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Looking at the Stars

for symphonic wind ensemble

TRAVIS J. CROSS

*Commissioned by the Association for Music in International Schools
for the 2010 Asian Middle School Honor Band in Shanghai, China*

Performance Notes

Looking at the Stars was commissioned by the Association for Music in International Schools for the 2010 Asian Middle School Honor Band in Shanghai, China. The premiere performance will take place at the Shanghai American School Pudong on January 30, 2010, under the direction of Peter Lutkoski.

I briefly considered writing a piece based on Chinese folk music, but decided instead to focus on the very nature of the commissioning ensemble — talented middle school musicians from international schools across Asia. I find it remarkable and inspiring how a group of young people from different nations and backgrounds can come together to share the common experience of making music.

Looking at the Stars is a celebration of the hope and possibility embodied by the students in the Asian Middle School Honor Band and the international schools they represent. Unabashedly diatonic, the work comprises a few simple motives and melodies that connect and overlap to create a musical expression of great joy.

The title comes from a quote by Oscar Wilde that I first encountered while walking around London one night in March 2004. I stumbled upon a statue of the great author near Trafalgar Square with the inscription: “We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.” I borrowed from his quote to allude to our shared hopes and dreams; no matter how old or young we are or where in the world we may be, when we turn heavenward, we are all looking at the same stars.

Travis J. Cross
Blacksburg, Virginia
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Looking at the Stars

for symphonic wind ensemble

TRAVIS J. CROSS

Energetically, with great hope (♩ = 152)

The score is divided into three systems. The first system includes Piccolo, Flutes 1-2, Oboes 1-2, Bassoons 1-2, Clarinet 1, Clarinets 2-3, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxes 1-2, Tenor Sax., and Baritone Sax. The second system includes Trumpet 1, Trumpets 2-3, Horns 1-3, Horns 2-4, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, Euphonium, and Tuba. The third system includes Timpani, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3, and Percussion 4. The score features various dynamics such as *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *pp*, and includes performance instructions like *div.*, *unis.*, *solo*, *cup mute*, *open*, *bell tone*, *coin on dome (scrape)*, and *Marimba*. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C).

11

Picc. *mp*

Fls. *mp*

Obs. *mp*

Bsns. *mf*

Cl. 1 *mp*

Cls. 2-3 *mp*

B.Cl. *mp*

A. Sxs. *mp*

T. Sx. *mp*

B. Sx. *mp*

11 *tutti*

Tpt. 1 *mf open* *mp*

Tpts. 2-3 *mf* *mf* *mp* *mp*

Hns. 1-3 *pp* *mf*

Hn. 2-4 *pp* *mf*

Tbn. 1 *pp*

Tbn. 2 *p* *pp*

Tbn. 3 *pp*

Euph.

Tba.

11

Timp. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf* B.D.

Perc. 2 *mf*

Perc. 3 *mp*

Perc. 4 *mp*

19

Picc.

Fls.

Obs.

Bsns.

Cl. 1

Cls. 2-3

B.Cl.

A. Sxs.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

19

Tpt. 1

Tpts. 2-3

Hns. 1-3

Hn. 2-4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

19

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tba.

19

Timp.

19

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

19

Perc. 4

The image shows a page of a musical score, page 3, starting at measure 19. The score is for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The instruments listed on the left are Piccolo (Picc.), Flutes (Fls.), Oboes (Obs.), Bassoons (Bsns.), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Clarinets 2-3 (Cls. 2-3), Bass Clarinet (B.Cl.), Saxophones Alto (A. Sxs.), Saxophones Tenor (T. Sx.), Saxophones Baritone (B. Sx.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Trumpets 2-3 (Tpts. 2-3), Horns 1-3 (Hns. 1-3), Horns 2-4 (Hn. 2-4), Trombone 1 (Tbn. 1), Trombone 2 (Tbn. 2), Trombone 3 (Tbn. 3), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Percussion 3 (Perc. 3), and Percussion 4 (Perc. 4). The score is in 2/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The woodwinds and strings (not fully visible) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The brass instruments play sustained notes, often with accents. The percussion instruments have specific rhythmic patterns, with Perc. 1 featuring a complex pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. Dynamics are marked throughout, including *mp*, *f*, *mf*, and *p*. The page number '19' is repeated at the beginning of each system.

