the siren)
- a pre-recorded siren sound amplified through a speaker

It is not necessary to utilize a siren sound specifically created for tsunamis. Any type of siren sound associated with severe weather conditions thus alerting the audience of the approaching tsunami wave will work.

Carolina Trombone Project Consortium

Consortium Lead, Jeremy A. Marks, DMA, University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Joseph Awad MD, Bone Therapy

Boise State University Trombone Choir, Boise State University

Doug Farwell, Valdosta State University

Eric Henson, Augusta Symphony

Stephen Ivany, California State University, Fresno

Dr. Karen Marston, Professor of Low Brass, Mt. San Antonio College

James Nova, Mary Pappert School of Music, Duquesne University

The Ohio State University Trombone Ensemble, The Ohio State University

Dr. Sean Scot Reed, Arkansas Tech University Trombone Choir

University of North Alabama Low Brass Ensemble, University of North Alabama

Dr. Arie VandeWaa, University of South Alabama

Chris White, Director of Bands, Hickory Ridge High School

J. Mark Whitfield, East Carolina University

Dr. Michael Wilkinson, University of South Carolina Trombone Association

Benjamin Yates, University of Louisiana at Lafayette Friends of the Humanities

Comissioned by The University of North Carolina
and The Carolina Trombone Project

Score

Tsunami

for 8-part Trombone Ensemble

David F. Wilborn (1961)
Member ASCAP

With fury and driving energy (♩ = 142)

The score is written for an 8-part trombone ensemble. It begins with the instruction "With fury and driving energy" and a tempo marking of quarter note = 142. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into four measures. Trombone 1 and 2 play a melodic line starting with a half note G2, followed by eighth notes. Trombone 3, 4, and 5 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Trombone 6 plays a half note G2. Trombone 7 and 8 play a melodic line starting with a half note G2, followed by eighth notes. The dynamic markings are ff for the first three measures and f for the fourth measure. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic changes.



E Light polynesian dance style - swing eighth notes (♩ = 144)

103

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Tbn. 5

Tbn. 6

Tbn. 7 (B)

B. Tbn. 8 (B)

mute

p

229

Tbn. 1 *ff*

Tbn. 2 *ff*

Tbn. 3 *ff*

Tbn. 4 *ff*

Tbn. 5 *ff*

Tbn. 6 *ff*

Tbn. 7 (B) *ff*

B. Tbn. 8 (B) *ff*

(* optional) Play tsunami siren sound effect

235 **K** Play with aggressive agitation

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4 *mp*

Tbn. 5 *mp*

Tbn. 6 *mp*

Tbn. 7 (B) *p*

B. Tbn. 8 (B) *p*

241

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Tbn. 5

Tbn. 6

Tbn. 7 (B)

B. Tbn. 8 (B)

mp

mp

247

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tbn. 4

Tbn. 5

Tbn. 6

Tbn. 7 (B)

B. Tbn. 8 (B)

mf

mf

mf

mf

291

Tbn. 1
fff

Tbn. 2
fff

Tbn. 3
fff

Tbn. 4
fff

Tbn. 5
fff

Tbn. 6
fff

Tbn. 7 (B)
fff

B. Tbn. 8 (B)
fff