

# THE KRAKEN



FOR CONCERT BAND  
GRADE 3

BY  
KEVIN SLUDER

©2025, KEVIN SLUDER  
DISTRIBUTED EXCLUSIVELY  
BY CANE RIVER MUSIC  
AT [CANERIVERMUSIC.COM](http://CANERIVERMUSIC.COM)

## PROGRAM NOTES

The mythical Kraken has a long and storied history, plaguing ships across the seven seas. In this piece, students follow nautical adventurers through a dangerous encounter with the giant squid. Soaring melodies, syncopated rhythms, and a driving tempo make *The Kraken* an exciting expedition that won't soon be forgotten.

## DIRECTOR NOTES

The piccolo and chimes are optional. If you have a large percussion section, there is also an optional marimba part that doubles the xylophone.

There are many places throughout the piece where ostinato 8ths and long held notes will require some staggered breathing. At m42, I recommend having the whole note parts play with a strong downbeat and then lighten up for the remainder of the note, with a slight lift at the end. This will open up a lot of space to hear the other voices.

The timpani cue in the snare part at m42 can potentially help to rhythmically unify the timp./xylo./flute/oboe/clar. feature. It is written to be on the rim, but can also be played at the edge of the drum, with a gradual move to the center at the end of m45. Please also note that the timpani part has a few tuning changes (m33-53 and m84-97), but there are accommodations available should this prove troublesome. For example, the notes in m51 and 53 are optional if your player needs more time to re-tune. Then, in m91 the C# can be played as the low A instead, negating the need for another re-tune.

*If your school/organization has an orchestra, there is also a Grade 3 string version of The Kraken available through Randall Standridge Music that can be played alongside this version to create an exciting full orchestra experience! Check it out at the following QR code:*



## ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Kevin Sluder is an orchestra director in the North Texas area and has been teaching in the public school system since 2007. His program at Lawler MS was named the TMEA MS Honor Full Orchestra in 2024 and 2026.

Born and raised in Mansfield, TX, Mr. Sluder had the great pleasure of playing on the drumline with his high school marching band. He obtained his bachelor's degree in music education from the University of North Texas in Denton, where he also marched bass drum with the indoor drumline.



Outside of the classroom, Mr. Sluder spends a great deal of time composing and arranging music. He also runs two podcasts. *Rite of String*, co-hosted with Matthew Moreno, is focused on string education. *SluderMusic* is a showcase of Mr. Sluder's published pieces. In addition to his work in the "classical" world, he has written and recorded several albums that are available on most streaming services.

Mr. Sluder currently resides in McKinney, TX with his wife (and fellow orchestra director) Bethany Hardwick. In his limited spare time, he enjoys taking naps, camping, and playing video games.

# THE KRAKEN

BY  
KEVIN SLUDER

## MEET THE CREW:

**PICCOLO (OPT.)**

**FLUTE 1**

**FLUTE 2**

**OBOE**

**BASSOON**

**CLARINET 1**

**CLARINET 2**

**CLARINET 3**

**BASS CLARINET**

**ALTO SAX 1**

**ALTO SAX 2**

**TENOR SAX**

**BARITONE SAX**

**TRUMPET 1**

**TRUMPET 2**

**TRUMPET 3**

**HORN 1**

**HORN 2**

**TROMBONE 1**

**TROMBONE 2**

**EUPHONIUM/BARITONE**

**BARITONE T.C.**

**TUBA**

**BELLS**

**XYLOPHONE/VIBRAPHONE**

**CHIMES (OPT.)**

**TIMPANI**

**PERCUSSION 1 (SN./BS.)**

**PERCUSSION 2 (CYM./TRGL.)**

**OPT. MARIMBA (XYLO DBL.)**



# The Kraken

Kevin Sluder

## The Churning Sea ♩=85

The score is for the piece "The Churning Sea" by Kevin Sluder, Grade 3, with a tempo of 85 beats per minute. It is written in 4/4 time and features a variety of instruments. The score is divided into six measures, with a dynamic marking of *pp* at the beginning. A large diagonal watermark reads "Not for Rehearsal or Performance".

