Young Band

Grade 2



# Amazing Grace

**Traditional** 

Arranged by

# Sean O'Loughlin

### YPS99 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
Flute	8.
Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)	2
Clarinet 1 in Bb	4
Clarinet 2 in Bb	4
Bass Clarinet in Bb	2
Bassoon	
Alto Saxophone in E>	
Tenor Saxophone in B♭	2
Baritone Saxophone in Eb	2
[rumpet 1 in B♭	4
「rumpet 2 in B♭	4
Horn in F	4
[rombone	6
Euphonium T.C. in B♭	2
Euphonium B.C	3
ſuba	3
Mallet Percussion	1
Timpani	1
Percussion 1 Snare Drum, Bass Drum	2
Percussion 2	4
Triangle, Suspended Cymbal,	
Crash Cymbals, Tam-tam	

#### **Program Notes**

Amazing Grace is one of the most celebrated folk songs of all time. To take on the task of writing a new setting of this melody is quite daunting. A portion of this arrangement was originally included in the warm up book Connections that I co-authored with Larry Clark. For this full arrangement, I was fortunate to have the birth of my daughter as an inspiration. This melody exudes a simply beauty that is reflected in the birth of a child. This setting is written for my wife and daughter as they drift off to sleep at night and look forward to another day of wonder and discovery.

The setting begins with music reminiscent of a music box playing a lullaby. The low voices enter with lush chords that should make you feel like sitting on the biggest, softest pillow ever. This tapestry of sound provides the backdrop for the melody to appear at m. 9 in the flutes. Along the way, the low voices come in and out of the texture with splashes of warmth. The brass take the reigns at m. 31 with a regal statement of the melody. Some alternate harmonies open up the sound a bit with a hint of jazz. The music box returns at m. 46 and provides a dramatic build-up to the final statement at m. 54. Take your time going through this section and slightly delay the downbeat in m. 54 for the most dramatic effect. The key change also helps to expand the sound. Lean into the carefully placed dissonances that occur as a way to create tension and resolution. The music box returns at the end as an echo and a signal to let the baby know it's time for sleep.

#### **About the Arranger**

Sean O'Loughlin (b.1972) is a fresh voice and a rising name in the music world. His music is characterized by vibrant rhythms, passionate melodies, and colorful scoring. Commissions from the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic and the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra highlight and showcase his diverse musical abilities. As a conductor, he has led performances with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, the Vancouver Symphony, the Atlanta Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, the Houston Symphony, and the Seattle Symphony amongst others. He was the assistant conductor and arranger for a production of Sgt. Pepper Live in Las Vegas featuring the band Cheap Trick.

As an arranger and orchestrator, he has worked with such artists as Natalie Merchant, Chris Isaak, Feist, Blue Man Group, Pink Martini, Brandi Carlile, Belle and Sebastian, The Decemberists, Josh Ritter, Gloria Gaynor and others. The Los Angeles Times calls his orchestrations "...colorful" while adding "...even more dimension..." to the compositions. Daily Variety heralds Sean's writing as "most impressive ..." with a "wide range of coloring in the orchestra..." that "... adds heft and rolling energy."

Growing up in Syracuse, New York, Sean displayed a passion for music and showed musical talent at an early age. Sean benefited from loving parents who supported his musical aspirations and challenged him to explore music as a career. During his undergraduate years at Syracuse University, Sean's musical career began to take shape with the guidance of Larry Clark. As Vice-President at Carl Fischer Music, Larry continues to be a major influence in Sean's professional career as mentor and friend.

Through his growing number of commissioned and published works, Sean is excited to continue contributing to the rich history of orchestral and wind band literature. He is a frequent guest conductor with professional orchestras and honor bands around the country. An annual ASCAP Special Awards winner, Sean was a composition fellow at the Henry Mancini Institute in Los Angeles, and holds composition degrees from New England Conservatory and Syracuse University. Sean, his wife Dena and daughter Kate reside in Los Angeles. For more information, please visit www.seanoloughlin.com



Traditional Arranged by Sean O'Loughlin



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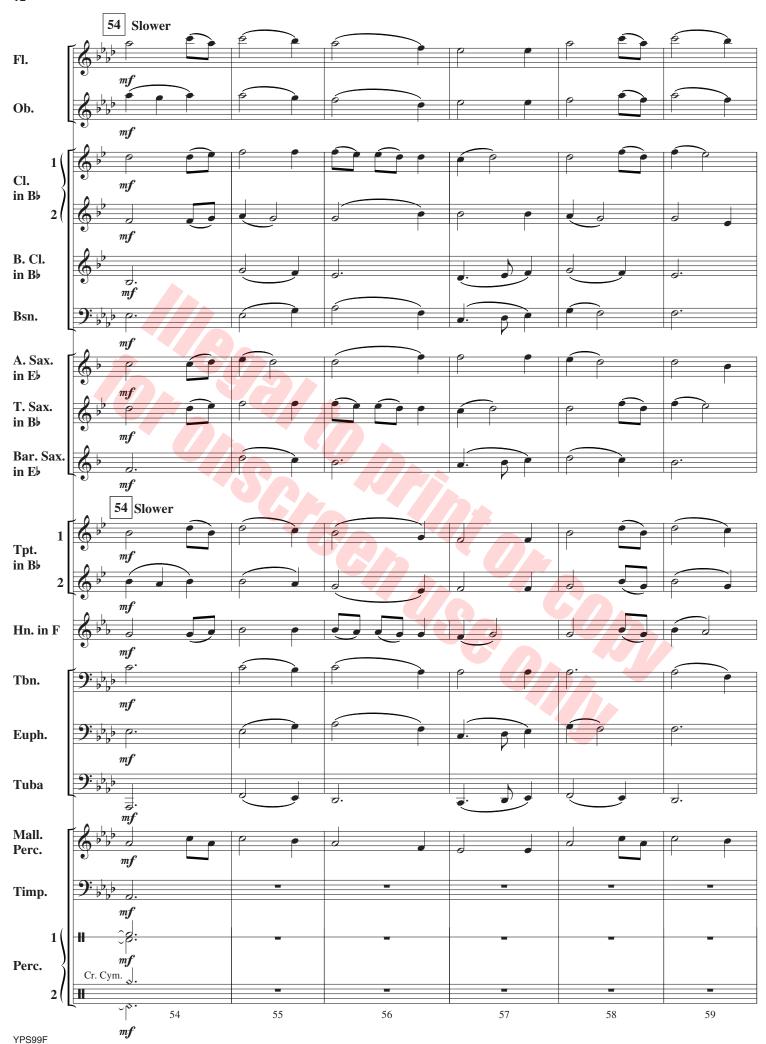
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