

Blackthorn March

Tales from the Darklands - Chapter 4

For Concert Band, Grade 1.5
by Randall D. Standridge (ASCAP)

Instrumentation

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 - Full Score | 4 - Bb Trumpet 1 |
| 8 - Flute | 4 - Bb Trumpet 2 |
| 2 - Oboe | 6 - F Horn |
| 4 - Bb Clarinet 1 | 8 - Tromb./Euph. B.C./Bassoon |
| 4 - Bb Clarinet 2 | 2 - Euphonium T.C. |
| 4 - Bb Clarinet (F Horn Double) | 4 - Tuba |
| 2 - Bb Bass Clarinet | 2 - Bass |
| 6 - Eb Alto Saxophone | |
| 2 - Bb Tenor Saxophone | |
| 2 - Eb Baritone Saxophone | |
| 2 - Bells | |
| 2 - Chimes | |
| 2 - Timpani | |
| 3 - Percussion 1&2: Snare Drum, Bass Drum | |
| 2 - Percussion 3: Crash Cymbals/Woodblock | |

Full Set - \$60.00

Extra Conductor Score - \$12.00

Extra Part - \$4.00



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About *Tales from the Darklands*

A few years back, I created a narrative work for concert band entitled *The Darklands Symphony*. It told the tale of several characters and places that I have created over the years in my imagination through stories, art, and, finally, music. All of the pieces were at the Grade 2-2.5 level and were very well received. I thought I was done with the Darklands.

I was wrong.

New stories and new figures populated that world, and I felt drawn to the subject matter again. Thus, we are beginning a whole new volume titled *Tales from the Darklands*. Unlike the *Symphony*, the "Tales" series will not be one long story but, rather, small individual tales that give more back story and depth to the Darklands Universe. Also, the entire "Tales" series will be written at the Grade 1-1.5 level, opening up the Darklands to a whole new level of players. Each "Tales" piece will be accompanied by supplemental material online, which may be found on my website

About Lady Blackthorn

On the tallest mountain in the Darklands sits a castle. From this dark and stately abode, Lady Blackthorn wages her war against Queen Oscura and all of her minions to retake the land that was stolen from her family many years ago. While the citizens of the Darklands view her as a hero due to her rebellion against the cruel rulers of the kingdom, Lady Blackthorn is neither good nor evil. Cunning and possessed of a controlled nature, she serves her own purposes and seeks allies only to further her quest to sit the Ebony Throne within Darkheart Castle. Never content to lead from safety, she stands at the front of her army, leading the march down the mountain to reclaim her birthright.

Blackthorn March is the "Tales of the Darklands" equivalent to *Darklands March* from the *Darklands Symphony*. This march borrows some of the harmonic language and motion from the other, while introducing new melodies and also being written for younger musicians. This march was also written in 2024, the ten-year anniversary of *Darklands March*.

Educational goals of the work:

- March Style and Structure
- Expressive and noticeable dynamics
- Articulations: Slurs, Staccatos, Accents

Rehearsal suggestions

- The tempo of this work is critical to its character. When planning your preparation, make sure to allow time for proper technical development to achieve the written tempos, lest the work come off as "boring."
- The percussion should be on the slightly louder side of the balance spectrum. Please do not "hide" them. However, they should not cover the ensemble.
- The clarinets may be assigned the regular part OR the optional French Horn double (or you may split your section as needed).
- Please use the COPYABLE chromatic exercise sheets to help work with your performers with their development of this skill.**
- Some supplemental videos and the entire short story about "Lady Blackthorn and the Troll King" will be available on my website soon.



About the Composer

Randall Standridge (b.1976) received his Bachelor's of Music Education from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his Master's in Music Composition, studying with Dr. Tom O'Connor and Dr. Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer.

Mr. Standridge's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected for the J.W. Pepper's editor's choice. His compositions *Snake Charmer*, *Gently Blows the Summer Wind*, and *Angelic Celebrations* have been included in the "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band" series. He has had numerous works performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. The Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble premiered his work *Art(isms)* at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and his work *Stonewall: 1969* was premiered at the National LGBA conference in 2019. His *Symphony no.1: A Ghost Story* was premiered in 2023. In addition, Mr. Standridge's "unBroken Project," a musical initiative about mental health, has received widespread acclaim for its musical content and for providing opportunities to normalize discussions about mental health for music students and audiences.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor of Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as an arranger/designer for the marching arts. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with his husband, Steven, and their very, very spoiled pets.

For more information about Mr. Standridge, visit his website at: www.randallstandridge.com.

