

*Commissioned by the Muskego High School Symphonic Band  
Muskego, WI - Jamie Beckman, Director*



*for wind ensemble*

# Rob Smith

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## Complete Band Instrumentation

3 - Flute 1	1 - Eb Baritone Saxophone	2 - Percussion 1
4 - Flute 2	3 - Bb Trumpet 1	Marimba, Xylophone, Suspended Cymbal, Slapstick
2 - Oboes 1 & 2	5 - Bb Trumpets 2 & 3	2 - Percussion 2
4 - Bb Clarinet 1	4 - F Horns 1 & 2	Vibraphone & Xylophone
6 - Bb Clarinet 2	4 - Trombones 1 & 2	2 - Percussion 3
2 - Bb Bass Clarinet	2 - Trombone 3	Bongos, Sizzle Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal, Slapstick
2 - Bassoon	2 - Euphoniums B.C.	1 - Percussion 4
2 - Eb Alto Saxophone 1	2 - Euphoniums T.C.	Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum
2 - Eb Alto Saxophone 2	4 - Tuba	2 - Percussion 5
2 - Bb Tenor Saxophone	1 - Timpani	Small Gong(s), Bass Drum, Mounted Castanets, Tambourine

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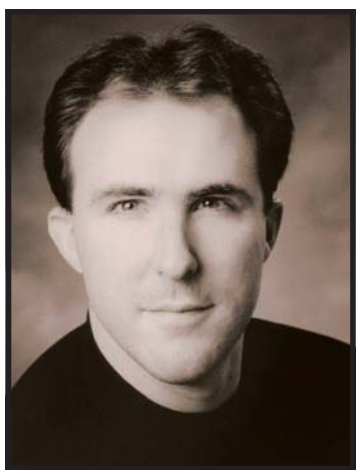
Each Perc. can be  
played by 1 player

## About the Music - - -

**Blue Norther** is a Texas term referring to a cold front that creates extremely windy conditions and dramatic temperature drops in a very short period of time. The “blue norther” gets its name from the blue haze that often appears at the front edge of these weather systems. The sparse opening, with its mournful minor melody, represents a hot Texas plain before it is besieged by a “blue norther.” Loud percussion rolls, rapid woodwind passages and a chorale-like theme in the brass represent the “norther.” This aggressive and fast paced material dominates the work like the front will dominate the plain, but eventually the original mood returns as the front passes. This is a transposed score. All accidentals used are in effect for the measure in which they occur.

**Blue Norther** was commissioned by the Muskego High School Symphonic Band (Jamie Beckman, director) with generous assistance from the Muskego High School Music Friends.

## About the Composer - - -



Bridging modernism and American pop and jazz idioms, the innovative and highly energetic music of **Rob Smith** is frequently performed throughout the United States and abroad. His music has received numerous awards, including those from ASCAP and the National Band Association. He has received commissions from the Texas Music Festival Orchestra, the American Composers Forum (as a part of their Continental Harmony project), the New York Youth Symphony Chamber Music Program, and several nationally renowned university wind ensembles, among others.

In 1997, he was the recipient of a Fulbright Grant to Australia, which led to a teaching position at the University of Wollongong in 1998. Commercial recordings of his music are available by the Society for New Music (Syracuse, NY), saxophonist Jeremy Justeson, Austrian toy pianist Isabel Ettenauer, and the University of Houston and Texas Christian University Percussion Ensembles.

Currently, he teaches at the University of Houston’s Moores School of Music where he is Associate Professor of Music Composition and director of the AURA Contemporary Ensemble. He also serves as one of the artistic directors of Musiqa, a Houston-based contemporary chamber ensemble.

# BLUE NORTHER

Rob Smith

**♩=88 hot and desolate**

for wind ensemble

Flute 1  
div. *pp*  
stagger breaths

Flute 2  
div. *pp*  
stagger breaths

Oboe 1&2

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

E♭ Alto Saxophone 1

E♭ Alto Saxophone 2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

**♩=88 hot and desolate**

B♭ Trumpet 1  
straight mute  
*pp* — *mp* — *pp*

B♭ Trumpet 2  
straight mute  
*pp* — *mp* — *pp*

F Horn 1 & 2  
1. straight mute  
*pp* — *mp*

Trombone 1 & 2  
straight mute  
*pp* — *mp*

Trombone 3

Euphonium 1&2

Tuba

Timpani  
Eb, A, Eb, D

Percussion 1  
vibraphone

Percussion 2  
ped. *p*

Percussion 3  
sizzle cymbal\*

Percussion 4  
suspended cymbal w/bow  
*p*

Percussion 5  
freely bow cymbal\*  
small gong(s) w/ bow  
freely bow gong(s)\*

\*-slowly & sparsely do not stick out of texture or obscure melody

\* - Perc. 3: freely cresc. & decresc. slowly; do not stick out of texture or obscure melody

\*-slowly & sparsely do not stick out of texture or obscure melody

8

FL 1

FL 2

Ob 1&2

B<sup>♭</sup> Cl. 1

B<sup>♭</sup> Cl. 2

B<sup>♭</sup> BCl.

Bn.

E<sup>♭</sup> A. Sax 1

E<sup>♭</sup> A. Sax 2

B<sup>♭</sup> T. Sax

E<sup>♭</sup> B. Sax

solo - with great longing

*mp* *mf* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp*

8

B<sup>♭</sup> Tpt. 1

B<sup>♭</sup> Tpt. 2

F Hn. 1 & 2

Trb. 1 & 2

Trb. 3

Euph. 1&2

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Perc. 5

*pp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

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FL 1  
FL 2  
Ob 1&2  
B<sup>b</sup> Cl. 1  
B<sup>b</sup> Cl. 2  
B<sup>b</sup> BCl.  
Bn.  
E<sup>2</sup> A. Sax 1  
E<sup>2</sup> A. Sax 2  
B<sup>2</sup> T. Sax  
E<sup>2</sup> B. Sax  
B<sup>2</sup> Tpt. 1  
B<sup>2</sup> Tpt. 2  
F Hn. 1 & 2  
Trb. 1 & 2  
Trb. 3  
Euph. 1&2  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
Perc. 4  
Perc. 5

*p* *mf* *pp*  
*mp* *mf*  
*pp* *mp* *pp*

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