**Instrumentation and Dynamics:**

- Piccolo (optional):** Rests throughout.
- Flute 1/2:** *p* (piano), playing a melodic line with a slur.
- Oboe:** *p* (piano), playing a melodic line with a slur.
- Bassoon:** *mf* (mezzo-forte), playing a rhythmic pattern.
- B♭ Clarinet 1:** *p* (piano), playing a melodic line with a slur.
- B♭ Clarinet 2/3:** *p* (piano), playing a melodic line with a slur.
- Bass Clarinet:** Rests throughout.
- Alto Sax 1/2:** Rests throughout.
- Tenor Sax:** Rests throughout.
- Baritone Sax:** *mf* (mezzo-forte), playing a rhythmic pattern.
- B♭ Trumpet 1:** Rests throughout.
- B♭ Trumpet 2/3:** Rests throughout.
- Horn 1/2:** Rests throughout.
- Trombone 1/2:** Rests throughout.
- Euphonium:** *mf* (mezzo-forte), playing a rhythmic pattern.
- Tuba:** Rests throughout.
- Bells:** *p* (piano), playing a melodic line with a slur.
- Xylophone/Vibraphone (opt. marimba doubles xylo.):** *p* (piano), playing a melodic line with a slur.
- Chimes (optional):** Rests throughout.
- Timpani (F, D, C, A):** *fp* (fortissimo), playing a rhythmic pattern.
- Percussion 1 (Snare and Bass Drum):** Rests throughout.
- Percussion 2 (Crash/Sus. Cym., and Triangle):** *stick on sus. cym.*, playing a rhythmic pattern.

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Musical score for 'The Kraken' page 2, measures 7-12. The score includes staves for Picc., Fl. 1/2, Ob., Bsn., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2/3, B. Cl., A. Sx. 1/2, T. Sx., B. Sx., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2/3, Hn. 1/2, Tbn. 1/2, Euph., Tuba, Bln., Xyl/Vib., Chm., Timp., Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs), and Perc. 2 (Cym.).

Measures 7-9 show the Bsn., B♭ Cl. 1, B. Cl., A. Sx. 1/2, T. Sx., B. Sx., Euph., and Tuba parts. Measure 10 features dynamics *mf* and *mp*. Measure 11 includes dynamics *mf* and *mp*, and a performance instruction 'to xylo.' above the Xyl/Vib. staff. Measure 12 features dynamics *mf* and *mp*.

Dynamic markings include *mf* and *mp*. Performance instructions include 'a2' and 'to xylo.'

Not for Rehearsal or Performance



19 The Kraken Appears ♩=132

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Picc.
- Fl. 1/2
- Ob.
- Bsn.
- B> Cl. 1
- B> Cl. 2/3
- B. Cl.
- A. Sx. 1/2
- T. Sx.
- B. Sx.
- B> Tpt. 1
- B> Tpt. 2/3
- Hn. 1/2
- Tbn. 1/2
- Euph.
- Tuba
- Bs.
- Xyl./Vib.
- Chm.
- Timp.
- Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs)
- Perc. 2 (Cym.)

The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *mp*, and *f*, and performance instructions like "Play a2" and "snare drum". A large diagonal watermark "Not for Rehearsal or Performance" is overlaid across the score.

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

This page of the musical score, titled "The Kraken" and numbered 27, contains the following instruments and parts:

- Picc.
- Fl. 1/2
- Ob.
- Bsn.
- B♭ Cl. 1
- B♭ Cl. 2/3
- B. Cl.
- A. Sx. 1/2
- T. Sx.
- B. Sx.
- B♭ Tpt. 1
- B♭ Tpt. 2/3
- Hn. 1/2
- Tbn. 1/2
- Euph.
- Tuba
- Bs.
- Xyl./Vib.
- Chm.
- Timp.
- Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs)
- Perc. 2 (Cym.)

The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *mp*, *f*, and *p*. Performance instructions include "opt. div." for the Oboe and "ch." for the Percussion 1 part. A large diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal Score Only" is overlaid across the page.

Picc. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

Fl. 1/2 *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

Ob. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

Bsn. *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp* *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Cl. 2/3 *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

B. Cl. *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

A. Sx. 1/2 *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

T. Sx. *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

B. Sx. *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mp* *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Tpt. 2/3 *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

Hn. 1/2 *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

Tbn. 1/2 *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

Euph. *mf* *f*

Tuba *mf* *f*

Bls. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

Xyl./Vib. *p subito* *cresc.* *f*

Chm. *mp* *f*

Timp. *p subito* *cresc.* *f* C > Bb

Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs) *p subito* *cresc.* *f* ch.

