

## 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 notation shows a single melodic line starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic, followed by a crescendo to fortissimo (*ff*) and then a decrescendo.

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, and Horn/Trombone/Tuba. The second system includes Flute/Clarinet, Trumpets, and Horn/Trombone/Tuba. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte (*mf*) to forte (*f*) for the woodwinds, and piano (*p*) for the brass.

# 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

With urgency ♩. = 144

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 *ff*

Perc. 3 *f* (Bells)

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 p

A. Sax. 1/2  
p p

T. Sax.  
p p

B. Sax.  
p p

33 39

Tpt. 1  
p p

Tpt. 2/3  
p p

Hn. 1  
p p

Hn. 2  
p p

Tbn. 1  
p p

Tbn. 2  
p p

Euph.  
p p

Tuba  
p p

33 39

Timp.  
p 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

67

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

Oboe *ff* *f* *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

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

Cl. 2/3 *ff* *p* *ff*

B. Cl. *ff* *f*

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

T. Sax. *ff*

B. Sax. *ff*

Tpt. 1 *ff* *p* *ff* *f* *a2*

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

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

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

Tbn. 1 *ff* *f*

Tbn. 2 *ff* *f*

Euph. *ff* *f*

Tuba *ff* *f*

73

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

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Perc. 3 *ff* *to Slapstick*

Perc. 4 *p* *ff* *to Hi-Hat* *Closed Hi-Hat*

Perc. 5 *ff*

Perc. 6 *ff*

67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74