

ASPENWOOD CONCERT BAND SERIES

GRADE 2.5

Cat and the Keys

Carol Brittin Chambers

Aspenwood Music, LLC

SAN ANTONIO, TX - USA

aspenwoodmusic.com

About The Composer



Carol Brittin Chambers is currently the composer and owner of Aspenwood Music, aspenwoodmusic.com, and a highly sought-after conductor and clinician. She lives in San Antonio, Texas, where she is also on the music faculty at Texas Lutheran University, teaching composition and serving as Composer in Residence.

Chambers is commissioned each year to compose and arrange works for concert band, marching band, orchestra, and various other ensembles. Her concert works have been selected to the J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice List and the Bandworld Top 100 and have been performed at state educator conferences across the country, the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, and other international events. She was named the winner of the 2019 WBDI (Women Band Directors International) Composition Competition and also served as the 2025 TBA Texas Bandmasters Association Featured Composer. She has arranged and orchestrated marching shows for multitudes of high school bands nationwide, as well as The Crossmen Drum Corps. Chambers travels coast-to-coast conducting music ensembles of all ability levels

and ages, and she has now joined the Conn Selmer Educational Team as an Educational Clinician.

Before coming to TLU, Chambers taught middle school and high school band and private lessons for many years in the North East Independent School District, San Antonio, TX. She has also consistently performed with groups such as the Mid-Texas and San Antonio Symphonies. Chambers received a Master of Music in Trumpet Performance from Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Tech University. She studied under Vincent Cichowicz, Will Strieder, John Paynter, Arnold Jacobs, James Sudduth, and Pat Anthony.

About Cat and the Keys

Cat and the Keys was commissioned by the Leander Middle School Band in Leander, TX - Liz Love, Jeremiah Ward, and Emily Smith, directors. It premiered December 2025 at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago, IL.

Part of my "assignment" in writing this piece was to create something not only upbeat and enjoyable for the musicians and audience, but also something that could feature the director's parents (*see the additional notes below). Since Mr. and Mrs. Love play piano and clarinet, a jazzy piece seemed appropriate. The late 19th - early 20th Century in America saw certain genres emerging from previous ones, (such as Ragtime, which began as dance music in African-American communities and contained highly syncopated rhythms, modified march forms, and high technical demand). These styles continued to evolve and influence other forms, such as the Blues and Jazz. In this particular work, the *Cat* is represented by the Clarinet, and the *Keys* is represented by the Piano. I hope you have as much fun listening to this piece as I did writing it!

*Additional notes from the director: "I gotta admit, I cried big ugly tears when I heard this for the first time. (I mean that in a good way!) My parents are the biggest musical influences of my life - I would not, in any way, be the musician I am today without them. I have learned so much from them both about playing music, but mostly I have them to thank for my deep love for music in general. Growing up in a house where we heard opera, jazz, baroque, classical symphonies, and everything in between - I wouldn't change it for the world. Even though they tried to convince me not to be a music educator ("are you sure you don't want to make more money???"), I couldn't resist the dark side - it was truly their fault.

I reached out to Carol a few days after we received the invitation to perform at Midwest and said something like "um, like, so it would be cool if my parents could play and it was just like joyous and super fun?" I can't believe the amazing piece that came out of that incoherent assortment of words. It's absolutely perfect - it's full of joy, it showcases my amazing piano and clarinet playing parents, and still makes it all about these amazing young musicians. Thank you, Carol! And thanks, Mom and Dad, for everything." - Liz Love

Cat and the Keys

CAROL BRITTIN CHAMBERS
(ASCAP)

Lively ♩ = 108 3

The score is for a full band and includes the following parts:

- Flute
- Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)
- B♭ Clarinet 1
- B♭ Clarinet 2
- Bass Clarinet
- Bassoon
- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Saxophone
- B♭ Trumpet 1
- B♭ Trumpet 2
- Horn in F
- Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Piano
- Timpani (F, B♭, E♭)
- Mallets 1 (Xylophone)
- Mallets 2 (Marimba)
- Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
- Percussion 2 (Hi-Hat, Shaker, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle, Tambourine, Cowbell, Slide Whistle, Temple Blocks)

Tempo: **Lively** ♩ = 108. The score features a 4/4 time signature and dynamic markings of *f* and *mf*. A rehearsal mark 3 is placed above the third measure of the first system.

Cat and the Keys - Full Score

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Pno.

Timp.

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mp Shaker

mf Suspended Cymbal

p

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Pno.

Timp.

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mallet end

f *mp* *f*

Cue: Piano

Cue: Piano

Cue: Piano

Solo *2 hands

Solo

Cue: Piano

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf* Play

B♭ Cl. 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

A. Sax. *mf* Play

T. Sax. *mf* Play

B. Sax. *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Pno.

Timp. *mf*

Mal. 1 *mf*

Mal. 2 *mf*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *p*

26 30

Fl. *f* *mp*

Ob. *f* *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *f* *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *f* *mp*

B. Cl. *f* *mp*

Bsn. *f* *mp*

A. Sax. *f* *mp*

T. Sax. *f* *mp*

B. Sax. *f* *mp*

26 30

B♭ Tpt. 1 *f* *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *f* *mp*

Hn. *f* *mp*

Tbn. *f* *mp*

Euph. *f* *mp*

Tuba *f* *mp*

Pno.

