

WIDOWMAKER

Composed in the spring of 2002, *Widowmaker*, aims to present a different sound for steel drum bands by means of unique orchestration, progressive rhythms, and challenging textures that run the gamut – all the way from fugal to techno. It is scored for a traditional steel pan ensemble, but exhibits more challenging engine room parts than usual, in that they are meticulously noted. As for the steel drum parts themselves, they are actually quite a bit easier than they might sound, since they are made up of mostly minor scales and whole tone runs (which lend themselves easily to pan). The only other particularly challenging material might be found in the superimposed 5/16 passages in the lead tenor parts. These passages are meant to be more of a rhythmic effect than melodic material, so do play them accordingly.

The idea for this piece came to mind when considering war and its role in the history of mankind. *Widowmaker* isn't a political statement for or against the practice of war, but this piece simply aims to relay the aggressive nature of it and will develop maturity in players in many ways. The unique textures and compositional ideas should be a welcome addition to any serious steel band's repertoire.

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