27

Picc.

Fls.

Obs.

Bsns.

Cl. 1

Cls. 2-3

B.Cl.

A. Sxs.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

27

Tpt. 1

Tpts. 2-3

Hns. 1-3

Hn. 2-4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

27

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tba.

27

Timp.

27

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

27

Perc. 4

35 35

Picc.

Fls. *mf*

Obs. ^{a2} *mf*

Bsns. ^{div.} *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cls. 2-3 *f*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sxs. *f*

T. Sx. *mf*

B. Sx. *mf*

Tpt. 1 *f*

Tpts. 2-3 *f*

Hns. 1-3 *f*

Hn. 2-4 *f*

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2 *mf*

Tbn. 3 *mf*

Euph. *mf*

Tba. *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. 2 *f* *mf* with stick

Perc. 3 *mf*

Perc. 4 *mf*

43

Picc. *f*

Fls. *f* div. *♭*

Obs. *f* div. *♭*

Bsns. *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cls. 2-3 unis. *p*

B.Cl. *f*

A. Sxs. *f* div. *♭*

T. Sx. *p*

B. Sx.

43

Tpt. 1

Tpts. 2-3

Hns. 1-3

Hn. 2-4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

43

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tba.

43

Timp.

43

Perc. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 *f*

43

Perc. 4 *mf* *p*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 43 through 50. It features a large orchestral ensemble. The woodwind section includes Piccolo, Flutes (divided), Oboes (divided), Bassoons, Clarinet 1, Clarinets 2-3 (unison), Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpet 1, Trumpets 2-3, Horns 1-3, Horns 2-4, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, four different Percussion 1 parts (with dynamic markings *mf* and *p*), Percussion 2, Percussion 3 (*f*), and Percussion 4 (*mf* and *p*). The score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (D major). Dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *p* (piano). Various performance instructions like 'div.' and 'unis.' are present.

51 53

Picc. Fls. Obs. Bsns. Cl. 1 Cls. 2-3 B.Cl. A. Sxs. T. Sx. B. Sx.

51 53

Tpt. 1 Tpts. 2-3 Hns. 1-3 Hn. 2-4 Tbn. 1 Tbn. 2 Tbn. 3 Euph. Tba.

51 53

Timp. Perc. 1 Perc. 2 Perc. 3 Perc. 4

Detailed description of the musical score: This page contains the percussion section of a score, starting at measure 51 and ending at measure 53. The instruments are arranged in staves from top to bottom: Piccolo (Picc.), Flutes (Fls.), Oboe (Obs.), Bassoon (Bsns.), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Clarinets 2-3 (Cls. 2-3), Bass Clarinet (B.Cl.), Saxophone Alto (A. Sxs.), Saxophone Tenor (T. Sx.), Saxophone Baritone (B. Sx.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Trumpets 2-3 (Tpts. 2-3), Horns 1-3 (Hns. 1-3), Horns 2-4 (Hn. 2-4), Trombone 1 (Tbn. 1), Trombone 2 (Tbn. 2), Trombone 3 (Tbn. 3), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Percussion 3 (Perc. 3), and Percussion 4 (Perc. 4). The score features various dynamics such as *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *mp*. There are also performance markings like 'a2' and 'Tri.' (Triangle). The Percussion 1 part includes a triangle part starting at measure 53. The Percussion 4 part has a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