Timp. *f*

Mal. 1 *f*

Mal. 2

Perc. 1 *f* *mp*

Perc. 2 *f* Triangle Hi-hat

The score is arranged in systems. The first system (measures 26-30) includes Flute, Oboe, Clarinets (B♭ 1 & 2, B♭), Bassoon, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The second system (measures 26-30) includes Trumpets (B♭ 1 & 2), Horns, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The third system (measures 26-30) includes Piano. The fourth system (measures 26-30) includes Timpani, Mallets 1 & 2, and Percussion 1 & 2. Percussion 1 and 2 have specific notation for Triangle and Hi-hat starting at measure 29.

Cat and the Keys - Full Score

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), two Clarinets (B♭ Cl. 1 and B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sax.). The brass section consists of two Trumpets (B♭ Tpt. 1 and B♭ Tpt. 2), Horns (Hn.), Trombones (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba. The percussion section includes two sets of Maracas (Mal. 1 and Mal. 2), and two sets of Percussion (Perc. 1 and Perc. 2). The piano part (Pno.) is shown in grand staff notation. The score spans five measures, numbered 31 to 35 at the bottom. Measure 34 features a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) for the Tenor Saxophone and Trombone parts. Percussion parts include Triangles (Tri.) and Hi-hats (Hi-hat) in measures 31, 32, and 33.

31

32

33

34

35

Cat and the Keys - Full Score

38

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

38

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Solo or Soli

Pno.

Timp.

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Solo

mf

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Sus. Cym.

choke

p

f

36

37

38

39

40

42

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

42

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

mf Solo

Pno.

Timp.

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Tambourine

The image displays a page of a musical score for the piece "Cat and the Keys". The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for different instruments. The instruments listed on the left side of the page are: Fl., Ob., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2, B. Cl., Bsn., A. Sax., T. Sax., B. Sax., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., Euph., Tuba, Pno., Timp., Mal. 1, Mal. 2, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The score is written in a key signature of two flats (B♭ and E♭) and a common time signature (C). The music is primarily melodic and rhythmic, with some complex passages in the saxophone and flute parts. The page is numbered 12 at the top right, and the measures are numbered 51, 52, 53, 54, and 55 at the bottom.

Cat and the Keys - Full Score

Cue: Piano
(Solo or Soli) **58**

Fl. *f*

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1 *f*

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

58

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Pno. *f*

Timp.

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1 *mp* Rim

Perc. 2 *p* Sus. Cym. *f*

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The top section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), Clarinet 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), and Bass Saxophone (B. Sax.). The middle section includes Trumpet 1 (B♭ Tpt. 1), Trumpet 2 (B♭ Tpt. 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba. The bottom section includes Piano (Pno.), Timpani (Timp.), Mallet 1 (Mal. 1), Mallet 2 (Mal. 2), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), and Percussion 2 (Perc. 2). The score spans four measures, with page numbers 61, 62, 63, and 64 indicated at the bottom. The piano part features a melodic line with an 8va marking and a fermata over a note in measure 63. The percussion parts show rhythmic patterns with accents.

66 Tutti Play

Fl. *ff* *f*

Ob. *f*

B♭ Cl. 1 *ff* *f* Tutti

B♭ Cl. 2 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

A. Sax. *ff* *f* Tutti Play

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

66 Open

B♭ Tpt. 1 *f* Open

B♭ Tpt. 2 *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tuba *f*

Pno. *ff* *Piano 4 Hands (2 players)

Timp. *f*

Mal. 1 *f* Play

Mal. 2 *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 Cowbell *ff*

74

74

f

mf

f

Slide Whistle

ff

70 71 72 73 74

The image displays a page of a musical score for 'Cat and the Keys - Full Score', page 16. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), Clarinet 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), Bass Saxophone (B. Sax.), Trumpet 1 (B♭ Tpt. 1), Trumpet 2 (B♭ Tpt. 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba, Piano (Pno.), Timpani (Timp.), Mallet 1 (Mal. 1), Mallet 2 (Mal. 2), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), and Percussion 2 (Perc. 2). The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of two flats (B♭ and E♭). The music is divided into measures, with a section starting at measure 74. The piano part includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mf*, and *f*. A 'Slide Whistle' is indicated in the Percussion 2 part. The page number '16' is in the top right corner, and the page number '74' is repeated in boxes above the staves. The page number '70' is at the bottom left, and '71', '72', '73', and '74' are at the bottom of the staves. The website 'aspenwoodmusic.com' is at the bottom center.

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The instruments are listed on the left side of the page, with their corresponding staves. The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 85, 86, 87, 88, and 89 indicated at the bottom. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The score includes various dynamics such as *sub. mp*, *cresc.*, and *mf*. The percussion section includes Timp., Mal. 1, Mal. 2, Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The piano part is labeled 'Pno.' and includes a 'Sus. Cym.' (Sustained Cymbal) effect in measure 89. The score is written in a clear, professional font with standard musical notation.

90

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

90

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Pno.

Timp.

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Tamb.

f