



Commissioned by and dedicated to Mr. Tom Mitchell
and the Challenger Middle School Band, Huntsville, AL

To Challenge the Sky and Heavens Above

Robert W. Smith (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 Conductor | 2 1st F Horn |
| 3 1st Flute | 2 2nd F Horn |
| 3 2nd Flute | 3 1st Trombone |
| 2 Oboe | 2 2nd Trombone |
| 3 1st B♭ Clarinet | 2 Baritone |
| 3 2nd B♭ Clarinet | 1 Baritone Treble Clef |
| 3 3rd B♭ Clarinet | 4 Tuba |
| 1 E♭ Alto Clarinet | 4 Mallet Percussion
(Bells, Vibraphone, Chimes, Marimba) |
| 2 B♭ Bass Clarinet | 1 Timpani |
| 2 Bassoon | 4 Percussion I
(Wind Chimes, Snare Drum, Bass Drum,
Congas) |
| 2 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone | 3 Percussion II
(Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals,
Large Beaded Gourd) |
| 2 2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone | |
| 1 B♭ Tenor Saxophone | |
| 1 E♭ Baritone Saxophone | |
| 3 1st B♭ Trumpet | |
| 3 2nd B♭ Trumpet | |
| 3 3rd B♭ Trumpet | |

SUPPLEMENTAL AND WORLD PARTS

Available for download from
www.alfred.com/worldparts

- 1st Horn in E♭
2nd Horn in E♭
1st Trombone in B♭ Treble Clef
2nd Trombone in B♭ Treble Clef
Tuba in E♭ Treble Clef
Tuba in B♭ Treble Clef

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TO CHALLENGE THE SKY AND HEAVENS ABOVE

ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

PROGRAM NOTE

TO CHALLENGE THE SKY AND HEAVENS ABOVE draws its inspiration from the rich aerospace history surrounding the Huntsville, Alabama area. The creative seeds for the composition were found in the novel OCTOBER SKY by Homer Hickam, a West Virginia native who made his home in Huntsville and the aerospace industry. Through the eyes and courage of a young boy, Mr. Hickam captured the fascination that we all find in our dreams of flight. Mr. Hickam was inspired as a young man by the work of Wernher von Braun and dreamed to follow in his footsteps through the space program.

This piece draws upon the vision and bravery of those who soared through the heavens above. The Huntsville area has continually affected our world because visionaries such as Wernher von Braun and his team of scientists laid the foundation for modern space flight and exploration. Von Braun (1912–1977) was one of the world's foremost rocket engineers and a leading authority on space travel. Von Braun directed teams that built the rockets that sent the first American into space and landed the first astronauts on the moon.

In 1945, von Braun led a group of German scientists who surrendered to the United States Army. He and 116 others were sent to the United States to work on guided missile systems. In 1950, the Army assigned von Braun and his team to the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, to develop the first large U.S. ballistic missile. Von Braun became a U.S. citizen in 1955.

In 1960, the Army transferred von Braun and his team to Huntsville's new George C. Marshall Space Flight Center, operated by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Von Braun's team developed the four-stage Jupiter rocket that launched Explorer 1, the first United States earth satellite. Another of the group's rockets, the Redstone, launched America's first astronaut, Alan B. Shepard, Jr., in 1961. Other von Braun projects included the Saturn rockets. In 1969, a Saturn 5 rocket launched the astronauts who made the first landing on the moon.

This piece was commissioned by and dedicated to Mr. Tom Mitchell and the Challenger Middle School Band. This talented ensemble premiered the work in May of 1999. As the name of the school suggests, this is a very special band in a very special place.

NOTE TO CONDUCTOR

The introduction should be as majestic as possible. The opening statement in the horns should build into the very strong impacts at bar 3. A slight separation on each note of the horn statement will heighten the effect. The bells and vibes in bar 3 may be staged on either side of the band for a more "surround sound" effect.

The hymn beginning at bar 9 should be flowing yet with a sense of freedom. The horn solo should interact with the woodwind melody in an almost playful fashion. The conclusion of the hymn should be freely interpreted to maximize the percussion entrance into bar 20.

The tempo at bar 20 should be brisk. However, the tempo should never be so fast that a frantic feeling permeates the ensemble. Special care should be given to the tuba/timpani/low reed response on the second half of beat 4 to beat 1 of the following bar. I suggest rehearsing with a metronome with an eighth-note subdivision to reinforce the maintenance of tempo.

