

Down to the River

for concert band

arranged by John McAllister

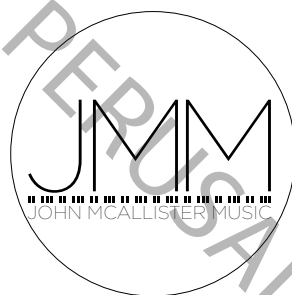
Instrumentation

Brass & Woodwinds

8 - Flute	4 - 1st Bb Trumpet
2 - Oboe	4 - 2nd Bb Trumpet
2 - Bassoon	4 - F Horn
4 - 1st Bb Clarinet	6 - Trombone
4 - 2nd Bb Clarinet	3 - Baritone
2 - Bb Bass Clarinet	4 - Tuba
3 - 1st Eb Alto Saxophone	
3 - 2nd Eb Alto Saxophone	
2 - Bb Tenor Saxophone	
1 - Eb Baritone Saxophone	

Percussion

- 2 - Percussion (Snare/Bass)
- 1 - Cymbals (crash + suspended)
- 1 - Wind Chimes/Tambourine
- 1 - Triangle/Woodblock
- 1 - Timpani
- 1 - Bells



About the Piece

"Down to the River" is a traditional American spiritual deeply rooted in the African-American religious tradition. In this arrangement for young concert band, the music is taken on a journey through multiple settings, evoking a sense of Americana throughout.

The piece commences with melodic and harmonic elements that delicately capture the beauty of a calmly flowing river. This tranquil texture becomes a recurring motif, weaving its way through various sections of the ensemble. As the arrangement unfolds, listeners are taken through different treatments of the main melodic line, each iteration offering a new perspective on the source material.

A noteworthy moment arises in the third setting of the main theme, where the melodic line is deconstructed, giving rise to a completely new theme. This inventive twist adds a layer of intrigue and creativity, demonstrating the transformative potential of musical expression. The deconstructed theme gradually reassembles, leading the ensemble to a triumphant climax.

Throughout the arrangement, young musicians are given the opportunity to explore expressive playing, dynamic contrasts, and collaborative interplay. The piece serves not only as a musical exploration but also as an educational experience, encouraging the development of ensemble cohesion and individual musicianship.

About the Composer

John McAllister is a composer, educator, and conductor based in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Furman University. After graduation, he spent fourteen years teaching all levels of secondary band (5th grade-12th grade) in Spartanburg School District #7. During his tenure, John was named teacher of the year at both McCracken Middle School (in 2015) and Spartanburg High School (in 2020). The ensembles under his direction achieved much success, receiving numerous superior ratings at local and regional festivals.

John's passion for composing and arranging has merged with his band directing, leading him to create John McAllister Music (www.johnmcallistermusic.com). The website houses his compositions and arrangements, but the most robust section is the "free resources." Here there are warm-ups, fundamentals, and numerous other resources for music educators. John especially enjoys creating cinematic accompaniments and other engaging play-alongs for young musicians.

A majority of John's compositions and arrangements center around creating exciting and engaging music for young performers. He writes for concert band, orchestra, and chamber ensembles. He has also regularly arranges custom shows for marching band. In addition to writing for performing ensembles, he also writes for the screen. He has scored numerous films, video games, and commercials. Placements have ranged from nationally televised commercials (i.e. on CBS) to popular YouTube Channels (i.e. HISHE). His collaborations with filmmaker Kane Farabaugh have led to multiple Emmy® award winning films.

Down to the River

Traditional
Arranged by John McAllister

Flowing $\text{♩} = 100$

Flute
Oboe
Bassoon
Clarinet in B \flat 1
Clarinet in B \flat 2
Bass Clarinet in B \flat
Alto Saxophone 1
Alto Saxophone 2
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone
Trumpet in B \flat 1
Trumpet in B \flat 2
Horn in F
Trombone
Baritone
Tuba
Snare/Bass
Cymbals
Wind Chimes/Tambourine
Triangle/Woodblock
Timpani
Bells

Flowing $\text{♩} = 100$

Musical score for a symphony orchestra, page 2, measures 12-23. The score includes parts for Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinets, Saxophones, Trumpets, Horns, Trombones, Baritone, Tuba, Percussion, Cymbals, Wood Chimes, Triangle, Timpani, and Bells. Dynamics include mp, mf, and p.

Measures 12-16: Flute and Oboe play a melodic line starting with a *mp* dynamic. Bassoon, Clarinets, and Saxophones provide harmonic support. The woodwinds and strings play a rhythmic accompaniment.

Measure 17: A box highlights measure 17. The Flute and Oboe dynamics change to *mf*. The Saxophones and Horns play a *mf legato* line. The Trombone and Baritone parts show a dynamic change from *mp* to *mf*. The Timpani part has a dynamic change from *mf* to *p* and back to *mf*.

