

THE RACE

THE RACE is exactly what it sounds like – a musical portrayal of intense speed and crazy competition. The piece was initially written for Chapman Stick, string quartet and drums, based on an idea I came up with one day while practicing The Stick. A competition for Pops orchestra inspired me to create this orchestral version. The part played by The Stick has now been assigned to a more traditional rhythm section, including electric bass, electric guitar and piano, while keeping the drum set.

THE RACE has a serious forward momentum, driven by displaced accents in the brass, off-beats in the strings and the insistent pounding of the rhythm section. Bright chromatic runs in the violins and upper winds propel us from the starting gate right from the very beginning. Graceful long-lined melodies create a contrast with the fast-moving rhythm to impart a cruising feel. Frantic ascending and descending swoops fly by in a manic series of events. The whole thing is over in a flash, just three minutes long, ending with a long chromatic trumpet flourish. The end. This piece is built for speed.