THE LOST CITY OF TRYON





BEGINNING BAND ADAPTABLE SERIES

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Grade .5
4-Part Flexible Instrumentation + Optional Percussion
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Duration: 1 minute Year of composition: 2021

About the Instrumentation

This piece is organized in 4-part flexible instrumentation plus optional (but encouraged) percussion. To fully realize the piece, you will need to have at least one player on each of the 4 parts. You will see that several instruments appear under more than 1 part. For example, clarinets appear under both part 1 and part 2. This means a clarinet part is provided for part 1 and part 2. Clarinets could play either part; if you have multiple clarinet players, they could divide between the two parts, or they could all play one of the parts. The choice is up to you! You don't need to have every instrument listed for a given part playing that part – there are multiple instruments listed per part to provide as many options as possible. Again, the key is simply that you have each of the 4 parts covered by someone.

Part 1	Flute
raiti	Oboe
	Clarinet in Bb
	Trumpet in Bb
	Alto Sax
Part 2	Flute
	Oboe
	Clarinet in Bb
	Trumpet in Bb
	Alto Sax
	Tenor Sax
	Horn in F
Part 3	Bassoon
	Trombone
	Euphonium
	Baritone T.C.
	Tenor Sax
Part 4	Bassoon
	Trombone
	Euphonium
	Baritone T.C.
	Tuba
Optional Percussion	Bells
	Bass Drum
	Snare Drum
	Triangle
	Found Percussion*

^{*}This refers to non-traditional percussion instruments like a kitchen pot, or music stand. You could have one percussionist playing this part, or as many as you like. I think metallic sounds could be particular useful for this, as well as low sounds. I included found percussion here to help evoke the sounds of an early city – the sounds of blacksmiths and carpenters, etc. And I hope that this is an opportunity for percussionists to enjoy the creativity of thinking up their own "found" instruments.

History of The Lost City of Tryon

In the late 1700's, John Tryon purchased land on Irondequoit Creek a few miles from what is today Rochester, NY. Mr. Tryon and others envisioned a thriving, successful city that would use its location on the creek to facilitate trade with surrounding communities and Canada. While a number of buildings were built, and Tryon did become a bustling commercial center, the young city was eventually abandoned in the first few decades of the 1800's as Rochester began to thrive on the Genesee River just a few miles west. Today, very little is left of the original City of Tryon - only a few brick pillars, concrete steps, and a cabin that was rebuilt in the 20th century.

About the Music

I envision a community of early settlers at Tryon busily constructing buildings and the necessarily tools and materials. I see and hear blacksmiths forging steel into tools, carpenters hammering nails, and everyone in the community contributing some skill to build this new city. The beginning and end of the piece represent this idea – the building of the City of Tryon. Foot-stomps from the ensemble help evoke this scene. The lyrical middle section represents the beauty of the land, its verdant hills situated beside a creek.



Concrete steps in the Lost City of Tryon. Photo: Ashley Danyew



