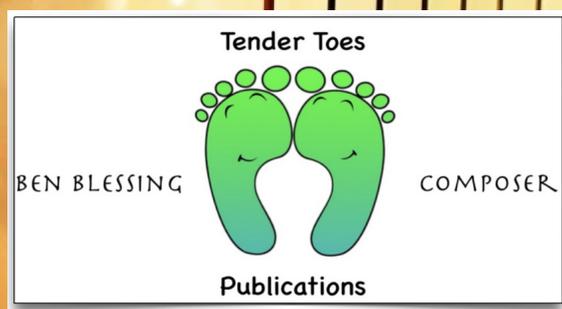


BEN BLESSING

Sonata of the Stars

for

Concert Band



BEN BLESSING

Sonata of the Stars for Concert Band

Grade Level: 3

Instrumentation

1 Flute

1 Oboe (optional 2nd Flute)

2 B \flat Clarinets

1 B \flat Bass Clarinet

1 Bassoon

1 E \flat Alto Saxophones

1 B \flat Tenor Saxophone

1 E \flat Baritone Saxophone

2 Trumpets in B \flat

1 Horns in F

2 Trombones

1 Euphonium

1 Tuba

Timpani (32", 29", 26", 23")

Percussion 1: Snare Drum, Low Tom

Percussion 2: Bass Drum, Crash Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal

Glockenspiel

Marimba

Vibraphone

Transposed Score

Duration: ca. 3:30'

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Performance Notes

1. All dynamics return to the original dynamic.
2. Unless otherwise indicated, assume the underlying pulse remains constant.
3. Accidentals only apply to the octave where written. All accidentals carry through to the end of the measure. The use of courtesy accidentals does not imply a relaxation of this rule elsewhere.
4. Cued solos should be played in the absence of preferred instruments.
5. 2nd parts are written easier than 1st parts. 1st parts are typically harder.

Program Notes

Sonata of the Stars is a whimsical and exciting musical adventure for young concert band. This piece takes listeners on a thrilling journey through outer space, culminating in a landing on the peculiar Planet Trombone. The composition begins with a pulsating rhythm that evokes the countdown and liftoff of a powerful rocket. As the rocket soars through the cosmos, the music builds in intensity, creating a sense of awe and wonder at the vastness of space. Encountering celestial bodies and cosmic phenomena along the way, the music shifts between lyrical and energetic passages, capturing the mystery and beauty of the universe.

The journey reaches its climax as the rocket descends onto Planet Trombone, a world where the trombone reigns supreme. The music transforms into a dark and sonorous exploration of this unique planet, featuring quirky harmonies and glissandi that reflect the trombone's distinctive sound.

With its engaging themes and accessible instrumentation, **Sonata of the Stars** is sure to captivate young musicians and audiences alike.

About the Composer

Ben Blessing, (1984) hails from Nampa, ID. A former Marine and current member of the 25th Army Band in Boise ID, he is a long-serving member of the Idaho Army National Guard. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music Composition from Northwest Nazarene University and a Master's in Music Education from the American Band College. He has studied with Dr. Walden Hughes, Dr. Eric Alexander, SFC Sara Corry, and Adam Schoenberg. In demand as a composer and conductor, his works have been received with enthusiasm from many audiences. A number of his works have been recognized by the American Band College on their Top 100 List, and his original work "Standhope Peak" is the winner of the 2022 NFMC Armed Forces Composition Competition. Mr. Blessing enjoys writing music for concert band, orchestra, and electronic avenues as well. In his off time, he enjoys writing music, running ultramarathons, and spending quality time with his wife, children, and dogs. He is the Race Director for the Standhope Ultra Challenge and the band director for the Baker School District in Baker City, Oregon.

Sonata of the Stars

Takeoff ♩=63

BEN BLESSING (ASCAP)

Musical score for Sonata of the Stars, featuring a variety of instruments including Flute, Oboe, Clarinets, Saxophones, Bassoon, Trumpets, Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, Timpani, Percussion, Glockenspiel, Marimba, and Vibraphone. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 63 beats per minute. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score is divided into four measures, each marked with a circled number (1, 2, 3, 4). A large watermark for Tender Toes Publications is overlaid on the score.

1

2

3

4

Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-9

Fl.

Ob. (Fl. 2)

Cl. 1 in Bb

Cl. 2 in Bb

A. Sax. in Eb

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Tpt. 1 in Bb

Tpt. 2 in Bb

Hn. in F

Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glock.

Mar.

Vib.

opt. Sva

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BEN BLESSING

COMPOSER

f

p

B.D.

Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-10

This musical score is for the Sonata of the Stars-10, featuring a full orchestra. The score is written in 4/4 time and includes parts for the following instruments:

- Flute (Fl.)
- Oboe (Ob. (Fl. 2))
- Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1 in Bb)
- Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2 in Bb)
- Alto Saxophone (A. Sax. in Eb)
- Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.)
- Bass Saxophone (Bari. Sax.)
- Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.)
- Bassoon (Bsn.)
- Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1 in Bb)
- Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2 in Bb)
- Horn (Hn. in F)
- Tuba (Tbn.)
- Euphonium (Euph.)
- Trombone (Tba.)
- Timpani (Timp.)
- Percussion 1 (Perc. 1)
- Percussion 2 (Perc. 2)
- Glockenspiel (Glock.)
- Mandolin (Mar.)
- Vibraphone (Vib.)

The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte), *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *ff* (fortissimo). A large watermark for "Tender Toes Music Publications" is overlaid on the score.

Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-11

Arrival on Planet Trombone $\text{♩} = 72$

rall.

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob. (Fl. 2)), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1 in Bb), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2 in Bb), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax. in Eb), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The brass section includes Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1 in Bb), Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2 in Bb), Horn (Hn. in F), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba (Tba.). The percussion section includes Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Glockenspiel (Glock.), Maracas (Mar.), and Vibraphone (Vib.). The score features dynamic markings such as *f*, *p*, *ff*, and *ff* with hairpins. A large, semi-transparent watermark for 'Tender Toes Publications' is overlaid on the score, featuring a green footprint logo and the text 'COMPOSER BEN BLESSING Publications'. The percussion parts for Perc. 1 and Perc. 2 include a 'Low Tom' part starting on page 45, marked with *f* and 'staccato mallets'.

Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-13

Fly Away! $\text{♩} = 172$

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob. (Fl. 2)), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1 in Bb), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2 in Bb), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax. in Eb), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The brass section includes Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1 in Bb), Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2 in Bb), Horn in F (Hn. in F), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba (Tba.). The percussion section includes Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Glockenspiel (Glock.), Maracas (Mar.), and Vibraphone (Vib.). The score features a variety of dynamic markings: *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). A watermark for 'Tender Toes Publications' by Ben Blesman is overlaid on the score, featuring a cartoon footprint character.

Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-14

This is a full score for a piece titled "Sonata of the Stars-14". The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob. (Fl. 2)), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1 in Bb), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2 in Bb), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax. in Eb), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1 in Bb), Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2 in Bb), Horn (Hn. in F), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Glockenspiel (Glock.), Maracas (Mar.), and Vibraphone (Vib.). The score features a variety of musical notations, including treble and bass clefs, key signatures (one flat and one sharp), and dynamic markings such as *f* (forte). A large, semi-transparent watermark is overlaid on the score, featuring a green footprint graphic and the text "Tender Toes Publications" and "COMPOSER BEN BESSING".

Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-15

72

Fl. *f*

Ob. (Fl. 2) *f*

Cl. 1 in Bb opt. Sva *f*

Cl. 2 in Bb *f*

A. Sax. in Eb *f*

Ten. Sax. *f*

Bari. Sax. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Tpt. 1 in Bb *mf*

Tpt. 2 in Bb *mf*

Hn. in F *f*

Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba. *f*

Timp.

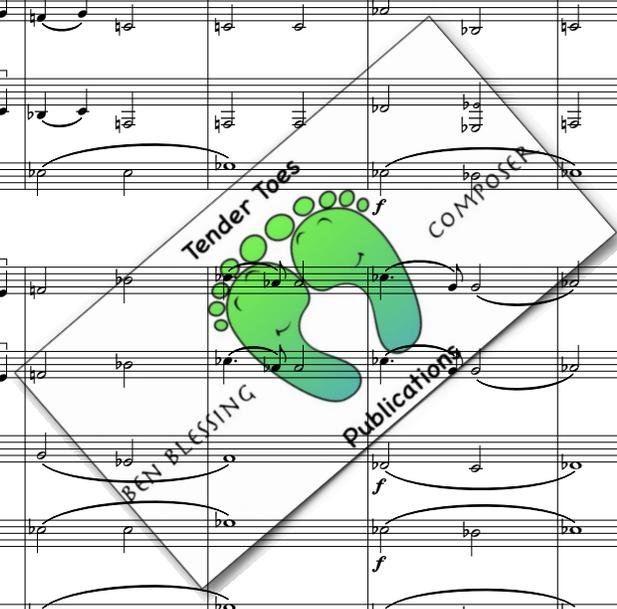
Perc. 1 *mf* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

