Titan's Gaze

Concerto for Bass Trombone,
Symphonic Band & Choir

by Nathaniel L. Murphy

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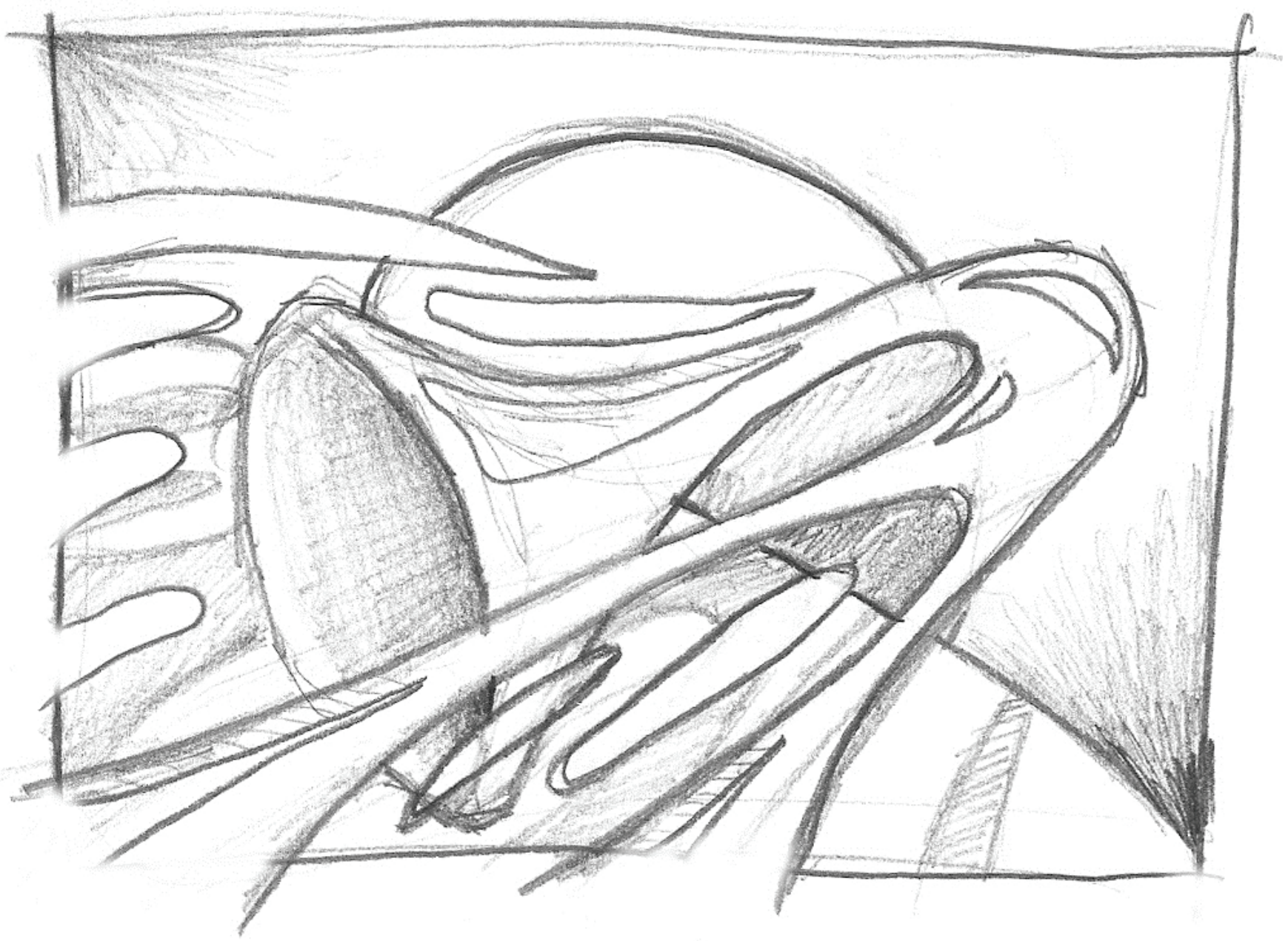

by Nathaniel L. Murphy

Titan's Gaze:

Concerto for Bass Trombone, Symphonic Band & Choir

all materials including music, art, and writings were created

by Nathaniel L. Murphy

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Titan's Gaze (score)

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Dedicated to Jason Beghtol

Jason contacted me to write a piece for him and symphonic band, and I jumped at the chance! Even in high school, where I had written him a piece for trombone duet, Jason was an incredible player, so a few years later I was ready to give him something he would enjoy playing as much as an audience would enjoy hearing (or at least that was my intention).

