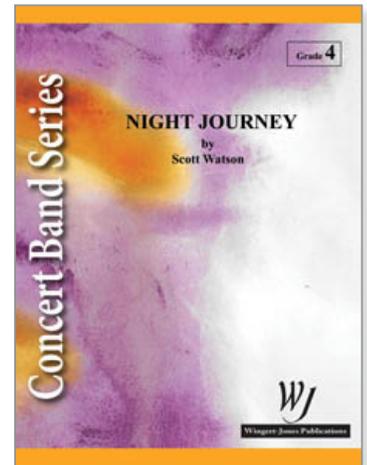


# Guided Listening

## Night Journey

Accessing this piece in [smartmusic](#) will allow you to see **your individual part**. It is really interesting to explore the parts of the other instruments in the band or orchestra as well!



### Before you listen:

*Night Journey* is an example of program music – music intended to evoke images or tell a story. It was based on the 1940 Theodore Roethke poem, *Night Journey*, about an overnight locomotive (train) ride across the Midwest.

- If possible, take a moment to search online for the poem and read it. Here are selected lines from Roethke's *Night Journey*:
 

Now as the train bears west,  
Its rhythm rocks the earth,  
Full on my neck I feel  
The straining at a curve;  
My muscles move with steel,  
Wheels shake the roadbed stone,  
The pistons jerk and shove,  
I stay up half the night  
To see the land I love.
- Use your imagination. What kind of music does the text suggest? What instruments do you expect to hear, and why?

### While you listen:

Dr. Watson mentioned that for him, "composing is all about story-telling." In light of that:

- How do elements of jazz, such as the blues scale used in measures 7–21 or use of the "Boogie-Woogie" accompaniment pattern in measures 112–127, serve the story of *Night Journey*?
- What role does **timbre** (use of various instrument sounds) play in conveying the mechanical energy of a locomotive speeding through the night? Name some specific instruments you notice?
- There is much use of **ostinato** (continuously repeated rhythmic/melodic patterns) once the motoristic "train" music begins in measure 28. How does this serve the narrative?
- There is a loud, dissonant chord whose notes are played by all woodwind and brass instruments in measures 23–25. What do you think that represents?
- The insistent, motoristic motion of the train is occasionally interrupted/released, in places such as measures 68–75 and measures 94–107. What purpose – literary and/or musical – do these passages serve?