Perc. 2 (Cym.) *p* *f*

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

35 In the Grips of the Tentacles

This musical score page, titled "35 In the Grips of the Tentacles", is for the piece "The Kraken". It features a variety of instruments including Piccolo, Flute 1/2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet in Bb 1, Clarinet in Bb 2/3, Clarinet in Bb, Alto Saxophone 1/2, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2/3, Horn 1/2, Trombone 1/2, Euphonium, Tuba, Bassoon, Xylophone/Vibraphone, Chimes, and two types of Percussion (Snare/Bass Drum and Cymbal). The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). A large diagonal watermark "Not for Rehearsal Score Only or Performance" is overlaid across the page. The music begins on measure 34 and continues through measure 38. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). Performance markings include accents (>) and breath marks (a2). The percussion parts include a triangle and cymbal.

42 A Momentary Escape

Picc. *mp* *f*

Fl. 1/2 *a2* *f*

Ob. *mp* *f*

Bsn. *f*

B<sup>b</sup> Cl. 1 *mp* *f*

B<sup>b</sup> Cl. 2/3 *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sx. 1/2 *mf* *f*

T. Sx. *f*

B. Sx. *f*

B<sup>b</sup> Tpt. 1 *f*

B<sup>b</sup> Tpt. 2/3 *f* *a2* *a2*

Hn. 1/2 *f*

Tbn. 1/2 *f*

Euph. *f*

Tuba *f*

Bs. *f*

Xyl./Vib. *mp* *mf* *f*

Chm. *mf* *f*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs) *mf* *f* Timpani cue (on rim)

Perc. 2 (Cym.) *mf* *f* crash

39 40 41 42 43

Not for Rehearsal Score Only

Picc.

Fl. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2/3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1/2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2/3

Hn. 1/2

Tbn. 1/2

Euph.

Tuba

Bs.

Xyl./Vib.

Chm.

Timp.

Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs)

Perc. 2 (Cym.)

Play (snare)

Not for Rehearsal Score Only  
Not for Rehearsal or Performance



This musical score page, titled "The Kraken", contains parts for various instruments across measures 53 to 56. The instruments listed on the left are Picc., Fl. 1/2, Ob., Bsn., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2/3, B. Cl., A. Sx. 1/2, T. Sx., B. Sx., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2/3, Hn. 1/2, Tbn. 1/2, Euph., Tuba, Bls., Xyl./Vib., Chm., Timp., Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs), and Perc. 2 (Cym.). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mp*, and *p*, and performance instructions like *ch.* for Perc. 2. A large diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal or Performance" is overlaid across the center of the page.

59 The Kraken Gives Chase

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Picc., Fl. 1/2, Ob., Bsn., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2/3, B. Cl., A. Sx. 1/2, T. Sx., B. Sx., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2/3, Hn. 1/2, Tbn. 1/2, Euph., Tuba, Bsn., Xyl./Vib., Chm., Timp., Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs), and Perc. 2 (Cym.). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mf*, and *ff*, and performance instructions like *ch.* and *crash*. A large diagonal watermark reading "Not for Rehearsal Score Only" is overlaid across the center of the page. The bottom of the page shows measure numbers 57, 58, 59, and 60.

Picc.

Fl. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2/3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1/2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2/3

Hn. 1/2

Tbn. 1/2

Euph.

Tuba

Bs.

Xyl/Vib.

Chm.

Timp.

Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs)

Perc. 2 (Cym.)

ch.

*mf*

*f*

a2

Not for Perusal Score Only

67

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with 24 staves. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Picc.**: Piccolo, starting with *mf* and moving to *ff*.
- Fl. 1/2**: Flutes, starting with *mf* and moving to *ff*.
- Ob.**: Oboe, starting with *mf* and moving to *ff*.
- Bsn.**: Bassoon, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- B♭ Cl. 1**: Bass Clarinet 1, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- B♭ Cl. 2/3**: Bass Clarinet 2/3, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- B. Cl.**: Bass Clarinet, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- A. Sx. 1/2**: Alto Saxophone, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- T. Sx.**: Tenor Saxophone, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- B. Sx.**: Baritone Saxophone, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- B♭ Tpt. 1**: Trumpet 1, starting with *ff*.
- B♭ Tpt. 2/3**: Trumpet 2/3, starting with *ff* and including a *a2* marking.
- Hn. 1/2**: Horn, starting with *ff*.
- Tbn. 1/2**: Trombone, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- Euph.**: Euphonium, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- Tuba**: Tuba, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- Bls.**: Basses, starting with *mf* and moving to *f* and *ff*.
- Xyl./Vib.**: Xylophone/Vibraphone, starting with *mf* and moving to *f*.
- Chm.**: Chimes, starting with *f*.
- Timp.**: Tom-toms, starting with *p* and moving to *f*.
- Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs)**: Snare Drum/Bass Drum, starting with *f*.
- Perc. 2 (Cym.)**: Cymbal, starting with *f* and including a *ch.* marking.

