

*Commissioned by and Dedicated to
Tavia Zerman and the Hayes Middle School Bands*

Josh Trentadue

THE GRAND LEDGE TRIPTYCH

for concert band

**SPLENDID RIDGES
GRADE 1.5**

**SEVEN ISLANDS
GRADE 3**

**COMETS ABLAZE!
GRADE 2.5**



MUSIC OF THE INTROSPECTIVE FIELDS

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SPLENDID RIDGES

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SEVEN ISLANDS

GRADE 3

COMETS ABLAZE!

GRADE 2.5

INSTRUMENTATION

The following instrumentation is required for all three works in *The Grand Ledge Triptych*. In total, 7-9 percussion players (including timpani) will be needed:

2 FLUTES (*Splendid Ridges*, 1 part + shared with Oboe)

2 OBOES (*Splendid Ridges*, 1 part + shared with Flute; *Seven Islands*, 1 part)

BASSOON

2 B \flat CLARINETS (*Splendid Ridges*, 1 part)

B \flat BASS CLARINET

--An additional B-flat Clarinet may be substituted for this part if necessary--

2 ALTO SAXOPHONES (*Splendid Ridges*, 1 part)

TENOR SAXOPHONE

BARITONE SAXOPHONE

4 B \flat TRUMPETS (*Splendid Ridges*, 1 part; *Seven Islands*, 3 parts; *Comets Ablaze!*, 4 parts)

2 HORNS (*Splendid Ridges*, 1 part)

3 TROMBONES (*Splendid Ridges*, 2 parts)

EUPHONIUMS (*Splendid Ridges* + *Seven Islands*, 1 part; *Comets Ablaze!*, 2 parts)

---B.C. and T.C. parts are provided---

TUBAS [at least two players required]

TIMPANI (4 drums)

PERCUSSION [6-8 players required]:

-- *Splendid Ridges* – 4 aux. perc. parts (5 players), 2 OPTIONAL mallet perc. parts (2 players)

[5-7 players total]

--*Seven Islands* – 4 aux. perc. parts (4 players), 4 OPTIONAL mallet perc. parts (4 players)

[4-8 players total]

--*Comets Ablaze!* – 5 aux. perc. parts (6 players), 1 OPTIONAL mallet perc. part (2 players)

[6-7 players total]

PIANO (*Seven Islands* only – OPTIONAL)

HARP (*Seven Islands* only – OPTIONAL)

For specific instrumentation lists required for each piece, please refer to each score separately.

PERCUSSION LIST

Timpani (4 drums)

Splendid Ridges

Suspended Cymbal
Tenor Drum (or Large Tom)
Surdo Drum (or Large Tom)
Tam-Tam
Bass Drum
Glockenspiel [optional]
Chimes [optional]

Seven Islands

Vibraphone [optional]
Glockenspiel [optional]
Marimba (4.3-octave) [optional]
Crotales (bow needed) [optional]
Suspended Cymbal
Ocean Drum [optional but preferred; see the piece's Performance Notes for more details]
Crash Cymbals
Triangle
Bass Drum

Comets Ablaze!

Marimba (4.3-octave) [optional]
Glockenspiel [optional]
Xylophone [optional]
Vibraphone [optional]
Crotales [optional]
Chimes [optional]
High Wood Block
Triangle
Tambourine
DRUMS WORKSHOP (Small Bass Drum, 4 Tom-Toms, 2 Bongos)
Suspended Cymbal
CYMBALS WORKSHOP (Hi-Hat, China, Crash, Splash)
Brake Drum
Tam-Tam (2 triangle beaters needed)
Whip
Crash Cymbals
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

FULL LIST

Suspended Cymbal
Tenor Drum (or Large Tom)
Surdo Drum (or Large Tom)
Tam-Tam (2 triangle beaters needed)
Bass Drum
Glockenspiel [optional]
Chimes [optional]
Vibraphone [optional]
Marimba (4.3-octave) [optional]
Crotales (bow needed) [optional]
Ocean Drum [optional but preferred; see the piece's Performance Notes for more details]
Crash Cymbals
Triangle
Xylophone [optional]
Chimes [optional]
High Wood Block
Tambourine
DRUMS WORKSHOP (Small Bass Drum, 4 Tom-Toms, 2 Bongos)
CYMBALS WORKSHOP (Hi-Hat, China, Crash, Splash)
Brake Drum
Whip
Snare Drum

PROGRAM NOTES

One of my earliest compositions for band was inspired by a famous landmark in Michigan, the state I was born and raised in. A consortium commission for a later work, plus an additional compositional idea for another work, resulted in a triptych of music entirely inspired by this state. *The Michigan Triptych* represents and explores aspects of this state I have come to love and admire over the years, depicting some of the notable landmarks and scenic locales that have existed in this place for generations. This project thus became an opportunity to revisit and reconnect with that part of nature I adored about Michigan.

