

### ***Program Notes . . .***

I am delighted to have written this piece in honor of my old college friend, Curtis Olson, for the Michigan State University Trombone Choir, directed by Daniel Mattson. Curtis has been such a musical force, both for the trombone world, and as a composer in the world of new music. It was for Curtis that I wrote one of my first brass chamber pieces at the Eastman School of Music – “Kwaiden” for Trombone Quartet. For years afterward, Curtis continued to champion my music, and I am always grateful to him for that! So, in celebration of his retirement from teaching, I offer this octet which celebrates the resonant sound of the trombone choir in homage to Michigan, the Great Lake State.

This four-movement work depicts the scenery of the majestic lakes framing Michigan throughout the seasons. The first movement “Shimmering Under the Sunlight” is lively and colorful, with resonant chords depicting the lake in a brilliant, bright sunshine. The second movement “Frozen Under the Winter Skies” is quiet and mysterious, as the lakes gleam with a crystalline intensity under winter skies. The third movement “Storm-Tossed” has rapid, spinning themes, passed from player to player in a compound meter, depicting the rain-drenched lakes. The fourth movement “Spring Horizon” is once again heroic and sunny, as the piece ends with an homage to spring, and a new beginning.

### ***About the Composer . . .***

Eric Ewazen, born in 1954 in Cleveland, Ohio, studied under Samuel Adler, Milton Babbitt, Warren Benson, Gunther Schuller, and Joseph Schwantner at the Eastman School of Music (BM, 1976), Tanglewood, and The Juilliard School (MM, 1978, DMA 1980), where he has been a member of the faculty since 1980. In May, 1997, he was Composer-in-Residence at the International Trombone Association Convention held at the University of Illinois. A former vice president of the League-ISCM, he is currently the Composer-in-Residence with the St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble, and lecturer for the New York Philharmonic’s Musical Encounters Series. A recipient of numerous composition awards and prizes, his works have been commissioned and performed by many chamber ensembles and orchestras in the U.S. and overseas. His music has been heard at festivals such as Tanglewood, Aspen, Caramoor, and the Music Academy of the West. The soloists in performances of his music include members of the New York Philharmonic, Chicago Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, Los Angeles Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, and the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra.

Among his recorded works are *Symphony in Brass* (Summit Brass on Summit Records), *Colchester Fantasy* (American Brass Quintet on Summit Records), *Ballade for Clarinet, Harp and String Orchestra* (CRS Records), *Dagon II* (David Taylor on New World Records), *Sonata for Viola and Piano* (Eugene Becker on Clique Track), *Roaring Fork Quintet for Wind Instruments* (Borealis Wind Quintet on Helicon Records), *The Tiger* (Robert White and Samuel Sanders on Hyperion Records) and on Cala Records’ Legends of the New York Philharmonic Series, *Sonata for Trombone and Piano* (Joseph Alessi and Jonathan Feldman) and *Trio for Trumpet, Violin and Piano* (Philip Smith). Well-Tempered Productions has released an all-Ewazen compact disc featuring the American Brass Quintet and the St. Luke’s Chamber Ensemble. His music is published by Boosey and Hawkes, Southern Music Publishing, Brass Rind Editions, Baker Music Publishing, Encore Music, Triplo Press, Manduca Publications, and ITA Manuscript Press.

Commissioned in Honor of Curtis Olson by the Michigan State University Trombone Choir  
Daniel Mattson, Director

# Great Lakes Octet

for Trombone Choir

## I. Shimmering Under the Sunlight

Eric Ewazen

Full Score

Allegro Resoluto

The image displays the musical score for the first movement, "I. Shimmering Under the Sunlight," for an eight-trombone choir. The score is written for Trombone 1 through Trombone 8. The tempo is marked "Allegro Resoluto." The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains staves for Trombone 1 through Trombone 8. The second system, starting at measure 6, continues the music for Trombone 1 through Trombone 8. A large, diagonal watermark reading "www.hickeys.com" is overlaid across the center of the page, partially obscuring the musical notation.

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Musical score for Tbn. 1-8, measures 11-15. The score is written for eight tubas. Measures 11-15 show a melodic line for Tbn. 1-5 and a rhythmic accompaniment for Tbn. 6-8. A large watermark 'www.hickeys.com' is overlaid on the score.

Musical score for Tbn. 1-8, measures 16-20. The score continues the melodic and rhythmic patterns from the previous system. Measures 16-18 show a melodic line for Tbn. 1-5 and a rhythmic accompaniment for Tbn. 6-8. Measures 19-20 show a melodic line for Tbn. 1-5 and a rhythmic accompaniment for Tbn. 6-8. A large watermark 'www.hickeys.com' is overlaid on the score.

## II. Frozen Under Winter Skies

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Lento

Musical score for Trombone 1 through Trombone 8, measures 1 through 6. The score is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. The tempo is marked 'Lento'. The dynamics are marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The music features long, sustained notes with slurs, indicating a slow, melodic line. Trombone 1 and 2 play the same melody, while Trombone 3 and 4 play a similar but slightly lower line. Trombone 5, 6, 7, and 8 play a lower, more rhythmic line.

Musical score for Trombone 1 through Trombone 8, measures 7 through 10. The score continues the melodic line from the previous system. The dynamics remain 'mp'. The music features long, sustained notes with slurs, indicating a slow, melodic line. Trombone 1 and 2 play the same melody, while Trombone 3 and 4 play a similar but slightly lower line. Trombone 5, 6, 7, and 8 play a lower, more rhythmic line.

# III. Storm-Tossed

Allegro Molto

Musical score for Trombone 1 through Trombone 8. The score is in bass clef with a 3/4 time signature. Trombone 1 and 2 are silent. Trombone 3 and 4 enter with a melodic line marked *mf*. Trombone 5, 6, 7, and 8 play a rhythmic accompaniment marked *mp*.

Musical score for Trombone 1 through Trombone 8 (continued). Trombone 1 and 2 play a melodic line marked *mf*. Trombone 3, 4, and 5 play a melodic line marked *simili*. Trombone 6 is silent. Trombone 7 and 8 play a rhythmic accompaniment.

# IV. Spring Horizon

Allegro Vivace

The image displays a musical score for an eight-piece trombone ensemble and tuba. The score is divided into two systems. The first system, labeled 'Trombone 1' through 'Trombone 8', begins with a key signature of two flats and a 4/4 time signature. Trombone 1 and 2 are initially silent. Trombone 3 enters with a melodic line marked *f*. Trombone 4 and 5 play a rhythmic accompaniment marked *mf*. Trombone 6 and 7 play a steady eighth-note pattern marked *mf*. Trombone 8 plays a rhythmic accompaniment marked *mf*. The second system, labeled 'Tbn. 1' through 'Tbn. 8', continues the piece. Tuba 1 and 2 enter with a melodic line marked *f*. Tuba 3 and 4 play a rhythmic accompaniment marked *mf*. Tuba 5 and 6 play a steady eighth-note pattern marked *mf*. Tuba 7 and 8 play a steady eighth-note pattern marked *mf*. The score concludes with a *mp* dynamic marking.