I started the creative journey by thinking of the Bass Trombone as a strong instrument that commands a rich, royal presence within a concert band. I thought of it as a Titan, and so my connection with Greek mythology and it's celestial namesake (Saturn's moon, Titan) began.

The opening movement suggests the first of the Titans - hard at work forming the earth, not in a big bang, but a slow, dark, rise of the natural world. Many centuries later from this beginning brings the lift-off of a space craft that would set it's sights at Titan.

As the space craft makes it's decade long trip through the second movement, it is accompanied by a choir that speaks to the wonders of the cosmos. I had written a poem as a guide when I started composing and while just conceiving of the concerto's larger structure I was told that I could use a choir and so it was incorporated here as well as the last movement - where we now hurtle through Titan's atmosphere to an exciting, and exhilarating conclusion. From just the journey alone we see what great things we can accomplish by standing on the shoulders of Titans...

Jason, thank you for giving me that opportunity.

Nathaniel L. Murphy

Titan's Gaze

Looking out into glassy cylinder unfurled

Virgin world not caught through ordinary sight.

The dreams of men from what mystery lies,

What fathom flies the single germ of thought?

Making real from hands of human hewn

Now looms the task so humbly began.

Depth of night from whence inspiration born

The flame that turned new glass from sand.

Count down the time while fury reigns

T'wards the drop through lonely space.

A tiny dot – a sphere upon ringed giant's back

Stands transfixed, again, by Titan's gaze.

Instrument List

- Solo Bass Trombone

- Flute 1
- Flute 2
- Oboe
- Bb Clarinet 1
- Bb Clarinet 2
- Bass Clarinet
- Bassoon

- Alto Saxophone
- Tenor Saxophone
- Baritone Saxophone

- Mixed Choir

(movement II. & III. only)

  - Soprano
  - Alto
  - Tenor
  - Bass

- Bb Trumpet 1
- Bb Trumpet 2
- French Horn 1
- French Horn 2
- Trombone 1
- Trombone 2
- Baritone
- Tuba

- Timpani
- Percussion
  - Snare
  - Crash cymbal
  - Bass Drum
- Glockenspiel (Bells)
- Tubular Bells (Chimes)
- Xylophone

Titan's Gaze

I. What fathom flies...

Nathaniel L. Murphy

Andante Moderato Misterioso ♩=100

A

Bass Trombone
Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe
Clarinet in B♭ 1
Clarinet in B♭ 2
Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
Alto Sax.
Tenor Sax.
Baritone Sax.
Trumpet in B♭ 1 & 2
Trumpet in B♭ 3
Horn in F 1 & 2
Horn in F 3 & 4
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Baritone 1 & 2
Tuba
Timpani
Bb G F D
Glockenspiel
Cymbals
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

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21

B. Tbn.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1&2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1&2

Hn. 3&4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Bar. 1&2

Tuba

Timp.

Glk.

Cym.

S.Dr.

B. Dr.

B

41

B. Tbn.

mf

41

Fl. 1

mf

Fl. 2

mf

Ob.

f

B♭ Cl. 1

f

mp

B♭ Cl. 2

f

mp

B. Cl.

f

mp

Bsn.

f

mp

A. Sx.

mf

f

T. Sx.

f

B. Sx.

mf

f

41

B♭ Tpt. 1&2

f

B♭ Tpt. 3

f

Hn. 1&2

f

Hn. 3&4

f

Tbn. 1

f

Tbn. 2

f

Bar. 1&2

f

Tuba

f

41

Timp.

mf

mf

Glk.