Musical score for orchestra, measures 60-69. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Piccolo, Flutes (Fls.), Oboes (Obs.), Bassoons (Bsns.), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Clarinets 2-3 (Cls. 2-3), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sxs.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), and Bass Saxophone (B. Sx.). The second system includes Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Trumpets 2-3 (Tpts. 2-3), Horns 1-3 (Hns. 1-3), Horns 2-4 (Hn. 2-4), Trombone 1 (Tbn. 1), Trombone 2 (Tbn. 2), Trombone 3 (Tbn. 3), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba (Tba.). The percussion section at the bottom includes Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Percussion 3 (Perc. 3), and Percussion 4 (Perc. 4). The score features various dynamics such as *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano), along with performance instructions like 'unis.' (unison), 'div.' (divisi), and 'S.D.' (snare drum). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. Measure numbers 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, and 69 are indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

This page of a musical score covers measures 69 through 74. It features a full orchestral arrangement with the following instruments and parts:

- Picc.**: Piccolo flute, playing sustained notes.
- Fls.**: Flutes, playing sustained notes.
- Obs.**: Oboes, playing sustained notes with an *a2* (second octave) marking in measure 74.
- Bsns.**: Bassoons, playing sustained notes with an *a2* marking in measure 74.
- Cl. 1**: Clarinet in B-flat, playing sustained notes.
- Cls. 2-3**: Clarinets in C, playing a rhythmic eighth-note pattern.
- B.Cl.**: Bass Clarinet in B-flat, playing sustained notes with a dynamic of *f* in measure 69 and *mp* in measure 74.
- A. Sxs.**: Alto Saxophone, playing sustained notes with a *div.* (divisi) marking in measure 74.
- T. Sx.**: Tenor Saxophone, playing a rhythmic eighth-note pattern.
- B. Sx.**: Baritone Saxophone, playing sustained notes with a dynamic of *f* in measure 69 and *mp* in measure 74.
- Tpt. 1**: Trumpet in B-flat, playing sustained notes.
- Tpts. 2-3**: Trumpets in C, playing sustained notes.
- Hns. 1-3**: Horns in B-flat, playing sustained notes.
- Hn. 2-4**: Horns in C, playing sustained notes.
- Tbn. 1**: Trombone in B-flat, playing sustained notes with a dynamic of *mp* in measure 74.
- Tbn. 2**: Trombone in B-flat, playing sustained notes with a dynamic of *mp* in measure 74.
- Tbn. 3**: Trombone in B-flat, playing sustained notes with a dynamic of *f* in measure 69 and *mp* in measure 74.
- Euph.**: Euphonium, playing sustained notes with a dynamic of *mp* in measure 74.
- Tba.**: Tuba, playing sustained notes with a dynamic of *f* in measure 69 and *mp* in measure 74.
- Timp.**: Timpani, playing a rhythmic pattern with a dynamic of *f* in measure 74.
- Perc. 1**: Percussion 1, playing a rhythmic pattern with a dynamic of *mp* in measure 74.
- Perc. 2**: Percussion 2, playing a rhythmic pattern with dynamics of *f* and *mf*.
- Perc. 3**: Percussion 3, playing a rhythmic pattern with a dynamic of *mf* in measure 74.
- Perc. 4**: Percussion 4, playing a rhythmic eighth-note pattern.

The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings (*f*, *mf*, *mp*) to guide the performance.

77 **77** Slightly faster, with restlessness (♩ = 168, ♩ = 84)

Picc. Fls. Obs. Bsns. Cl. 1 Cls. 2-3 B. Cl. A. Sxs. T. Sx. B. Sx.

77 **77** Slightly faster, with restlessness (♩ = 168, ♩ = 84)

Tpt. 1 Tpts. 2-3 Hns. 1-3 Hn. 2-4 Tbn. 1 Tbn. 2 Tbn. 3 Euph. Tba.

