

Symphonic Band

Grade 4

Ricochet

Sean O'Loughlin

SPS37 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	.1 .1 4 4 2 4
Clarinet 2 in B	4
	Δ
Bass Clarinet in B	2
Bassoon	2
Alto Saxophone 1 in Eb	2
Alto Saxophone 2 in E	2
Tenor Saxophone in Bb	2
Baritone Saxophone in Eb	2
Trumpet 1 in B_{\flat}	3
Trumpet 2 in B_{\flat}	3
Trumpet 3 in Bb	3
Horn 1 in F	2
Horn 2 in F	2
Horn 3 in F	2
Horn 4 in F	2
Trombone 1	3
Trombone 2	3
Trombone 3	3
Baritone T.C. in B	2
Baritone B.C.	3
Tuba	Δ
Mallet Percussion	
Xylophone, Bells	
Timpani	1
Percussion 1	
Snare Drum. Bass Drum	
,	0
China Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal,	-
Crash Cymbals, Triangle, Tam-tam, Wood Block, Whip, Tambourine, Wind Chimes, Bell Tree	

SPS37 — \$85.00 Set SPS37F — \$15.00 Full Score SPS37P — \$4.50 Parts

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Program Notes

Ricochet is an engaging piece for wind band that was commissioned by the 2008 Georgia Music Educator Association District 13 High School Honor Band. Mr. Ryan Bybee was the director who first approached me about the commission, and was gracious enough to allow me to write a "fun and exciting piece of music for our group with no limits." Full of polychords and creative accents, it is a study of rhythm and color for the advanced ensemble. The music contains nods to master composers, while keeping a strong foot in the present and future.

-Sean O'Loughlin

Performance Notes

The opening chords are based on a unique sonic principle I was experimenting with on the piano one day. The upper woodwinds are striking a Cl-major chord on an eighth note, while the brass are holding a Bl-major chord simultaneously. The result to the ear is a rapid motion that sounds like a one-bounce sixteenth-note rhythm. This principle reminded me of the word "ricochet," so I decided to build the piece around this. The trumpets state a five-note motive that becomes the main melodic idea of the work at m. 9. Another important rhythmic element immediately follows in the woodwinds. This polychord ostinato is a nod to a certain groundbreaking Russian ballet composed in the early twentieth century. The unexpected accents create the interest in the texture, so be sure to bring these out. They should sound like small bursts of energy amidst this eighth-note tapestry. After some development on these accents, the music settles into a groove at m. 42. Here, I employ some scoring techniques from some of the great wind band works from days gone by. The unison/octave voicing in the woodwind melody is a haunting and challenging sound to perform all at the same time. Immediately following are some voicings with altered bass notes that create an open, yet warm sound. The rhythmic ostinatos and opening chord idea return throughout the rest of the piece to tie it all together and create a fun and exciting piece for your ensemble to perform.

About the Composer

Sean O'Loughlin (b.1972) is a fresh voice and a rising name in the music world. His music is characterized by vibrant rhythms, passionate melodies, and colorful scoring. Commissions from the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra highlight and showcase his diverse musical abilities. As a conductor, he has led performances with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Grant Park Orchestra, and the Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra. He was the conductor and arranger for a recent orchestral tour with the band The Decemberists.

As an arranger and orchestrator, he has worked with such artists as Natalie Merchant, Chris Isaak, Feist, Blue Man Group, Pink Martini, Christian McBride, Belle and Sebastian, Josh Ritter, and others. The Los Angeles Times calls his orchestrations "...colorful while adding ...even more dimension... to the compositions." Daily Variety heralds Sean's writing as "most impressive ...with a wide range of coloring in the orchestra...that...adds heft and rolling energy."

Growing up in Syracuse, NY, Sean displayed a passion for music and showed musical talent at an early age. Sean benefited from loving parents who supported his musical aspirations and challenged him to explore music as a career. During his undergraduate years at Syracuse University, Sean's musical career began to take shape with the guidance of Larry Clark. As Vice-President at Carl Fischer Music, Larry continues to be a major influence in Sean's professional career as mentor and friend.

An avid supporter of music education, Sean frequently writes for the Los Angeles Philharmonic's youth concert series. Through his growing number of commissions and published works, Sean is excited to continue contributing to the rich history of orchestral and wind band literature. An annual ASCAP Special Awards winner, Sean was a composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, and holds degrees from New England Conservatory and Syracuse University. His music is published exclusively by Carl Fischer. Sean and his wife Dena reside in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit Sean's web-site at www.grayslacks.com.



















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