

PROGRAM NOTES

Pedal to the Metal is an English phrase meaning “hurry up” (as in the analogy of pressing the car accelerator to the metal floor). The phrase also means working diligently and efficiently to get something important done. It is the latter meaning that inspired this work. However, “metal” has significant importance since metallic instruments (hanging metal plates and the brake drum) play a prominent role in the orchestration. The progression of the piece is all about starting with a small idea that is elaborated upon until it becomes the all-important “finished product.” All of this happening within the energetic atmosphere of a fast tempo in 6/8 meter. The piece begins with a full percussion palette and the prominent sound of the brake drum. A fragmentary theme in G-minor is heard in the beginning of the piece:

Musical notation for the beginning of the piece in G-minor, 6/8 meter. The melody starts with a quarter note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then eighth notes A4, Bb4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5, and finally a quarter note G5. Dynamics range from *f* to *ff*.

The theme is simply repeated, and following two repetitions of a descending and sustained D-Phrygian scale, the flutes and clarinets elaborate on the theme against a long sustained chorale-like motive in the brass:

Musical notation for the orchestration of the theme. It shows two systems of staves. The first system includes Flute/Clarinet, Trumpets, Horn/Trombone/Tuba. The second system includes Flute/Clarinet, Trumpets, Horn/Trombone/Tuba. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*.

PEDAL TO THE METAL

Commissioned by The Byron Center Band Program
Byron Center, Michigan

David R. Gillingham
(ASCAP)

With urgency ♩ = 144

5

Flute 1/2

Oboe

Bassoon

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2/3

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Alto Saxophone 1/2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

With urgency ♩ = 144

5

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2/3

F Horn 1

F Horn 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Euphonium

Tuba

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5

32" - G | 29" - A | 26" - D

Timpani

Percussion 1
Xylophone

Percussion 2
Brake Drum
Ratchet

Percussion 3
Slapstick
Bells
Crash Cymbals

Percussion 4
Hi-Hat
Snare Drum
2 Hanging Metal Plates

Percussion 5
4 Tom-Toms

Percussion 6
Bass Drum
Tam-Tam
Suspended Cymbal

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 15

Fl. 1/2 *f* *ff* *f*

Oboe *f* *ff* *f*

Bsn. *f* *ff* *f*

Cl. 1 *f* *ff* *f*

Cl. 2/3 *f* *ff* *f*

B. Cl. *f* *ff* *f*

A. Sax. 1/2 *f* *ff* *f*

T. Sax. *f* *ff* *f*

B. Sax. *f* *ff* *f*

9 15

Tpt. 1 *f* *ff* *f*

Tpt. 2/3 *f* *ff* *f*

Hn. 1 *f* *ff* *f*

Hn. 2 *f* *ff* *f*

Tbn. 1 *f* *ff* *f*

Tbn. 2 *f* *ff* *f*

Euph. *f* *ff* *f*

Tuba *f* *ff* *f*

9 15

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *ff* *mf*

Perc. 3

Perc. 4 *f* *ff* *mf*

Perc. 5 *ff* *f* *mf*

Perc. 6 *ff* *mf*

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

25

Fl. 1/2 *f*

Oboe *f*

Bsn.

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2/3 *f*

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1/2 *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax.

25

Tpt. 1 *f*

Tpt. 2/3 *f*

Hn. 1 *f*

Hn. 2 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

Euph.

Tuba

25

Timp. *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 (Bells) *f*

Perc. 4 *f*

Perc. 5 *ff*

Perc. 6 *p* *ff* *p*

25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

33 39

Fl. 1/2
mf f mf f mf f mf f mf

Oboe
mf f mf f mf f mf f mf

Bsn.
p p

Cl. 1
mf f mf f mf f mf f mf

Cl. 2/3
mf f mf f mf f mf f mf

B. Cl.
p

A. Sax. 1/2
p

T. Sax.
p

B. Sax.
p

33 39

Tpt. 1
p

Tpt. 2/3
p

Hn. 1
p

Hn. 2
p

Tbn. 1
p

Tbn. 2
p

Euph.
p

Tuba
p

33 39

Timp.
p

Perc. 1
mf f mf f mf f mf f mf

Perc. 2
ff f

Perc. 3
mf

Perc. 4
mf

Perc. 5
ff f

Perc. 6
ff f

33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41

42 49

Fl. 1/2

Oboe

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2/3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1/2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

49

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2/3

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Euph.

Tuba

49

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Perc. 5

Perc. 6

42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

59 63

Fl. 1/2 *f* *ff* *f*

Oboe *f* *ff* *f*

Bsn. *f*

Cl. 1 *f* *ff* *f*

Cl. 2/3 *f* *ff* *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1/2 *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

63

Tpt. 1 *f*

Tpt. 2/3 *f*

Hn. 1 *f*

Hn. 2 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

Euph. *f*

Tuba *f*

63

Timp. *p*

Perc. 1 *f* *ff* *f*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *f* *ff* *f*

Perc. 4

Perc. 5

Perc. 6 *p*

59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