41

Cym.

f

S.Dr.

mp

f

B. Dr.

f

C

54

B. Tbn.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1&2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1&2

Hn. 3&4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Bar. 1&2

Tuba

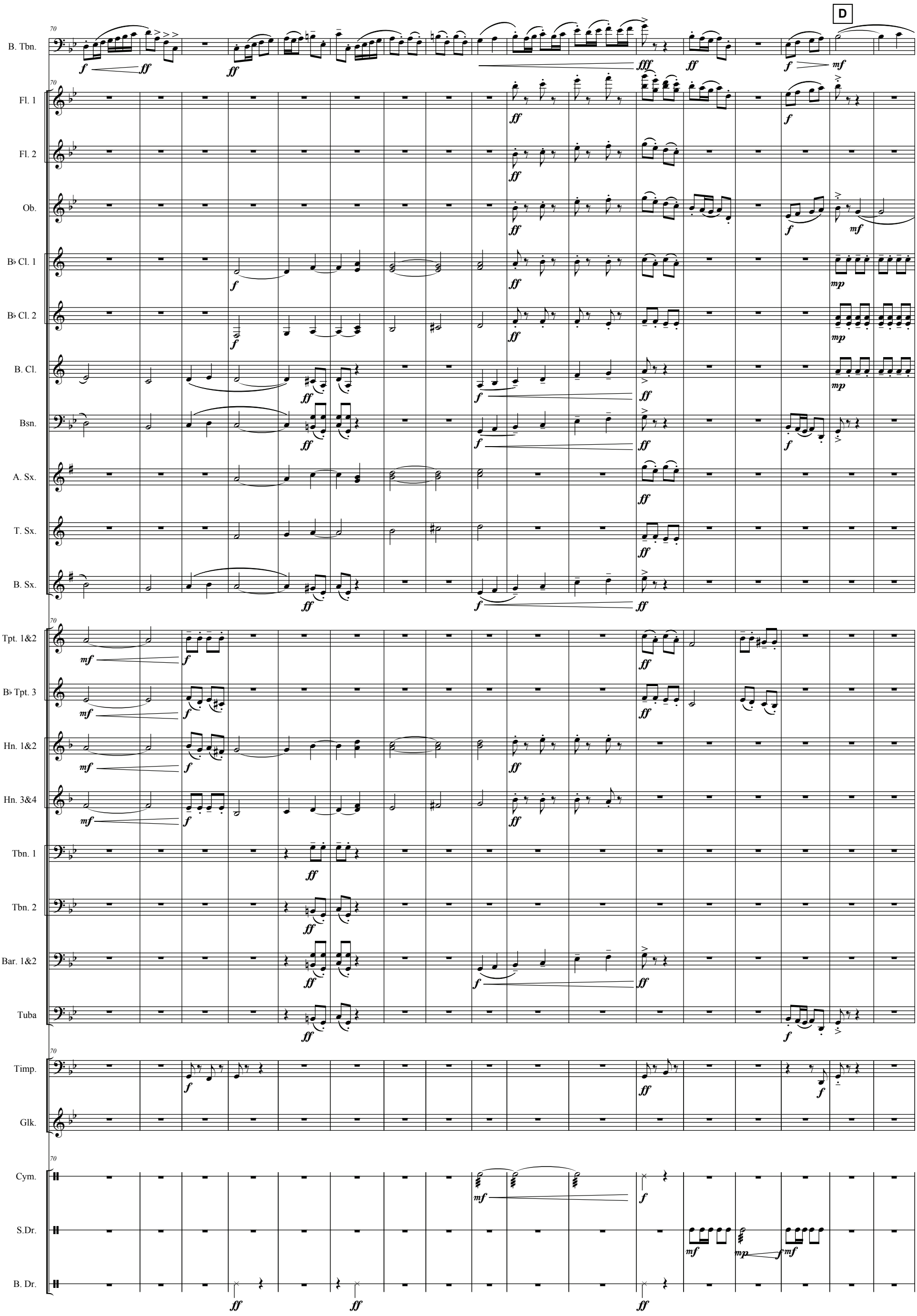
Timp.