Recently, I had the opportunity to re-connect with one of my former teachers from the years I spent in the town of Grand Ledge, Michigan. Tavia Zerman was my band director at Hayes Middle School and a huge inspiration to my musical development growing up, as she has been with so many of her students. As we started to discuss the possibility of collaborating together on a new work for band, she had an idea for what the piece could be about – a depiction of the town of Grand Ledge itself and its various wonders. This intrigued me because, to my knowledge, a considerable amount of time has passed since a piece of music had been composed specifically about this place. The more we began to formulate ideas for this music, the more it became clear that this concept could not be limited by the constraints of one piece. As one door closed on a triptych about Michigan, another door opened to a new triptych about a town in this state so familiar to me.

The Grand Ledge Triptych was commissioned by Tavia Zerman and the Hayes Middle School Bands. Each of the three pieces explores an aspect of Grand Ledge, Michigan that demonstrates several of the wonders this town has to offer. *Splendid Ridges* creates a brief, but majestic statement upon viewing the town's most famous rock formation, the Ledges, for the very first time. *Seven Islands* conjures a ballad inspired by viewing a beautiful sunrise at the Seven Islands, the piece serving as an acknowledgement of this landmark's natural beauty as well as the history of its popular amusement-park attractions that once defined it. *Comets Ablaze!* is a joyful, youthful, and fiery celebration of both Grand Ledge's historical innovations and its public schools' generations of students setting forth with new innovations, changing the world one day at a time.

My deepest and sincerest gratitude goes to Tavia Zerman and the Hayes Middle School Bands for entrusting me with this commission and supporting this triptych. My sincerest thanks especially go to Mrs. Zerman for supporting me in my musical endeavors, when I was her student at Hayes and beyond. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to write this triptych about a place so familiar and life-changing for me. Most of all, I am forever grateful for the opportunity to give this music to a community that not only supported my musical development, but for so many of my colleagues as well and for many of its students for generations to come.

ABOUT EACH PIECE

SPLENDID RIDGES (2020)

Perhaps one of the most famous historical monuments located in Grand Ledge, Michigan is its distinct formations of sedimentary rock known as the Ledges. This ancient structure, the seventh largest of its kind in the state, overlooks roughly a mile of the banks of the Grand River at a height of 60 feet. Whether taking a stroll through Fitzgerald Park, or learning how to rock-climb on its more friendly footholds in Oak Park, the Ledges provides a unique symbol of what Grand Ledge has to offer.

Splendid Ridges creates a brief, but powerful and majestic statement on viewing this historical monument for the very first time.

SEVEN ISLANDS (2020)

There are seven islands located in the town of Grand Ledge, Michigan. Three of them are quite small, not large enough for exploration. The last island (now named Half-Mile Island) once served as a picnic area for boaters. And, the first two islands would become the town's most popular resort areas in its early history.

Throughout the late 1800's to early 1900's, settlers built resorts and amusement-park attractions to capitalize on the natural wonders of this place. While such eccentricities would gradually wane out by the 1930's, remnants of these popular entertainments can be found to an extent. Today, riverboats still make their journey along the Grand River. Annual festivals and other events are held. And, a popular gazebo was built on the now-named Island Park.

Seven Islands is a lush ballad which depicts the natural beauty and wonder of this historical place in Grand Ledge at sunrise. Melodies are accompanied with sweeping harmonic motion as well as shimmering and twinkling figures, bridged together by passages depicting the stillness of the Grand River. The history of this place is acknowledged in the grand and majestic build (and resolution) of this work, demonstrating that the Seven Islands has so much more to offer in Grand Ledge today.

COMETS ABLAZE! (2020)

Grand Ledge, Michigan offers several innovations that has changed the course of the town's history over time. In the 19th century, it was the second city in Michigan to have electricity. The Trestle Bridge was built to expand the local and economic potential of the community to neighboring cities. Dams were constructed to create more open hospitality for wandering travelers. Popular entertainment such as the Seven Islands Resort, the Opera House, and the Playhouse Theater would generate a significant amount of tourism. And, the town for a time would become defined by its most well-known industry, clay and furniture manufacturing.

In the present day, Grand Ledge offers a wide and unique variety of entertainment through its annual festivals, fairs, and longstanding commitment to fine arts. Community-based activities occur annually, and quite often, to benefit the whole town. Students of the town's public schools define themselves on their integrity and determination to give their all. Many have gone on to become sports players, professional musicians, teachers, local and state government officials, scientists, journalists, and artists. Some have even gone on to become composers.

Comets Ablaze! is a fiery and joyful celebration of the historical innovations and community comprising Grand Ledge. It is an acknowledgement of the town's past, present, and future. It is a youthful and spirited piece driven by its self-relentless determination to inspire. And, it is a commemoration of the next generation of students (their school's mascot, the Comets) setting forth, innovating and changing the world one day at a time.