The timpani/horn/marimba ostinato is crucial at bar 28. I suggest moving the marimba to the front section of the stage for optimum clarity and projection. Careful attention should be given to each of the three parts for rhythmic accuracy and dynamic balance.

The full ensemble statement at bar 76 should be rehearsed to ensure the forward momentum of the piece as well as dynamic contrast to the following section of the work. The upper woodwind/vibe effect at bar 80 should be very carefully balanced for clarity. The flutes may need to be adjusted to ensure their presence in this register. The trumpet figure in bar 90 should be slightly separated but not too short!

The mysterious 5/4 statement beginning at 112 will require careful rehearsal between the percussion and the tuba/low reeds. The last two quarter notes in each bar should be slightly separated for clarity. The oboe solo draws upon the melodic material stated earlier in the piece. I have cued the solo in the clarinet and saxophone as needed. If no oboe is available, I particularly like the option of using a soprano saxophone as indicated. Bar 124 will require careful attention to the balance between the first and second flute lines (or alto saxophones if cues are used).

The restatement of the melody at bar 152 requires a careful balance between the melodic line in the upper woodwinds/baritone and the trumpet/trombone countermelodic line. I suggest isolating these two lines in rehearsal for greater understanding from these sections of the band.

The transition statement beginning at bar 174 should be as intense as possible. The *pick-a-note* should be as dissonant as possible for the greatest effect. In addition, the crescendo of the *pick-a-note* should be greatly exaggerated. The ending that follows should be a natural outgrowth of this transition statement. The last note should be as strong as possible without any distortion of tone quality or intonation. The bass drum should be thunderous to provide an exclamation point to the piece.

I hope that you and your ensemble find TO CHALLENGE THE SKY AND HEAVENS ABOVE to be a rewarding musical experience. Best of luck in all of your musical endeavors. Best wishes for a great performance!

CONDUCTOR

Commissioned by and dedicated to Mr. Tom Mitchell and the
Challenger Middle School Band, Huntsville, AL

TO CHALLENGE THE SKY AND HEAVENS ABOVE

By ROBERT W. SMITH (ASCAP)

Majestic! $\text{J} = 80$

C Flutes

Oboe

B♭ Clarinets

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

E♭ Alto Saxophones

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpets

Horns in F

Trombones

Baritone

Tuba

Mallet Percussion (Bells, Vibraphone, Chimes, Marimba)

Timpani

Percussion I (Wind Chimes, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Congas)

Percussion II (Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals, Large Beaded Gourd)

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Conductor - 2

9 Gently, yet flowing

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxos 1
A. Saxos 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Wind Chimes
Perc. I
Perc. II

5 6 7 8 9

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
1
2
3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
1
2
A. Saxes
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
1
2
3
Hns. 1
2
Tbns. 1
2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

10 11 12 13 14

p *f* *p* *f* *p*

Fls.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Tbns.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Marimba and Vibes (2 players)

25 26 27 28 29 30 31

32

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba

Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

The musical score consists of five systems of staves, each representing a different family of instruments:

- Flute Family (Fls. 1, 2, Ob.):** Flutes 1 and 2 play eighth-note patterns, while the oboe provides harmonic support.
- Clarinet Family (Cls. 2, 3):** Clarinets 2 and 3 play eighth-note patterns.
- Woodwind Family (A. Cl., B. Cl., Bsn.):** Bassoon and alto and bass clarinets are silent.
- Saxophone Family (A. Sax. 1, 2, T. Sax., Bar. Sax.):** Alto saxophones 1 and 2 play eighth-note patterns, tenor saxophone is silent, and baritone saxophone is silent.
- Horn Family (Tpts. 1, 2, 3, Hns. 1, 2, Tbn. 1, 2, Bar., Tuba):** Horns 1 and 2 play eighth-note patterns, while others are silent.
- Percussion Family (Mlt. Perc., Timp., Perc. I, Perc. II):** All percussion instruments play eighth-note patterns.

Measure numbers 37 through 41 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

48

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn.
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49

Fls.

Ob.

Cls.

