

ASPENWOOD CONCERT BAND SERIES

GRADE 2.5

Pulsato

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 Pulsato

Pulsato was Commissioned by Kristin Blanchard (director of Muir Middle School Band, Milford, MI), to celebrate a dedicated career of music, passion, and joy. The piece premiered at Milford High School in Spring 2026, conducted by the composer, Carol Brittin Chambers, during the band's March Musical Madness celebration.

It is always wonderful when there is a specific reason for writing a new piece of music, so I was thrilled when director Kristin Blanchard approached me about this particular project! She was going to be retiring at the end of the 2026 school year and hoped that I could write a piece celebrating this milestone. We discussed many possible ideas but ultimately settled on this one, titled *Pulsato*. I wanted to capture a bit of Ms. Blanchard's personality and teaching style and also represent the exciting and motivating energy she brings to the classroom every day. Fun, high energy, and "grooving" were must-haves. Here are some of my favorite quotes from Blanchard's students:

- Prompt: What words best describe the personality of our band? Answer: *Fun, Loud, Shiny, Family.*
- Prompt: If our Band had a THEME or a MOTTO, what would it be? Answer: *We will keep herding forward in music to present master playing! Yes I meant herding... because we're the Muir Colts... you get it?*
- Prompt: What is one thing in band that always makes you smile or laugh? Answer: *I laugh every time Miss Blanchard throws Jolly ranchers at us. I have literally had to duck before. I also think that it's hilarious when Miss Blanchard can't find her coffee.*

The term *pulsato* essentially refers to steady pulse, which embodies the consistency and diligence Blanchard has portrayed her entire career...in short, the steady force she's provided to countless youth through the years. This piece begins somewhat minimalistic, with marimba and vibraphone first establishing the steady pulse. Then it gains in momentum and melodic interplay as it continues. All the while, steady pulse is passed around various instruments, remaining constant. The end culminates with a joyful, celebratory anthem. *Pulsato* - the perfect choice for a spirited beginning or ending to any concert!

Commissioned by Kristin Blanchard (Muir Middle School Band, Milford, MI), to celebrate a dedicated career of music, passion, and joy.

CAROL BRITTIN CHAMBERS
(ASCAP)

Flute

Oboe
(Opt. Flute 2)

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Alto
Saxophone

Tenor
Saxophone

Baritone
Saxophone

Driving ♩ = c. 160

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

Horn in F

Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani
(Opt.)
(F, B♭, E♭)

Mallet 1
(Vibraphone,
Bells)

Mallet 2
(Marimba)

Percussion 1
(Snare Drum,
Bass Drum)

Percussion 2
(Shaker, Toms (2),
Suspended Cymbal,
Tambourine,
China Cymbal)

Percussion 3
(Castanets,
Wood Block,
Cowbell)

Vibraphone

Bass Drum

Shaker

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

Toms

Castanets

mp

p

mf

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

Snare Drum

Wood Block

mp

p

20

6

 f

27

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

Stick Clicks

27

35

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp* *mf* *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax.

35

B. Tpt. 1

B. Tpt. 2

Hn. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1 *mp* *mf* S.D.

Perc. 2 *mf*

Perc. 3 *mf* Castanets

31 32 33 34 35

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

36 37 38 39 40

3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4

Sus. Cym.

mp

10

45

46

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B. Cl. 1 *mf*

B. Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp* *sim.*

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax.

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp* *sim.*

46

B. Tpt. 1

B. Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba *mp* *sim.*

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2 *mp*

Perc. 1

Tambourine

Perc. 2 *mp*

Perc. 3

China Cymbal *mf*

12

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

mf

mf

mf

mf

The first system of the musical score includes the following parts and instruments:

- B♭ Tpt. 1** and **B♭ Tpt. 2**: Both play a melody starting in the second measure with a *mf* dynamic.
- Hn.** (Horn): Plays a sustained note in the second measure with a *mf* dynamic.
- Tbn.** (Trumpet): Plays a melody starting in the second measure with a *mf* dynamic.
- Euph.** (Euphonium): Plays a melody starting in the second measure with a *mf* dynamic.
- Tuba**: Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes starting in the first measure.
- Timp.** (Timpani): Remains silent.
- Mlt. 1** (Mellophone 1): Plays a melody starting in the second measure with a *mf* dynamic.
- Mlt. 2** (Mellophone 2): Plays a melody starting in the second measure with a *mf* dynamic.
- Perc. 1**: Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Perc. 2**: Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Perc. 3**: Plays a melody starting in the second measure with a *mf* dynamic.

55

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Pulsato - Full Score

14

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

sub. *p*

f

mf

4

64

Sus. Cym.

W.B.

p

f

mf

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

Toms

mf

f

72

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

72

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

mf

f

Castanets

71 72 73 74 75

81

Pulsato - Full Score

18

This page of the musical score covers measures 83 through 87. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinets in Bb (B♭ Cl. 1 and 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Saxophones in Bb (A. Sax., T. Sax., B. Sax.), Trumpets in Bb (B♭ Tpt. 1 and 2), Horns (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba, Timpani (Timp.), Mallets 1 (Mlt. 1), Mallets 2 (Mlt. 2), and three types of Percussion (Perc. 1, 2, and 3). The score is written in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). Large '4' time signatures are placed at the beginning of the woodwind and brass sections. Measure numbers 83, 84, 85, 86, and 87 are indicated in boxes above the staves. Dynamics such as *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *ff* (fortissimo) are used throughout. The percussion section includes specific parts for Bells, Tambourine (Tamb.), and three different percussion instruments (Perc. 1, 2, 3).

89

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

89

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

95

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

95

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mlt. 1

Mlt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Castanets

92 93 94 95 96

Fl. *mp* *f*

Ob. *mp* *f*

B. Cl. 1 *mp* *f*

B. Cl. 2 *mp* *f*

B. Cl. *mp* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *f*

A. Sax. *mp* *f*

T. Sax. *mp* *f*

B. Sax. *mp* *f*

B. Tpt. 1 *mp* *f*

B. Tpt. 2 *mp* *f*

Hn. *mp* *f*

Tbn. *mp* *f*

Euph. *mp* *f*

Tuba *mp* *f*

Timp. *mp*

Mlt. 1 *mp* *f*

Mlt. 2 *mp* *f*

Perc. 1 *mp* *f*

Perc. 2 *mp* *f*

Perc. 3 *mp*

22

103 104 105 106 107 108

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