First Plus Band



Grade 1.5

Jurassic Shark

(Megalodon)

Joseph Compello

FPS85 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score
Flute
Oboe (opt. Flute 2)
Clarinet 1 in Bb4
Clarinet 2 in Bb4
Bass Clarinet in Bb
Alto Saxophone in Eb
Tenor Saxophone in Bb
Baritone Saxophone in E>
Trumpet 1 in Bb4
Trumpet 2 in B
Horn in F
Trombone, Euphonium B.C., Bassoon6
Euphonium T.C. in Bb
Tuba
Mallet Percussion
Xylophone
Percussion 1
Snare Drum, Bass Drum
Percussion 2
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Program Notes

Jurassic Shark (Megalodon) is a miniature tone poem for a young band.

The story:

A prehistoric shark with enormous teeth (Megalodon) swims ominously and persistently in the dark ocean depths. The undulating notes played by flutes and oboe depict its never-ending movement. The bass line describes the danger of this mega-sized predator. Its jaws snap quickly and loudly in m. 6 (slapstick) and again in m. 7. Unsuccessful in capturing a meal, the shark continues swimming as it viciously snaps it tremendous jaws again and again. Megalodon becomes more determined, and begins to swim faster (m. 20). After two more crashing snaps of its fearsome jaws (mm. 48-49), Megalodon resumes its slower pace (m. 53). It swims away into the far-off, murky, prehistoric ocean (m. 57, bell tree). Suddenly, it reappears with its jaws agape (m. 58). Did it seize its prey? You decide.

Percussion:

- 1. A loud sound effect for the snapping of Megalodon's jaws is necessary. In this piece, that sound effect is scored for slapstick (or whip). Use one the largest and loudest one obtainable. The score also calls for suspended cymbal, and sylophone to amplify the slapstick. Directors and their students may wish to explore additional possibilities, especially synthesizers. Ultimately, the best sound effect will be the loudest.
- 2. If a bell tree is not available for m. 58, the simplest substitute is a suspended cymbal roll.

Instruction:

- 1. The bass line ostinato C to G may be altered to C to Gb for a more ominous sound. All winds use only the first six notes of the Bb Major scale.
- 2. The flute section will require instruction on staggered breathing.
- 3. The proper execution of a sudden *forte* on the fourth beat of a measure (m. 6 for example) is crucial to a good performance.

Directors who enjoy this piece may want to review *T-Rex* by Joseph Compello, Carl Fischer Music catalogue number BPS50.

Thank you for choosing this composition. I hope you and your students find it entertaining and instructive.

—Joseph Compello Glen Arm, Maryland, 2010

About the Composer

Joseph Compello, a native of Carbondale, Pennsylvania, holds degrees in music education from the Peabody Conservatory and Towson University. During his 31 year career as an instrumental music teacher in Maryland, he wrote numerous compositions for his students. In 1994, Carl Fischer began publishing many of these classroom-tested pieces including his debut publication *Cadets on Parade*, and the 1996 best-seller *Rock to the Max, Mr. Sax.* Compello's journey from school teacher to internationally published composer was recently chronicled in the Baltimore Sun. His music is now performed worldwide in venues ranging from school concerts to Carnegie Hall. Now retired from teaching with over 100 published works to his credit, Compello continues to draw on his extensive background in music education to compose new music exclusively for Carl Fischer's Performance Series.

Jurassic Shark

(Megalodon)

























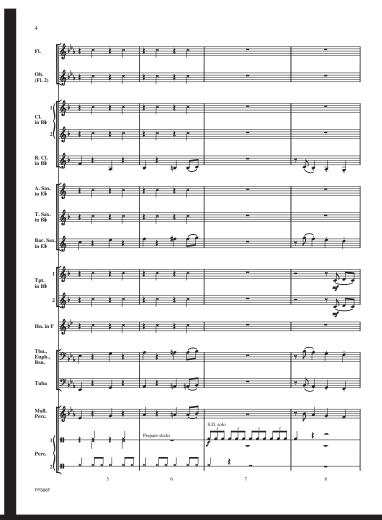












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- More eighth notes
- Clarinet 1 begins playing above the break
- Active percussion writing
- Short pieces length is a consideration

FPS85 — \$50.00 Set FPS85F — \$8.00 Full Score FPS85P — \$3.00 Parts

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