

Ad Astra Per Aspera

(Through Hardships to the Stars)

for
concert band

(2025)

JOSHUA HOBBS

Ad Astra Per Aspera

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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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Ad Astra Per Aspera

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PROGRAM NOTES

The title of this piece, 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

Ad Astra Per Aspera (Through Hardships to the Stars)

JOSHUA HOBBS
(ASCAP)

Full Score

Allegro ♩ = 136

The score is for a full band and includes the following parts:

- Flute**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- B♭ Clarinet 1**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- B♭ Clarinet 2**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- Bass Clarinet**: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*.
- Bassoon**: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mp*, *mf*.
- Alto Saxophone**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- Tenor Saxophone**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- Baritone Saxophone**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*.
- B♭ Trumpet 1**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- B♭ Trumpet 2**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- Horn in F**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mf*.
- Trombone**: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- Euphonium**: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- Tuba**: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mp*, *mf*.
- Timpani (Ab, Bb, C, Eb)**: Bass clef, 4/4 time signature.
- Mallets**: Treble clef, 4/4 time signature. Includes Glockenspiel. Dynamics: *f*, *mf*.
- Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)**: Percussion clef, 4/4 time signature. Dynamics: *mf*, *p*, *mf*.
- Percussion 2 (Suspended Cymbal, Tambourine, Sleigh Bells, Slapstick, Crash Cymbals)**: Percussion clef, 4/4 time signature.

1

2

3

4

5

6

Ad Astra Per Aspera - Full Score

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*

13

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

13

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Tambourine

Ad Astra Per Aspera - Full Score

6

Fl. *mp*

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1 *mp* *mf*

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Mall. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *p* *mp* *p*

25

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bb Cl. 1 *mf*

Bb Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

25

Bb Tpt. 1 *mp*

Bb Tpt. 2 *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Timp. *mf*

Mall. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Ad Astra Per Aspera - Full Score

8

Fl. *mp*

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1 *mp*

B \flat Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl.

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax.

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn. *mp*

Tbn.

Euph. *mp*

Tba.

Timp.

Mall. Chimes *mp*

Perc. 1 *pp*

Perc. 2 Sleigh Bells *p*

molto rit.

40 Andante ♩ = 84

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

molto rit.

40 Andante ♩ = 84

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

molto rit.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Ad Astra Per Aspera - Full Score

10

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

50

rit.

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

50

rit.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

One

rit.

Glockenspiel

Mall.

Perc. 1

Sus. Cymbal

Perc. 2

pp *p*

Ad Astra Per Aspera - Full Score

12

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Freely ♩ = 76

58 Vivace ♩ = 152

Solo or Soli

p

mp

mf

pp

mf

mf

mf

mf

Chimes

Slapstick

Crash Cymbals

62 66

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

62 66

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Mall.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glockenspiel

Tambourine

61 62 63 64 65 66

ICB22XXFS

Detailed description: This is a page of a full orchestral score for the piece 'Ad Astra Per Aspera'. The page is numbered 13 and covers measures 61 through 66. The score is written for a variety of instruments, including woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinets, Saxophones), brass (Trumpets, Trombones, Euphonium, Tuba), percussion (Timpani, Glockenspiel, Percussion 1 and 2), and strings (represented by the Tbn. and Euph. parts). The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics are clearly marked throughout, with 'mf' (mezzo-forte) and 'f' (forte) being the most prominent. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins. Measure numbers 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, and 66 are indicated at the bottom of the page. The instrument abbreviations are placed to the left of their respective staves.

Ad Astra Per Aspera - Full Score

14

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

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*

Ad Astra Per Aspera - Full Score

16

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

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

Ad Astra Per Aspera - Full Score

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* *f* *ff*

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

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

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

96 **Vivace** ♩ = 152

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *mp* *f* *f* *ff*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Glockenspiel

Choke