77 **77** Slightly faster, with restlessness (♩ = 168, ♩ = 84)

Windchimes

Timp. Perc. 1 Perc. 2 Perc. 3 Perc. 4

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a percussion section of an orchestra. It consists of 14 staves. The first staff is Piccolo (Picc.), which is mostly silent. The second staff is Flutes (Fls.), also mostly silent. The third staff is Oboe (Obs.), playing a melodic line with slurs. The fourth staff is Bassoon (Bsns.), playing a melodic line with slurs and a 'div.' (divisi) marking. The fifth staff is Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), playing a melodic line with slurs. The sixth staff is Clarinets 2-3 (Cls. 2-3), playing a melodic line with slurs. The seventh staff is Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), playing a melodic line with slurs. The eighth staff is Alto Saxophone (A. Sxs.), playing a melodic line with slurs and a '2.' marking. The ninth staff is Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), playing a melodic line with slurs. The tenth staff is Baritone Saxophone (B. Sx.), playing a melodic line with slurs. The eleventh staff is Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), playing a melodic line with slurs and a 'solo' marking. The twelfth staff is Trumpets 2-3 (Tpts. 2-3), which are mostly silent. The thirteenth staff is Horns 1-3 (Hns. 1-3), which are mostly silent. The fourteenth staff is Horns 2-4 (Hn. 2-4), which are mostly silent. The fifteenth staff is Trombone 1 (Tbn. 1), which is mostly silent. The sixteenth staff is Trombone 2 (Tbn. 2), which is mostly silent. The seventeenth staff is Trombone 3 (Tbn. 3), which is mostly silent. The eighteenth staff is Euphonium (Euph.), which is mostly silent. The nineteenth staff is Tuba (Tba.), which is mostly silent. The twentieth staff is Timpani (Timp.), playing a melodic line with slurs and a 'Windchimes' marking. The twenty-first staff is Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), playing a melodic line with slurs. The twenty-second staff is Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), playing a melodic line with slurs. The twenty-third staff is Percussion 3 (Perc. 3), playing a melodic line with slurs. The twenty-fourth staff is Percussion 4 (Perc. 4), which is mostly silent. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. Performance instructions include 'Slightly faster, with restlessness' and 'Windchimes'.

87 93

Picc. *f*

Fls. *f* unis.

Obs. *f*

Bsns. *mp*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cls. 2-3

B.Cl. *f*

A. Sxs. *mf* *f* a2 div.

T. Sx. *mf* *f*

B. Sx. *f*

87 93

Tpt. 1 *mf* *f* tutti

Tpts. 2-3 *mf* *f* solo tutti

Hns. 1-3 *mf* *f*

Hn. 2-4 *mf* *f*

Tbn. 1 *mf* *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mf* *mp*

Tbn. 3 *mf* *mp*

Euph. *mf* *mp*

Tba. *mf* *f*

87 93

Timp. *mf* *f* Timp.

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mp* *f* *mp*

Perc. 3 *mf* *mp*

Perc. 4 *mf* *mp* Bells

Picc. *mf*

Fls. *mf* *unis.*

Obs. *div.* *a2* *f* *mf*

Bsns. *mf*

Cl. 1 *f* *mf*

Cls. 2-3 *mf* *mp* *mf*

B.Cl. *mf* *mp*

A. Sxs. *a2* *div.* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

T. Sx. *mf*

B. Sx. *mf* *mp*

Tpt. 1 *mf solo*

Tpts. 2-3 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Hns. 1-3 *mf*

Hn. 2-4 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *f* *mf*

Tbn. 2 *f*

Tbn. 3 *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

Timp. *p*

Perc. 1 *C.C.* *f* *Medium Tom-tom* *mp*

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

Perc. 3 *f* *mp* *mf*

Perc. 4 *f* *Marimba* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

109 *poco rit.*

Instrumentation and Dynamics:

- Picc.**: *mf*
- Fls.**: *mf*
- Obs.**: *mp*, *mf*
- Bsns.**: *mf*, *f*
- Cl. 1**: *mp*, *mf*
- Cls. 2-3**: *mf*
- B.Cl.**: *f*
- A. Sxs.**: *p*, *mf*, *mf*
- T. Sx.**: *mf*, *f*, *p*
- B. Sx.**: *mf*, *f*
- Tpt. 1**: *f tutti*
- Tpts. 2-3**: *p*, *mf*, *f*
- Hns. 1-3**: *f*, *p*
- Hn. 2-4**: *f*, *p*
- Tbn. 1**: *f*, *p*
- Tbn. 2**: *mf*, *f*, *p*
- Tbn. 3**: *mf*, *f*, *p*
- Euph.**: *f*, *p*
- Tba.**: *mf*, *f*
- Timp.**: *mp*, *mf*
- Perc. 1**: *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *S.D.*
- Perc. 2**: *p*, *mf*, *mp*
- Perc. 3**: *mf*
- Perc. 4**: *p*, *mf*

117 **Tempo I** (♩ = 152, ♩ = 76)

Picc. *f*

Fls. *f*

Obs. *f* a2

Bsns. *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cls. 2-3 *f* unis.

B.Cl. *mf*

A. Sxs. *f*

T. Sx. *f*

B. Sx. *mf*

Tpt. 1 *f* *ff*

Tpts. 2-3 *f* a2 *ff* div.

Hns. 1-3 *f*

Hn. 2-4 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *mf*

Tbn. 3 *mf*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *mf*

Timp. *f*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *f* *mf*

Perc. 3 C.C. *f*

Perc. 4 *f*

125

Picc. *f*

Fls. *f* unis. div.

Obs. *f* div. a2 div.

Bsns. *f* a2 *mf* div.

Cl. 1

Cls. 2-3

B.Cl.

A. Sxs. *f* *f*

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. 1 *ff* *f*

Tpts. 2-3 *ff* *f*

Hns. 1-3 *mf* *f*

Hn. 2-4 *mf* *f*

Tbn. 1 *f* *mf* *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tba.

Timp. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mp* *mf*

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

Perc. 3 *mf*

Perc. 4 *f* Bells *f*

135

Picc. *mf*

Fls. *mf*

Obs. *mf*

Bsns. *mp*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cls. 2-3 *mf*

B.Cl. *mf*

A. Sxs. *mp*

T. Sx. *mp*

B. Sx. *mp*

135

Tpt. 1 *f* *mf*

Tpts. 2-3 *f* *mf*

Hns. 1-3 *mf*

Hn. 2-4 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mp*

135

Tbn. 3 *mf*

Euph. *mp*

Tba. *mf*

135

Timp. *f* *mf* *mp*

135

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

Perc. 2 *mp*

Perc. 3 *f* *mf*

135

Perc. 4 *mf* *mp*

Marimba

This page of a musical score, numbered 17, covers measures 145 through 150. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with multiple staves for woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 145, which is marked with a box containing the number 145. The woodwind section includes Piccolo (Pic.), Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Obs.), Bassoon (Bsns.), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1), Clarinets 2-3 (Cls. 2-3), Bass Clarinet (B.Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sxs.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sx.). The brass section includes Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1), Trumpets 2-3 (Tpts. 2-3), Horns 1-3 (Hns. 1-3), Horns 2-4 (Hn. 2-4), Trombone 1 (Tbn. 1), Trombone 2 (Tbn. 2), Trombone 3 (Tbn. 3), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba (Tba.). The percussion section includes Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Percussion 3 (Perc. 3), and Percussion 4 (Perc. 4). The score features a variety of dynamics, including fortissimo (f), mezzo-forte (mf), and mezzo-piano (mp). Performance markings such as 'unis.' (unison) and 'div.' (divisi) are present in the woodwind and brass parts. The percussion parts include complex rhythmic patterns, particularly in Perc. 1 and Perc. 4. The overall texture is dense and dynamic, typical of a late 20th-century orchestral work.