Rehearsal marks are present at the bottom of the page: 66, 67, 68, and 69.

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

The image displays a page of a musical score for 'The Kraken', page 15. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left include Picc., Fl. 1/2, Ob., Bsn., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2/3, B. Cl., A. Sax. 1/2, T. Sax., B. Sax., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2/3, Hn. 1/2, Tbn. 1/2, Euph., Tuba, Bls., Xyl/Vib., Chm., Timp., Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs), and Perc. 2 (Cym.). The score features various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings like *f*, *ff*, and *mf*. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Not for Rehearsal or Performance' is overlaid across the center of the page. The page number '15' is located in the top right corner. At the bottom of the page, there are page numbers 70, 71, 72, and 73, and a footnote: '\*horn 1 has optional lower B in part'.

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

\*horn 1 has optional lower B in part

This musical score page, numbered 16, is for the piece 'The Kraken' and specifically for rehearsal mark 77, titled 'Letting the Harpoons Fly'. The score is arranged for a full orchestra and includes parts for the following instruments: Piccolo, Flute 1/2 (with a second flute part marked 'a2'), Oboe, Bassoon, B♭ Clarinet 1, B♭ Clarinet 2/3, B♭ Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1/2, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, B♭ Trumpet 1, B♭ Trumpet 2/3, Horn 1/2, Trombone 1/2, Euphonium, Tuba, Bass, Xylophone/Vibraphone, Chimes, and two Percussion parts (Perc. 1 for Snare/Bass Drum and Perc. 2 for Cymbals). The score is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is used extensively throughout the score. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Not for Rehearsal Score Only or Performance' is overlaid across the center of the page. The rehearsal mark 77 is enclosed in a box at the top right. The page number 16 is in the top left, and the title 'The Kraken' is at the top center. The specific rehearsal mark '77 Letting the Harpoons Fly' is at the top right. The bottom of the page shows measure numbers 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78.

Not for Rehearsal Score Only or Performance



86 The Wounded Creature Retreats

This musical score page contains the following instruments and parts:

- Picc.
- Fl. 1/2
- Ob.
- Bsn.
- B. Cl. 1
- B. Cl. 2/3
- B. Cl.
- A. Sx. 1/2
- T. Sx.
- B. Sx.
- B. Tpt. 1
- B. Tpt. 2/3
- Hn. 1/2
- Tbn. 1/2
- Euph.
- Tuba
- Bls.
- Xyl/Vib.
- Chm.
- Timp.
- Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs)
- Perc. 2 (Cym.)

Key performance markings include dynamics such as *ff*, *f*, *mp*, and *mf*, as well as articulation like accents and breath marks. A large diagonal watermark reads "Not for Rehearsal or Performance".

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Picc., Fl. 1/2, Ob., Bsn., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2/3, B. Cl., A. Sax. 1/2, T. Sax., B. Sax., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2/3, Hn. 1/2, Tbn. 1/2, Euph., Tuba, Bells, Xyl./Vib., Chm., Timp., Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs), and Perc. 2 (Cym.). The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *mp*, and *fz*. A large diagonal watermark reads "Not for Perusal Score Only".

Not for Perusal Score Only

optional A (alternative to re-tuning)

C# -> C

Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs)  
Perc. 2 (Cym.)

sus. cymbal  
ch.

*p* *f*

92 93 94 95

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

Picc.

Fl. 1/2

Ob.

Bsn.

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2/3

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1/2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B. Tpt. 1

B. Tpt. 2/3

Hn. 1/2

Tbn. 1/2

Euph.

Tuba

Bls.

Xyl/Vib.

Chm.

Timp.

Perc. 1 (Sn/Bs)

Perc. 2 (Cym.)

to xylo.

crash ch.

*f*

*a2*

*f*

Not for Rehearsal or Performance

