

Onward

Concert Band

(2025)

Ahmad Duncan

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Onward

Ahmad Duncan (b. 2003)

Concert Band | 2025 | ca. 3:00 | Transposed Score

Dedicated to Flat Rock Middle School Symphonic Band for Midfest 2025

Instrumentation

Flute 1,2	Trumpet 1,2	Glockenspiel
Oboe	Horn in F 1,2	Marimba
Bassoon 1,2	Trombone 1,2	Snare Drum
Clarinet in Bb 1,2,3	Euphonium	Bass Drum
Bass Clarinet	Tuba	Tambourine
Alto Sax 1,2		Crash Cymbal
Tenor Sax		Suspended Cymbal
Baritone Sax		

Program Notes

We all love the story of success. We, as humans, thrive on the feeling of succeeding on what we put our minds to. However, what we are not often told about this journey is the inevitable setbacks that may come our way. These setbacks may come at unexpected times and could discourage us from meeting our goals. However, what defines our journey towards achievement is not the setback itself but how we respond. This piece tells the story of overcoming setbacks starting with triumphant and confident opening bars moving to a happy and flowing theme. The music then transitions to a slightly sad and dark middle section that longs for returning to light. A second theme reveals itself which is more bold than the first that soars with the feeling of overcoming dark times. One of my biggest reminders to myself is that sometimes we have to take one step backwards to take two steps forward. With this piece I wish to give everyone the reminder that in the face of setbacks, we must learn to progress ONWARD.

Onward

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Triumphant and joyful; $\text{♩} = 152$

The score is for a symphonic band and is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 152 beats per minute. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The piece is marked 'Triumphant and joyful'. The score is divided into three systems of staves. The first system includes Flute 1/2, Oboe, Bassoon 1/2, Clarinet 1/2, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1/2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The second system includes Trumpet in B-flat 1/2, Horn in F 1/2, Trombone 1/2, Euphonium, and Tuba. The third system includes Glockenspiel, Marimba, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Tambourine, Crash Cymbal, and Suspended Cymbal. The score features various musical notations such as triplets, accents, and dynamic markings like 'ff' (fortissimo) and 'p' (piano). The piece concludes with a final measure marked with a fermata and a 'p' dynamic.

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn 1
2

Cl. 1
2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba

Glock.

Mar.

Sn. Dr. (2) (3) (4) (5) (6)

B. Dr.

Tamb.

Cr. Cym.

Sus. Cym.

mf

p

16 17 18 19 20

C

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn 1
2

Cl. 1
2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

C

Tpt in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba.

C

Glock.

Mar.

Sn. Dr. (7) (2) (3)

B. Dr.

Tamb.

Cr. Cym.

Sus. Cym.

Onward

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn 1
2

Cl. 1
2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba

Glock.

Mar.

Sn. Dr. (4) (5) (6) (7) (8)

B. Dr.

Tamb.

Cr. Cym.

Sus. Cym.

26 27 28 29 30

p

D

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn 1
2

Cl. 1
2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

D

Tpt in Bb 1
2

Hr in F 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba

D

Glock.

Mar.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Tamb.

Cr. Cym.

Sus. Cym.

31

32

33

34

35

f

E Sad but hopeful

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn. 1
2

Cl. 1
2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

E Sad but hopeful

Tpt in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba

E Sad but hopeful

Glock.

Mar.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Tamb.

Cr. Cym.

Sus. Cym.

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

Bsn 1
2

Cl. 1
2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpt in Bb 1
2

Hn in F 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba

Glock.

Mar.

Sn. Dr.

B. Dr.

Tamb.

Cr. Cym.

Sus. Cym.

41 42 43 44 45