

ASPENWOOD CONCERT BAND SERIES

GRADE 2

Curse of the Clock Tower

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 Curse of the Clock Tower

Curse of the Clock Tower was Commissioned by Beyond the Notes Music Festival for its ComMission Possible project, in which students are placed at the center of the creative process by offering conceptual ideas for a new composition. The piece premiered in Spring 2026 by the Pierz Healy High School Concert Band, Pierz, MN, Joel Pohland, director.

The 2026 ComMission Possible member schools are as follows:

Alex Shapiro; Friday Harbor, WA
Badger Ridge Middle School Bands; Verona, WI – Pat Rich
Bernotas Middle School Bands; Crystal Lake, IL – Rick LoPresto & Kristina Wooden
Blackhawk Middle School 7th & 8th Grade Band; Bensenville, IL – William Winters
Bryan Middle School Band; St. Charles, MO – Ginger Herin
Cape Elizabeth Middle School 8th Grade Band; Cape Elizabeth, ME – Caitlin Ramsey & Missy Shabo
Des Moines Christian Middle School Bands; Des Moines, IA – Doug Gibson
Eau Claire South Middle School Bands; Eau Claire, WI – Scott Hensiak
Edina High School Bands; Edina, MN – Paul Kile
Frederick County Middle School Symphonic Band; Winchester, VA – Greg Abell
Glacier Creek 8th Grade Band; Cross Plains, WI – Anne Vanderbloemen
Green Bay West High School Band; Green Bay, WI – Danielle Scherer
Hauser Jr. High Wind Ensemble; Riverside, IL – Alec Fenne
Horizon East Middle School 8th Grade Band; Moorhead, MN – Tim Pipinich
Kasson-Mantorville Band Program; Kasson, MN – Anthony Boldt
Kettle Moraine Middle School Band; Dousman, WI – Nate Weiss
Mahone Middle School 8th Grade Band; Kenosha, WI – Stacey Zwirlein

McCracken Middle School Concert Band; Skokie, IL – Cesar Mendoza
Minneapolis South High Band; Minneapolis, MN – Sophia Butler
Mission Hill Middle School Mavericks Band; Santa Cruz, CA – Ryan Oberlin
Murphy High School Symphonic Band; Mobile, AL – Alex White
North Salem MS/HS Bands; North Salem, NY – Stephen Austin
Oak Creek East Middle School 7th Grade Band; Oak Creek, WI – Kristen Honoré & Katelin Medd
Oak Creek West Middle School Bands; Oak Creek, WI – Kali Granzow
Peshtigo School District Bands; Peshtigo, WI – Marcus Welander
Pierz Healy High School Bands; Pierz, MN – Joel Pohland
Principia Middle School Band; St. Louis, MO – Mark Connor
Robert Gray Middle School Concert Band; Portland, OR – Julie Miller
Saline Middle School 8th Grade Band, Saline, MI – Jared Dalglish
South Forsyth Middle School Bands; Cumming, GA – Andrew Poor
Tomah Middle School Band; Tomah, WI – Katherine Prihoda
Viroqua 8th Grade Concert Band; Viroqua, WI – Wyatt Cameron
Whitewater Middle School 8th Grade Band; Whitewater, WI – Justin Kamp
Winona Middle School Bands; Winona, MN – Tim Gleason

Program Notes

When I first received the initial ideas from students for this commission project, I was thrilled to see so many wonderful ideas presented! It was difficult to decide which one to use. Ultimately, I ended up combining two suggestions (clock tower and haunted house) into one overall concept, the result being *Curse of the Clock Tower*. This piece takes the audience on an adventure through a spooky clock tower, filled with all kinds of tick-tock sounds created by instruments such as Temple Blocks, Xylophone, Ratchets, Chimes, and more. The eerie weaving of two well-known musical motifs, *Hickory Dickory Dock* and *Dies Irae*, adds to the ominous imagery, and the rhythmic pulse in the low brass and low woodwinds helps create a real sense of spine-tingling adventure. Eventually, this escapade becomes so hair-raising, it leads to an outright SCREAM! If you are ready for a chilling thriller from beginning to end, look no further than *Curse of the Clock Tower*!

Commissioned by Beyond The Notes Music Festival - Chris Gleason, Executive Director

CAROL BRITTIN CHAMBERS
(ASCAP)

*opt. meas. 4-9,
Add whisper sounds.
"Whisp-ps-ps...."

5

[illegible]

Curse of the Clock Tower - Full Score

9

Fl. *mp*

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp* Play

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Cue: Tri.

Timp. *mf*

Mlt. 1 to Bells

Mlt. 2 to Chimes

Perc. 1 On Drum

Perc. 2 Triangle *mf* China Cymbal *f*

Perc. 3

4

13

15

20

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

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

mp

mp

mp

28

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *mf*

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tuba *mp* Play

Timp. *mp*

Mlt. 1 *mf*

Mlt. 2 *mp* Mar.

Perc. 1 *mf* Snares on *mp*

Perc. 2 *mp* Tambourine

Perc. 3 *mf*

26 27 28 29 30

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

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

On Drum

Cowbells

mf

f

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10

45

51

52 56

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

52 56

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

f Cowbells

mf

Flexatone

mp Hi-hat (closed)

mp

mf

52 53 54 55 56 57

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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

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

to Chimes

68

68

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

S.D.

Sus. Cym.

to Xylo.

74

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Timp. *mf*

Mlt. 1 *ff* Xylo.

Mlt. 2 *ff*

Perc. 1 On Drum

Perc. 2 *p*

Perc. 3 *mf*

75 76 77 78 79

SCREAM! 82

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

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

80 81 82 83 84 85

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Curse of the Clock Tower - Full Score

[illegible]

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

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

91 92 93 94 95

f

f

20

100

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

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

China Cymbal

Temple Blocks

f

ff

mf

106

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

106

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Ratchet

106 107 108 109 110 111