

Pocket Brass Band

Ensemble members: Ray Anderson—trombone (composer)
Dion Parson—drums
Dave Bargeron—tuba
Lew Soloff—trumpet

Title of the commissioned work: Sweet Chicago Suite

Instrumentation:
trombone; drums; tuba; trumpet

Composer's Statement:

"The Sweet Chicago Suite is both a musical description of Chicago in the 60's and a reflection on my coming of age. I was born in 1952 in Chicago and grew up in Hyde Park, the small, integrated community on the South Side where the University of Chicago holds sway. The piece meditates on the many powerful forces that buffeted and educated me: my family, the counter-culture of the time, pervasive racism and the civil rights movement, Chicago Police, Blackstone Rangers, Vietnam, High School, girls and, of course, music. It has seven parts: *Chicago Greys*, *The Calling: High School*, *Mysterious Mistifiyo*, *Maxwell Street*, *Get To It*, and *Some Day*. It has been performed many times now in Europe as well as in America, and, although I keep tinkering with it, I really like it. The audience response has been very positive. Although it was written specifically for the Pocket Brass Band, I have played some of the pieces with other ensembles. Most recently, I played four of the pieces with a band that employed two other trombonists and piano, bass and drums. I honestly think it's one of my best works, and always look forward to playing it."

Length of the work: 75 Minutes
Recording: Available. Please contact the artist directly.

Stated Technical Requirements:

"A standard jazz drum kit. A PA system suitable to the venue. In a big place, we mic everything, in a little place we can play without PA. It's best if it has 4 different monitor sends, one for each musician, but this is also a flexible requirement."

Contact Information:

Composer: Ray Anderson
Booking contact person: Ray Anderson
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