

AAGGHH!!

by Kyle McKinzey

AAGGHH!! is a fun piece for young band. Both your audience and kids will have a blast. There are many effects in the piece. Don't let the sound effects scare you. Your kids will have fun being creative and "scary."

INSTRUMENTATION NOTES:

- Careful consideration has been given to range.
- Teach the $\frac{1}{2}$ step accidental as a unison part first. After a little practice, your players will achieve it easily.
- The flute and oboe are in unison with modifications in the oboe for range.
- Though the trumpet and clarinet are written in two parts, they play unison 95% of the time. This was just an easier way for them to read the effect in measure 6-7.
- The clarinets never goes across the break.
- The low brass is always rhythmically unison and usually unison in pitch as well.

Measure 2 – On beat 1, full band vocalize SSHH! as loud as they can; don't let the *pp* scare them off. On beat 3 they just yell a loud groan.

Measure 5 – Quarter note all stomp on 1 and then just scream bloody murder on beat 3

Measure 6-7 – This will take a little work but once they understand the effect, they really get into it. Be precise in having the cluster cut off right on 4 with the low voices.

Measure 29 – The timpani pitches don't have to be in tune. Simply tune the smallest drum to the highest pitch. As the player rolls, *slowly* lower the pitch.

Measure 32 – The timpani pitches are, again, approximate.

Measure 33 – Everyone just play something awful and loud!

Measure 42 – The snare part here at first is a little tricky, but it's repetitive. The tom part has a splash cym part. If one is not available, it could be a stick on a tam, or any piece of loud metal.

Measure 43 – Trumpets buzz minor 3rd on mouthpiece.

Measure 44 – The flutter in the alto saxophone and horn is just some kind of noise. I let them come up with their own.

Measure 45 – The flutes learned to do a pitch bend like the *Witches Sabbath*. The 1st Clarinets will use only their mouthpieces, while the 2nd clarinets will use their mouthpieces and barrels. They will use their lips and/or teeth to lower the pitch.

Measure 49 – Again, the percussion just makes a LOT of noise. The mallets should start with 1 mallet at each end of the keyboard and just gliss back and forth quickly. The timpani is again doing the high gliss that it did earlier.

Measure 63 – Though it's not written in the part, I had auditions and had one person scream as loud as they could on beat 1 and cut off *after* the band cut off. The reason I didn't write it in the part is I made it seem like it was a BRILLIANT IDEA that I just thought up. It was a tool to get them excited about it.



Kyle McKinzey is a middle school band director at T.A. Howard Middle School in the Mansfield Independent School District in Texas. He has been teaching since 1982 at both the middle school and the high school levels in East Texas, and the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He is a 1982 graduate of Henderson State University, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas. At Henderson, he studied composition with Dr. Bill Underwood, and was also influenced by his percussion instructor, Doug DeMorrow.

Through the years, Kyle has written many arrangements for friends, as well as compositions and arrangements for marching band, concert band, jazz band, and percussion ensembles. In addition to these pieces, he has done numerous arrangements for his church's praise band, orchestra, and choir. He has also orchestrated and conducted many productions for orchestra and choir. His most recent endeavor was a benefit for Zoe Ministries where he worked with the largest mass choir production ever performed at Bass Hall in Fort Worth, Texas.

Kyle has performed with both the Arkansas and South Arkansas Symphonies as a percussionist. He played piano and drums with the Greenville Big Band Jazz Orchestra. He is a charter member of the Mansfield Wind Symphony of Mansfield, Texas, and he currently plays percussion with them. He is an active member of Texas Music Educators Association, ASCAP, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia. He lives in Mansfield with his wife Charlene and two wonderful children, Johnna and Brandt.