

To the Stars

(Ad Astra Per Aspera)

for
concert band

(2025)

JOSHUA HOBBS

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(Ad Astra Per Aspera)
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concert band

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Duration: 3:20
Grade: 2

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute
Oboe (Optional 2nd Flute)
Bb Clarinet 1
Bb Clarinet 2
Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
Alto Saxophone
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone
Bb Trumpet 1
Bb Trumpet 2
Horn in F
Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba
Timpani
Mallets (1 or 2 players)
Bells, Chimes
Percussion 1 (2 players)
Snare Drum, Bass Drum
Percussion 2 (2 players)
Sus. Cymbals, Tambourine, Sleigh Bells, Slapstick, Crash Cymbals

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To the Stars

(Ad Astra Per Aspera)

PROGRAM NOTES

The Latin “Ad Astra Per Aspera”, translates to “through hardships to the stars” and is the motto for the Challenger K-8 School of Mathematics and Science.

When Michelle McCarthy commissioned me to write this work commemorating the school’s 20th anniversary, I found that motto particularly inspiring. The phrase not only paints a metaphorical picture, but it also painted a musical one in my mind – made evident by the rising perfect fifth motives in the opening and the ascending melodies first heard at measure 13. The Andante section beginning at measure 40 turns this melody upside down, signaling some of the hardships that we might encounter on our journey to the stars.

The aforementioned Andante section at measure 40 highlights the clarinets and the percussion break that follows at measure 58 feature the primary instruments of the two Challenger K-8 Band Directors over its 20-year history: Kathy Thompson (clarinet) and Michelle McCarthy (percussion).

-Joshua Hobbs
January 19, 2025

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

Joshua Hobbs (b. 1990) has been hailed as one of the rising stars in the world of composition and his reputation is growing rapidly. He has been selected as a winner of numerous contests, most notably the National Band Association's Young Composer Mentor Project and Dallas Winds’ Brass Fanfare Composition Contest (2013 & 2017).

Joshua holds a master’s degree in Instrumental Conducting from the University of South Florida and a bachelor’s degree in Music Composition from the University of Central Florida. He has studied privately with Brian Balmages, Mark Camphouse, Timothy Mahr, Andrew Boysen Jr., Christopher Marshall, and participated in composition master classes with Eric Whitacre and more. His output includes works for ensembles of all sizes and has been performed around the world by artists and ensembles including the United States Air Force Band, University of North Texas Wind Symphony, Summit Brass, Scott Hartman, Jeff Nelsen, John Almeida, Saint Louis Brass, at the Midwest Band & Orchestra Clinic and conferences of the College Band Director National Association, International Trumpet Guild, International Horn Society and more.

Joshua’s music is published with Excelcia Music, Neil A. Kjos Music, Triplo Press, Hickman Music Editions, and more. Joshua is registered with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and resides in Tampa, FL.

For more information, recordings, and other helpful resources, please visit
WWW.JOSHUAHOBBSMUSIC.COM

JOSHUA HOBBS
(ASCAP)

Flute

Oboe
(Opt. Flute 2)

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Alto Saxophone

**Tenor
Saxophone**

Baritone Saxophone

Allegro ♩ = 136

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2

Horn in F

Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani
(A♭: B♭: C: E♭)

Mallets

Percussion 1
(Snare Drum,
Bass Drum)

Percussion 2

1

2

3

4

5

6

Fl. *fp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Ob. *fp* *f* *mf*

B $\flat$ Cl. 1 *fp* *f* *mp*

B $\flat$ Cl. 2 *fp* *f* *mf*

B. Cl. *fp* *f*

Bsn. *fp* *f*

A. Sax. *fp* *mf* *f* *mp*

T. Sax. *fp* *f*

B. Sax. *fp* *f* *mf*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1 *fp* *f*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2 *fp* *f*

