

# Oracle

*Dedicated to Andy Sealy*

by  
Eric Rath

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## Complete Band Instrumentation

1 - Full Score	2 - Tenor Saxophone	1 - Percussion 2 - Marimba, Triangle
1 - Piccolo	1 - Baritone Saxophone	1 - Percussion 3 - Crotales, Djembe, Tam Tam, Tri.
3 - Flute 1	3 - Trumpet 1	1 - Percussion 4 - Glockenspiel, Doumbek
3 - Flute 2	3 - Trumpet 2	1 - Percussion 5 - Xylophone, Tambourine, Tam Tam
1 - Oboe 1	3 - Trumpet 3	1 - Percussion 6 - Suspended, China & Splash Cymbals
1 - Oboe 2	5 - Horns in F 1/2	1 - Percussion 7 - Concert Toms, Tam Tam
1 - Bassoon 1	2 - Trombone 1	1 - Percussion 8 - Bass Drum, Tam Tam
1 - Bassoon 2	2 - Trombone 2	
3 - Clarinet in B <sup>b</sup> 1	2 - Trombone 3	
4 - Clarinet in B <sup>b</sup> 2	2 - Euphonium B.C.	
4 - Clarinet in B <sup>b</sup> 3	2 - Euphonium T.C.	
2 - B <sup>b</sup> Bass Clarinet in B <sup>b</sup>	4 - Tuba	
1 - Contra Alto Clarinet in Eb	1 - Percussion 1 - Timpani	
2 - Alto Saxophone 1		
2 - Alto Saxophone 2		

**\*\*\*Large Score Available**

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## Program Notes for Oracle:

Oracle was commissioned by the Hebron High School Wind Symphony, under the direction of Andy Sealy, on the occasion of their invitation to perform at the 2010 Midwest Clinic and their selection as the 5A Honor Band (with performance at the 2011 Texas Music Educator's Association Convention).

In looking for a compositional direction for Oracle, I looked for musical influences that I had not heard frequently utilized in band music. After researching various cultures and experimenting with their musical elements, I settled on a Greek influence. Quickly, the palette of octatonic scales and mixed meter (7/8 throughout, always subdivided 2-2-3) emerged.

As a percussionist, I was excited to write for the Hebron percussion section. Under the direction of percussion specialist Scott Baldwin, the Hebron drumline always impressed me with their quality and professionalism. Being able to write for such fine players was exciting, and that excitement helped to craft musical content that was based around the percussion section.

While the percussion instruments are not necessarily Greek per se, the idea was to bring some less common colors into the wind ensemble. Doumbek, djembe and four-mallet marimba are prominently used along with a variety of other standard percussion instruments to create an ethnic feel.

In its short 4 minute duration, Oracle covers a number of moods, from playful and conversational to bombastic and aggressive, all while conjuring up Grecian imagery.

## About the Composer:



**Eric Rath** is an active educator, clinician, arranger and composer. He is currently the Director of Bands at Panhandle High School in Panhandle, TX. Previously, Mr. Rath was the director of Percussion and assistant Band Director at Randall High School in Amarillo, TX. Additionally, he serves as adjunct Instructor of Percussion at Amarillo College.

Mr. Rath is a graduate of West Texas A&M University where he received both his Bachelor of Music Education and his Master of Arts Degree. While at WT, he studied percussion with Dr. Susan Martin Tariq and was a member of the Symphonic Band under the direction of Dr. Gary Garner and then Mr. Don Lefevre.

As a composer, Mr. Rath has a growing list of original works and arrangements published through TRN Music, C. Alan Publications, TapSPACE Publications, HoneyRock Publications, Key Poulan Music, JW3 Publications and Eric Rath Music. His music has been described as “very exciting for performers and audiences alike.” Mr. Rath’s piece “Paramount Park” for Grade 2 Band, was the winner of the first Association of Texas Small School Bands (ATSSB) Composition Contest. His compositions have been performed at the Midwest clinic and the Texas Music Educator’s Association Convention. With Ralph Hicks, Mr. Rath is co-author of the Percussion Ensemble Collection “Beyond Basic Percussion: Developing Independence Through Ensemble Performance (TapSPACE Publications).”

A member of the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra, Mr. Rath also regularly performs with the Amarillo Opera. Active as an in-demand freelance percussionist as well as a member on the worship team at his church, he is also a former member of the Phantom Regiment Drum and Bugle Corps.

Mr. Rath resides in Amarillo, Texas, with his wife, Kayla, their children Regan, Grant and McKinley. An alumnus and former chapter president of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, his professional affiliations include the Percussive Arts Society, Texas Music Educators Association, and the Texas Bandmasters Association. He is also proud to be an Innovative Percussion Artist as well as a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

Frenetic  $\text{♩} = 160$

# Oracle

Eric Rath (ASCAP)

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument family. The woodwind section includes Piccolo, Flute 1/2, Oboe 1/2, Bassoon 1/2, Clarinet 1, 2, and 3, Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$ , and Contra Alto Clarinet in E $\flat$ . The saxophone section includes Alto Saxophone 1 and 2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpet 1, 2, and 3, Horn 1/2, Trombone 1, 2, and 3, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Marimba, Triangle, Crotales, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Suspended China & Splash Cymbals, Concert Toms (4), and Bass Drum. The score features dynamic markings such as *ff*, *f*, and *fz*, and includes performance instructions like 'Tune: F, A, C, F' and 'etc.' for the percussion parts.

Picc.  
 Fl. 1/2  
 Ob. 1/2  
 Bsn. 1/2  
 Cl. 1  
 Cl. 2  
 Cl. 3  
 B. Cl.  
 C. A. Cl.  
 Alto Sax. 1  
 Alto Sax. 2  
 Ten. Sax.  
 Bari. Sax.  
 Tpt. 1  
 Tpt. 2  
 Tpt. 3  
 Hn. 1/2  
 Tbn. 1  
 Tbn. 2  
 Tbn. 3  
 Euph.  
 Tba.  
 Perc 1  
 Perc 2  
 Perc 3  
 Perc 4  
 Perc 5  
 Perc 6  
 Perc 7  
 Perc 8

Bass Clarinet Cues  
 Solo  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
*f*  
*f* *ff*  
*mp*  
 Triangle  
*mp* I.v.  
 to Tambourine  
 Tambourine  
*f* *ff*  
*ff*  
*mp*  
 + Tam  
 I.v.

17

21

Picc.

Fl. 1/2

Ob. 1/2

Bsn. 1/2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

C. A. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1

Alto Sax. 2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tba.

Perc 1

Perc 2

Perc 3

Perc 4

Perc 5

Perc 6

Perc 7

Perc 8

Solo

1.

a2

mp

mf

f

mp

25

Picc. *a2 tutti*

Fl. 1/2

Ob. 1/2 1. *cresc.* Play *mf*

Bsn. 1/2 *cresc.* *mf*

Cl. 1 *a2*

Cl. 2 *cresc.*

Cl. 3 *cresc.*

B. Cl. *cresc.*

C. A. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1 *f*

Alto Sax. 2 *f*

Ten. Sax. *f* *mf*

Bari. Sax. *f* *mf*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2 *mf*

Tbn. 3 *mf*

Euph. *f* *mf*

Tba. *mf*

Perc 1 *f*

Perc 2 *f mp*

Perc 3

Perc 4

Perc 5 *f mp*

Perc 6 *mf*

Perc 7 *mp* *f*

Perc 8