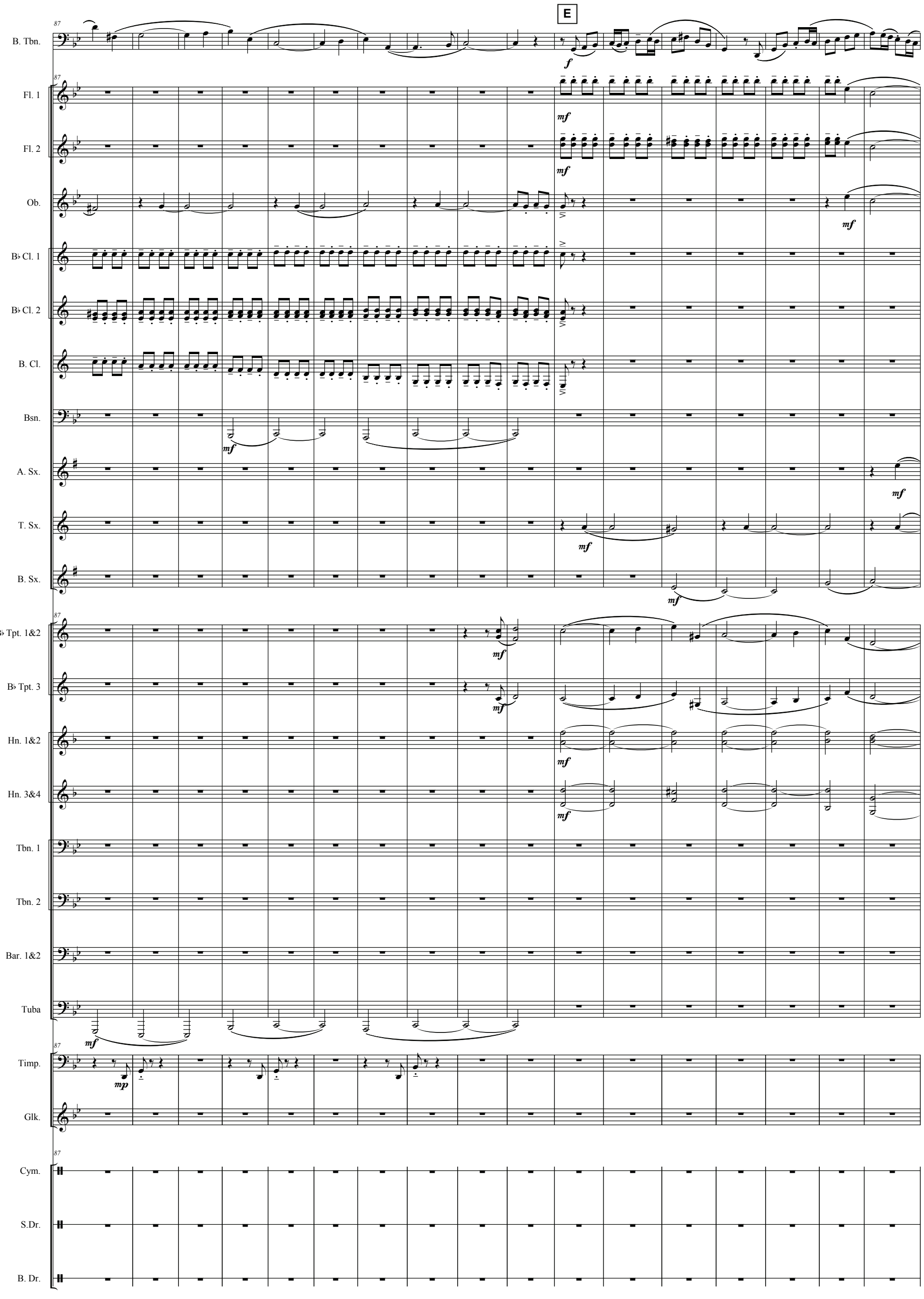
Glk.

Cym.

S.Dr.

B. Dr.


D
B. Tbn.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.


