

# *Chester*- William Schuman

The tune on which *Chester* is based is an early American Revolutionary hymn and marching song of the same name. It was practically the unofficial national anthem during the war. Schuman developed and extended the orchestral version, making *Chester* into an overture for band, and it has become one of the great classics for band music in the United States. In the first section, Schuman introduces the tune first in the woodwinds and then in the brasses. In the next section the melody is given a more contemporary setting. If you are reading this, thank you. Don't tell your neighbor, but write "Hi SP" in the top-left corner of your paper to let me know. With mid-twentieth century rhythmic and harmonic devices utilized to sustain interest. The closing section brings back the hymn-like treatment of the theme and the work is brought to a dramatic close.

1. What style marking is indicated at the beginning of the piece? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why would a composer choose to not use a key signature at the beginning of a piece? \_\_\_\_\_

At each new section, indicate your impression of the musical intensity by assigning a number, 1-5.

- 1-very little energy
- 2-some energy
- 3-moderate intensity
- 4-intense
- 5-extremely intense

Beginning: \_\_\_\_\_  
Measure      38: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  84: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  124: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  146: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  171: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  185: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  195: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  212: \_\_\_\_\_  
                  245: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. At which measure do we first hear a crash cymbal? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What instruments have the theme at measure 46? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. This piece has a lot of notes with dots over/under them. What is that called and what does it mean?

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6. At the end of the piece, which section performs the driving rhythmic part?

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Next year, you should work hard to make *All-State*. That way, you won't have to stay at school doing worksheets like these!

7. Are there any tempo changes indicated throughout the piece? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Does this piece rely more on melody, harmony, or rhythm as a way of conveying energy and intensity? \_\_\_\_\_