

More About THE STORMS OF TIME

I personally consider this to be one of my very best efforts for concert band. At grade 4+, it is not an easy work, and it requires fairly complete instrumentation...although the important solos for less common instruments are cued. But it is well within the capabilities of most grade 4 high school and college bands who are willing to put the time and effort into learning it.

The background and form of this piece are described on the website entry for it, so I don't need to repeat that here. The commission specified grade 4, but beyond that I was given free reign to write in any style I chose. I was also asked to feature alto sax, flute, clarinet, and bassoon solos.

As the piece neared completion, we discussed what to name it, but the director ultimately left that up to me. I spent a lot of time trying to come up with an appropriate title, and eventually chose a line from a nineteenth century hymn, **Sing with All the Saints in Glory**, which I used as an epigraph in the score:.

All around the clouds are breaking,
soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we, awaking,
know the everlasting peace.

- William J. Irons, 1873