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

Glock. *f* *f*

Mar. *f* *f*

Vib. *f* *f*



Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-16

A tempo ♩=62

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The instruments are listed on the left side of the page, including Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob. (Fl. 2)), Clarinet 1 (Cl. 1 in Bb), Clarinet 2 (Cl. 2 in Bb), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax. in Eb), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Trumpet 1 (Tpt. 1 in Bb), Trumpet 2 (Tpt. 2 in Bb), Horn (Hn. in F), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Glockenspiel (Glock.), Maracas (Mar.), and Vibraphone (Vib.). The score spans measures 79 to 85. A large, semi-transparent watermark is centered over the score, featuring a green footprint graphic and the text "Tender Toes Publishing" and "BEN BLENGO COMPOSER".

Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-17

This musical score is for the Sonata of the Stars-17, featuring a variety of instruments. The woodwind section includes Flute 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2 in Bb, Alto Saxophone in Eb, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Bass Clarinet, and Bassoon. The brass section includes Trumpets 1 and 2 in Bb, Horn in F, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Percussion 1 and 2, Glockenspiel, Maracas, and Vibraphone. The score is divided into four systems, with page numbers 86, 87, 88, and 89 at the bottom. A large watermark for 'Tender Toes BEN BLESSING COMPOSER publications' is overlaid on the score.

Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-18

Fast ♩=160

Fl. *staggered breathing*

Ob. (Fl. 2) *staggered breathing*

Cl. 1 in Bb *staggered breathing*

Cl. 2 in Bb *staggered breathing*

A. Sax. in Eb *staggered breathing*

Ten. Sax. *staggered breathing*

Bari. Sax. *staggered breathing*

B. Cl. *staggered breathing*

Bsn. *staggered breathing*

Tpt. 1 in Bb *staggered breathing*

Tpt. 2 in Bb *staggered breathing*

Hn. in F *staggered breathing*

Tbn. *staggered breathing*

Euph. *staggered breathing*

Tba. *staggered breathing*

Timp.

Perc. 1 *secco*

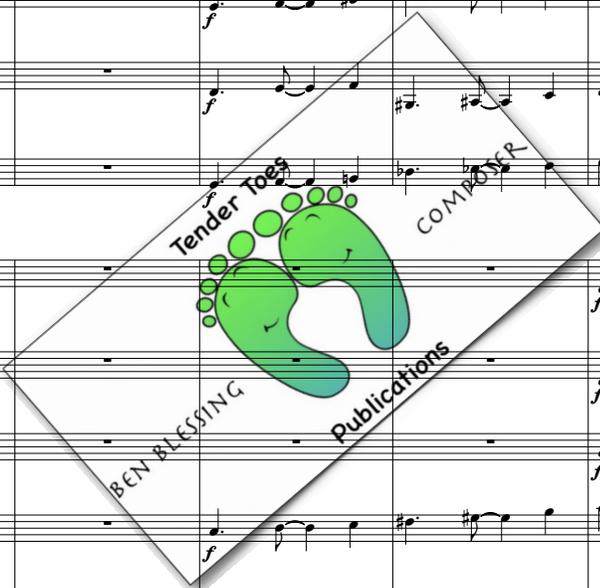
Perc. 2 *secco*

Glock. *secco*

Mar. *secco*

Vib. *secco*

sub. p *f* *staggered breathing*



Full Score-Sonata of the Stars-19

molto rall.

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Fl. (Flute)
- Ob. (Fl. 2) (Oboe)
- Cl. 1 in Bb (Clarinet 1)
- Cl. 2 in Bb (Clarinet 2)
- A. Sax. in Eb (Alto Saxophone)
- Ten. Sax. (Tenor Saxophone)
- Bari. Sax. (Baritone Saxophone)
- B. Cl. (Bass Clarinet)
- Bsn. (Bassoon)
- Tpt. 1 in Bb (Trumpet 1)
- Tpt. 2 in Bb (Trumpet 2)
- Hn. in F (Horn)
- Tbn. (Trombone)
- Euph. (Euphonium)
- Tba. (Tuba)
- Timp. (Timpani)
- Perc. 1 (Percussion 1)
- Perc. 2 (Percussion 2)
- Glock. (Glockenspiel)
- Mar. (Maracas)
- Vib. (Vibraphone)

The score features dynamic markings such as *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *ff* (fortissimo). The tempo is marked **molto rall.** (molto ritardando). A large watermark for 'Tender Toes Publications' is overlaid on the score, featuring a green footprint graphic and the text 'COMPOSER'.