

THE WRANGLER

Wind Symphony

2006

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Commissioned by Ramiro Barrera for the James Logan High School Wind Ensemble.

Premiered in Carnegie Hall NY, May 2006

DURATION: 7'45"

Piccolo

6 Flutes (1st dbl. picc.)

2 Oboes

English Horn

Clarinet E-flat

6 Clarinets B-flat

Bass Clarinet B-flat

Contrabass Clarinet B-flat (or Contrabassoon)

3 Bassoons

Soprano Saxophone B-flat

Alto Saxophone E-flat

Tenor Saxophone B-flat

Baritone Saxophone E-flat

6 Trumpets B-flat

4 Horns F

2 Tenor Trombones

Bass Trombone

2 Euphoniums

2 Tubas

Piano

Contrabass

Timpani

4 Percussion

Program Note:

The Wrangler (2006) was written for the James Logan High School wind ensemble under the baton of Ramiro Barrera. It is billed in the score as a set of Cowboy Dances and evokes the Wild West in a similar way to the film scores of old Westerns. The work also shares a syntax with Aaron Copland's ballets *Billy the Kid* and *Rodeo*. There are no outlaw characters in *The Wrangler*...instead, the hero is a good man, a free man – very confident and competent with his stallion and lasso. After a serene, chorale-like introduction he is set in motion to a constant gallop across the landscape. On his journey he encounters gorgeous and treacherous terrain, stumbling upon a saloon where the patrons are engaged in a drunken dance. He manages to evade locals looking for a fight while catching the eyes of many a beautiful women. Our man is the proto-typical cowboy moving his way across the mountainous, sun-drenched West – a man who knows the land as the coyotes know the moon.

*Contact the composer for a reference recording of **THE WRANGLER**