Written on the 10 year anniversary of *Darklands March*

BLACKTHORN MARCH

Score
Grade 1.5

Duration: 2:30

Tales from the Darklands - Chapter 4

Randall D. Standridge
(ASCAP)

Marching $\text{♩} = 124$

5

Flute *f*

Oboe *f*

B♭ Clarinet 1-2 *f*

B♭ Clarinet (Horn Double) *f*

E♭ Alto Saxophone *f*

B♭ Tenor Saxophone *f* *mf*

B♭ Trumpet 1 *f* *mf*

B♭ Trumpet 2 *f* *mf*

Horn in F *f*

Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon *f* *mf*

Low Reeds/Tuba *f* *mf*

Bells *f* *mf*

Chimes *f* *mf*

Timpani (3) *f* Tune: G, C, E

Percussion 1 & 2*
P1: Snare Drum
P2: Bass Drum
(opt., 1 player on drumset) *f* *mf*

Percussion 3
Crash Cymbals/
Woodblock *f*

1 2 3 4 5 6

RSM C083

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Blackthorn March - Score

13

Fl. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Ob. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Cl. 1-2 *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Cl. (HD) *f* *p* *f*

A. Sx. *f* *p* *f*

T. Sx. *f* *p* *f* *mp*

Tpt. 1 *f*

Tpt. 2 *f*

Hn. *f* *p* *f*

Trb. Euph. Bssn. *f* *p* *f* *p*

L.R. Tuba *f* *p* *f* *p*

Bs. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Ch. *f*

Timp. *f* *f*

Perc.1/2 *f* *p* *f*

Perc.3 *f*

13

14

15

16

17

18

1. 2.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1-2

Cl. (HD)

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. Euph. Bssn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls.

Ch.

Timp.

Perc. 1/2

Perc. 3

mp

mf

mf

mp

mf

f

f

p

f

19 20 21 22 23

Blackthorn March - Score

26

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Fl.:** Flute, mostly silent with rests.
- Ob.:** Oboe, mostly silent with rests.
- Cl. 1-2:** Clarinets 1 and 2, mostly silent with rests.
- Cl. (HD):** Clarinet in D, playing a melodic line starting in measure 27 with dynamics *mp* and *p*.
- A. Sx.:** Alto Saxophone, playing a melodic line starting in measure 27 with dynamics *mp* and *p*.
- T. Sx.:** Tenor Saxophone, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting in measure 26 with dynamics *mf* and *dim.*
- Tpt. 1 & 2:** Trumpets 1 and 2, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting in measure 26 with dynamics *mf* and *dim.*, ending in measure 28 with *p*.
- Hn.:** Horns, playing a melodic line starting in measure 27 with dynamics *mp* and *p*.
- Trb. Euph. Bssn.:** Trombones, Euphonium, and Basses, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting in measure 26 with dynamics *mf* and *dim.*
- L.R. Tuba:** Left and Right Tubas, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting in measure 26 with dynamics *mf* and *dim.*
- Bls.:** Basses, mostly silent with rests.
- Ch.:** Chimes, playing a melodic line starting in measure 27 with dynamics *mf*.
- Timp.:** Timpani, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting in measure 26 with dynamics *mf* and *p*.
- Perc. 1/2:** Percussion 1 and 2, playing a complex rhythmic pattern with dynamics *mf* and *p*.
- Perc. 3:** Percussion 3, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes starting in measure 26 with dynamics *mf* and *dim.*

24

25

26

27

28

29

Blackthorn March - Score

38

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. 1-2

Cl. (HD) *mp*

A. Sx. *mp*

T. Sx. *p*

Tpt. 1 *mp* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mp* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf*

Hn. *mp*

Trb. Euph. Bssn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls. *mf*

Ch.

Timp. *p*

Perc. 1/2 *p*

Perc. 3 *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf* *p* \leftarrow *mf*

36 37 38 39 40 41

46

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. 1-2 *f*

Cl. (HD) *f*

A. Sx. *f*

T. Sx. *f*

Tpt. 1 *p* *mf* *f*

Tpt. 2 *p* *mf* *f*

Hn. *f*

Trb. Euph. Bsn. *f*

L.R. Tuba *f*

Bls. *f*

Ch. *f*

Timp. (damp.) *f*

Perc. 1/2 *f*

Perc. 3 Cr. Cyms. (Ch.) *f*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *f*

42 43 44 45 46 47

54

The musical score for measures 54-59 of the Blackthorn March. The score is written for a full orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Fl. (Flute)
- Ob. (Oboe)
- Cl. 1-2 (Clarinets 1 and 2)
- Cl. (HD) (Clarinet in D)
- A. Sx. (Alto Saxophone)
- T. Sx. (Tenor Saxophone)
- Tpt. 1 (Trumpet 1)
- Tpt. 2 (Trumpet 2)
- Hn. (Horn)
- Trb. Euph. Bssn. (Trombone, Euphonium, Bass Trombone)
- L.R. Tuba (Left and Right Tuba)
- Bls. (Bassoon)
- Ch. (Chorus)
- Timp. (Timpani)
- Perc. 1/2 (Percussion 1 and 2)
- Perc. 3 (Percussion 3)

The score begins at measure 54 with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The percussion parts include snare drum patterns with accents and cymbal crashes. The woodwinds and brass parts feature rhythmic patterns and melodic lines. The score concludes at measure 59.