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Tbns.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Conductor - 9

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50 51 52 53 54 55 56

60

Fls.
2
Ob.
1
Clz.
2
3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
1
A. Saxos
2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1
2
3
Hns. 1
2
Tbns. 1
2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

57 58 59 60 61

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Bsn.
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

62 63 64 65

Conductor - I2

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cls. 1
Cls. 2
Cls. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

66 67 68 69 70

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Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

71 72 73 74 75 76

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
1
2
3
div.
mf
mf
mf
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
1
2
A. Sax.
2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
1
2
3
Hns.
1
2
Tbns.
1
2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

80

Vibrphone (w/vibrato)

mf

Wind Chimes

p

77 78 ff 79 80 81 82 83

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84

Fls.
2
Ob.

1
Clz. 2
3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.

1 A. Saxos
2 T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

84

Tpts. 2
3
1 Hns.
2
Tbns.
2
Bar.
Tuba

Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

84 85 86 87 88 89 90

92

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
1 A. Saxes
2 T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
1
Tpts. 2
3
1 Hns.
2
Hns.
1 Tbn.
2 Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

p *mf*

91 92 93 94 95 96 97

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100

Fls.
2
Ob.
1
Cls. 2
3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
1
2
A. Saxos
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
1
2
3
1
2
Hns.
1
2
Tbns.
2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

100

98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105

112 Mysterious!

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
1
2
3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
1
2
A. Sax.
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
1
2
3
Hns.
1
2
Tbns.
1
2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113

pp *mf* *f*

Congas
Large Beaded Gourd

116

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob. Solo *mf*
Cue: Oboe Solo
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl. *mp*
Bsn. *mp*
Cue: Oboe Solo
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2 *mf* opt. Sop. Sax. (transpose down a fifth)
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax. *mp*

116

Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba *mp*
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

114 115 116 117 118 119

124

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxos 1
A. Saxos 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

120 121 122 123 124 125

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3

Hns. 1
Hns. 2

Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

126 127 128 129 130 131

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
1
2
3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
1
2
A. Saxes
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
1
2
3
1
2
Hns.
1
2
Tbns.
2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

132 133 134 135 136 137 138 Susp. Cym. 139

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140

Fls. 1 f
Fls. 2 f
Ob. f
Cl. 1 >
Cl. 2 > ff
Cl. 3 > f
A. Cl. f
B. Cl. f
Bsn. f
A. Saxes 1 f
A. Saxes 2 > ff f
T. Sax. f
Bar. Sax. f

140

Tpts. 1 f
Tpts. 2 > ff
Tpts. 3 > ff
Hns. 1 f
Hns. 2 > ff f
Tbns. 1 f
Tbns. 2 > ff
Bar. f
Tuba f
Mlt. Perc. ff
Timp. f
Perc. I > ff pp
Perc. II f Cr. Cyms. ff pp

Fls.

Ob.

Cls. 2

A. Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts. 2

Hns. 2

Tbns.

Bar.

Tuba

Mlt. Perc.

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Marimba and Vibes (2 players)

Congas

152

148 149 150 151 152 153 154

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Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 1
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162

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168

Fls.
Ob.
Cl.
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.

Tpts.
Hns.
Tbns.
Bar.
Tuba

Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170

Bells and Vibes (2 players)

Review Only

182

Fls. 1
Fls. 2
Ob.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
A. Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Saxes 1
A. Saxes 2
T. Sax.
Bar. Sax.
Tpts. 2
Tpts. 3
Hns. 1
Hns. 2
Tbns. 1
Tbns. 2
Bar.
Tuba
Mlt. Perc.
Timp.
Perc. I
Perc. II

182

178 179 180 181 182 183

A page from a musical score for orchestra. The page contains 21 staves of music, each representing a different instrument or section. The instruments listed on the left are Flutes (1 & 2), Oboe, Clarinet (2 & 3), Bassoon, Alto Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone (1 & 2), Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet (2 & 3), Horn (1 & 2), Trombone (1 & 2), Bass Trombone, Tuba, Mallet Percussion, Timpani, Percussion I, and Percussion II. The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Various dynamics are indicated throughout the score, including fortissimo (ff), piano (p), and pianississimo (pp). Special instructions like 'div.' (divisi) and performance techniques like slurs and accents are also present. A large, diagonal red watermark with the text 'Review Requires Purchase' is overlaid across the entire page.

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