Hn. *fp* *f* *mf*

Tbn. *fp* *f*

Euph. *fp* *f* *mf*

Tba. *fp* *f*

Timp. *p* *f* *mf*

Mall. *f* *f*

Perc. 1 *fp* *f* *mf* *mp*

Perc. 2 *p* *f*

Sus. Cymbal

21

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

21

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

19 20 21 22 23 24

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 19 through 24. The instruments are arranged in two systems. The first system includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinets 1 and 2 (B $\flat$ Cl. 1, B $\flat$ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sax.). The second system includes Trumpets 1 and 2 (B $\flat$ Tpt. 1, B $\flat$ Tpt. 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Mallets (Mall.), and two Percussion parts (Perc. 1, Perc. 2). Measure 19 shows the start of several melodic lines. Measure 20 features a dynamic change to *mp* for the Flute and Horn. Measure 21 is marked with a box containing the number '21' and shows the Flute playing a melodic line starting on a half note, with a dynamic of *mp*. The Oboe and Clarinets have sustained notes. The Saxophones and Bassoon have sustained notes. The Trumpets and Horns have sustained notes. The Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba have sustained notes. The Timpani and Mallets have sustained notes. The Percussion parts have rhythmic patterns. Measure 22 shows the Flute continuing its melodic line. Measure 23 shows the Flute continuing its melodic line. Measure 24 shows the Flute continuing its melodic line, with a dynamic change to *mf* for the Alto Saxophone. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamic markings.

25

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B $\flat$ Cl. 1 *mf*

B $\flat$ Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

25

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1 *mp*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2 *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Timp. *mf*

Mall. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

25 26 27 28 29 30

33

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

33

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Chimes

Sleigh Bells

mp

pp

p

31 32 33 34 35 36

molto rit.**40**

Andante ♩ = 84

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

mp

p

p

Clar. 1

Clar. 2

Bass Clarinet

p

molto rit.**40**

Andante ♩ = 84

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

mp

p

pp

pp

mp

p

mp

p

molto rit.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

pp

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

The musical score is for measures 43 through 48. The key signature has two flats (B $\flat$ and E $\flat$). The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Clarinets, Bassoon, Saxophones) and the string section (Trombones, Euphonium, Tuba) have active parts. The brass section (Trumpets, Horns, Tuba) and the percussion section (Timpani, Mallets, Percussion 1 and 2) are mostly silent, indicated by whole rests. The woodwinds play various melodic and harmonic lines, including some with grace notes and slurs. The strings provide a steady accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Freely ♩ = 76

58 Vivace ♩ = 152

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

Solo or Soli

p

mp

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Freely ♩ = 76

58 Vivace ♩ = 152

B♭ Tpt. 1

mf

B♭ Tpt. 2

mf

Hn.

mf

Tbn.

mf

Euph.

mf

Tba.

Timp.

mf

Mall.

Chimes

mf

Perc. 1

mf

Slapstick

mf

Perc. 2

pp

mp

mf

Crash Cymbals

55 56 57 58 59 60

62 66

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

62 66

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glockenspiel

Tambourine

61 62 63 64 65 66

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 61 through 66. Measures 62 and 66 are marked with rehearsal symbols. The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Clarinets, Bassoon, Saxophones) and brass section (Trumpets, Horns, Trombones, Euphonium, Tuba) have various melodic and harmonic parts. The percussion section includes Timpani, Mallets (Glockenspiel), and Percussion 1 and 2 (Tambourine). Dynamics range from piano (p) to forte (f), with mezzo-forte (mf) also present. Accents are used throughout the score.

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

67 68 69 70 71 72

74

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B $\flat$ Cl. 1 *mf* *mp*

B $\flat$ Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

74

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1 *mp*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2 *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *p*

73 74 75 76 77 78

82

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

82

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

79 80 81 82 83 84

This musical score page contains measures 79 through 84. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), B-flat Clarinets 1 and 2 (B $\flat$ Cl. 1, B $\flat$ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (B. Sax.), B-flat Trumpets 1 and 2 (B $\flat$ Tpt. 1, B $\flat$ Tpt. 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Glockenspiel (Glock.), and two Percussion parts (Perc. 1, Perc. 2). The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measures 79-81 show various melodic and rhythmic patterns for the woodwinds and strings, with some instruments playing sustained notes. Measure 82 is marked with a box containing the number '82' and features a change in dynamics to *mp* (mezzo-piano) for several instruments. Measures 83 and 84 continue the musical themes, with Perc. 1 playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and Perc. 2 playing a pattern of quarter notes. The page number '16' is in the top left corner, and the measure numbers '79' through '84' are at the bottom.

88 Majestic ♩ = 76

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

88 Majestic ♩ = 76

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Sus. Cymbal

Chimes

Crash Cymbals

96 Vivace ♩ = 152

Fl. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

Ob. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

B. Cl. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

Bsn. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

A. Sax. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

T. Sax. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

B. Sax. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

Hn. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

Tbn. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

Euph. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

Tba. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

Timp. *mf* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Mall. *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

Perc. 1 *f* *fp* *ff*

Perc. 2 *mf* *p* *f* *mp* *f*

Glockenspiel

Choke