Measures 18-23: The Flute and Oboe continue their melodic line. The Saxophones and Horns maintain their *mf legato* accompaniment. The Trombone and Baritone parts continue with their *mf* accompaniment. The Timpani part continues with its *mf* accompaniment. The Bells play a melodic line starting with a *mp* dynamic.

rit. Lightly ♩ = 120

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *mp* *mf*

Cl. 1 *mp* *mf*

Cl. 2 *mp* *mf*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf*

Alto Sax. 1 *mp*

Alto Sax. 2 *mp*

Ten. Sax. *mp* *mf*

Bari. Sax. *mp* *mf*

Tpt. 1 *mp* *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mp* *mf*

Hrn. *mp* *mf*

Tbn. *mp* *mf*

Bar. *mp* *mf*

Tba. *mp* *mf*

Perc. *mf*

Cym. *mf*

W.Ch. *mp* To Tamb. Tambourine *mf*

Tri. To W.B. Wood Block *mf*

Tmp. *p* *mf* *mp*

Bells *mf*

rit.

This musical score page covers measures 35 through 44. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone 1 (Alto Sax. 1), Alto Saxophone 2 (Alto Sax. 2), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Baritone (Bar.), Tuba (Tba.), Percussion (Perc.), Cymbal (Cym.), Tom-tom (Tamb.), Wood Block (W.B.), Snare Drum (Timp.), and Bells. The score is written in a key signature of two flats and a 2/4 time signature. Measures 35-41 feature a melodic line in the woodwinds and a rhythmic accompaniment in the brass and percussion. Measures 42-44 show a change in dynamics, with a crescendo leading to a *mf* (mezzo-forte) section. A large watermark 'PERUSAL SCORE' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Cl. 1 *mp*

Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Alto Sax. 1 *mp*

Alto Sax. 2 *mp*

Ten. Sax. *mp*

Bari. Sax. *mp*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Bar. *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Perc. *mp*

Cym. *mp*

Tamb. *mp*

W.B. *mp*

Tmp. *mp*

Bells

55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *mf* *mf*

Cl. 1 *mp* *mf*

Cl. 2 *mp* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf* *mf*

Alto Sax. 1 *f* *mp*

Alto Sax. 2 *f* *mp*

Ten. Sax. *f* *mp*

Bari. Sax. *mf* *mf*

Tpt. 1 *mp* *f* *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mp* *f* *mf*

Hrn. *f* *mf*

Tbn. *f* *mf* *mf*

Bar. *f* *mf* *mf*

Tba. *f* *mf* *mf*

Perc. *f* *f* *tup with stick* *mf*

Cym. *tup with stick*

Tamb. *f* *mf*

W.B. *f* *mp* *mf*

Timp. *f* *f* *mf*

Bells *mp*

69 Stately $\text{♩} = \frac{90}{70}$

This musical score is for a full orchestra, spanning measures 64 to 74. The tempo is marked 'Stately' with a metronome marking of 90 beats per minute over 70 notes (♩ = 90/70). The score includes parts for the following instruments:

- Flute (Fl.)
- Oboe (Ob.)
- Bassoon (Bsn.)
- Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1)
- Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2)
- Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.)
- Alto Saxophone 1 (Alto Sax. 1)
- Alto Saxophone 2 (Alto Sax. 2)
- Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.)
- Bass Saxophone (Bari. Sax.)
- Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1)
- Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2)
- Horn (Hn.)
- Trombone (Tbn.)
- Baritone (Bar.)
- Tuba (Tba.)
- Percussion (Perc.)
- Cymbals (Cym.) - includes 'crash cymbals'
- Tam-tam (Tamb.)
- Wood Block (W.B.) - includes 'Triangle'
- Timpani (Timp.)
- Bells

The score features various dynamics such as *f* (forte), *sfz* (sforzando), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). Performance markings include accents, slurs, and breath marks. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present at measure 67. The percussion part includes specific instructions for 'crash cymbals' and 'Triangle'. The woodblock part includes a 'Triangle' instruction. The timpani part includes a 'sfz' marking.

L'istesso Tempo
Fading Away

75 76 77 78 79 80 81

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bsn. *mp* *mp* *mp*

Cl. 1 *mp* *mp* *mp*

Cl. 2 *mp* *mp* *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Alto Sax. 1 *mp*

Alto Sax. 2 *mp*

Ten. Sax. *mp* *mp* *mp*

Bari. Sax. *mp*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Bar. *mp* *mp* *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Perc.

Cym. *sus. cymbal* *mp*

W.Ch. Wind Chimes *p*

Tri. *p*

Timp.

Bells *p*

This musical score page covers measures 82 through 89. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone 1 (Alto Sax. 1), Alto Saxophone 2 (Alto Sax. 2), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), Bass Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Baritone (Bar.), Tuba (Tba.), Percussion (Perc.), Cymbal (Cym.), Wood Chime (W.Ch.), Triangle (Tri.), and Timpani (Timp.).

Measures 82-86: The woodwinds and strings play a melodic line starting on measure 82. Dynamics are marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The bassoon and timpani have a more active role in the lower register.

Measure 87: A double bar line (//) is present at the beginning of measure 87. The dynamics change to *p* (piano) for most instruments.

Measures 88-89: The music continues with the *p* dynamic. The woodwinds and strings maintain the melodic line, while the percussion instruments provide rhythmic support.