E
87
B. Tbn.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.
f
mf
mp

F
B. Tbn.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

G
119
B. Tbn.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.
fff
ff
mf
mp
f

135

B. Tbn.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

H

155

B. Tbn.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

I

B. Tbn.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

180

B. Tbn.

fff

180

Fl. 1

ff fff f

Fl. 2

ff fff f

Ob.

fff f

B♭ Cl. 1

fff f

B♭ Cl. 2

fff f

B. Cl.

f

Bsn.

f

A. Sx.

fff f

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

f

180

B♭ Tpt. 1&2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1&2

f

Hn. 3&4

f

Tbn. 1

fff

Tbn. 2

Bar. 1&2

Tuba

f

180

Timp.

f

Glk.

f

180

Cym.

ff mf

S.Dr.

f mf

B. Dr.

ff mf

J
193
B. Tbn.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

206

B. Tbn. — fff — ffff

Fl. 1 — f — ff — fff

Fl. 2 — f — fff

Ob. — f — f — fff

B♭ Cl. 1 — f — mf — fff

B♭ Cl. 2 — f — f — fff

B. Cl. — f — fff

Bsn. — f — fff

A. Sx. — f — ff — fff

T. Sx. — f — fff

B. Sx. — f — fff

206

B♭ Tpt. 1&2 — ff — fff

B♭ Tpt. 3 — fff

Hn. 1&2 — f — fff

Hn. 3&4 — f — fff

Tbn. 1 — fff

Tbn. 2 — fff

Bar. 1&2 — f — fff

Tuba — f — fff

206

Timp. — mf — ff — fff

Glk. — f — fff

206

Cym. — mf — ff

S.Dr. — mp — ff

B. Dr. — ff

II. ...whence inspiration born

Adagio non troppo ♩= *65*

A

Bass Trombone

Soprano — Lo - o - king out in - to glas - sy cy - lin - der un-furled Vir - gin world not caught through or - di - na-ry sight. dreams of men from what my - ste-ry

Alto — Loo - king out in - to glas - sy cy - lin - der un-furled Vir - gin world not caught through or - di - na-ry sight. The dreams of men from what my - ste-ry

Tenor — cy - lin - der un-furled Vir - gin world not caught through or - di - na-ry sight. dreams of men from ___ what my - ste-ry

Bass — cy - lin - der un-fuled Vir - gin world not caught through or - di - na-ry sight. The dreams of men from what my - ste-ry

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe

Clarinet in B♭ 1

Clarinet in B♭ 2

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Alto Sax.

Tenor Sax.

Baritone Sax.

Trumpet in B♭ 1 & 2

Trumpet in B♭ 3

Horn in F 1 & 2

Horn in F 3 & 4

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Baritone 1 & 2

Tuba

Eb

Timpani

Glockenspiel

Tubular Bells

Cymbals

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

B

B. Tbn.

S: lies, What fa - thom flies the sin - gle - germ of thought?

A: lies, What fa - thom flies the sin - gle germ of thought?

T: lies, What fa - thom flies sin - gle germ of thought?

B: lies, What fa - thom flies sin - gle germ of thought?

Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2, B. Cl., Bsn., A. Sx., T. Sx., B. Sx., B♭ Tpt. 1&2, B♭ Tpt. 3, Hn. 1&2, Hn. 3&4, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Bar. 1&2, Tuba, Timp., Glk., T.B., Cym., S.Dr., B. Dr.

C

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Glk.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

D

S: Ma-king real from hands of hu - man hewn Now

A: Ma-king real from hands of hu - man hewn Now

E

B. Tbn.

S: looms the task so hum-bly be - gan. | Depth night in-spi-ra-tion born flame turned new glass from sand

A: looms the task so hum-bly be - gan. | Depth night in-spi-ra-tion born flame turned new glass from sand

T: Depth night whence in-spi-ra-tion born flame turned new glass from sand

B: Depth of night from whence in-spi-ra-tion born The flame that turned new glass from sand.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1&2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1&2

Hn. 3&4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Bar. 1&2

Tuba

Timp.

Glk.

T.B.

Cym.

S.Dr.

B. Dr.

F

S: Count down the time while fu - ry reigns T'wards the drop through lone - ly space. A ti - ny dot a

A: Count down the time while fu - ry reigns T'wards the drop through lone - ly space. A ti - ny dot

T: Count down the time while fu - ry reigns T'wards the drop through lone - ly space. A ti - ny dot a

B: Count down the time while fu - ry reigns T'wards the drop through lone - ly space. A ti - ny dot

G

B. Tbn.

S: sphere up - on ringed gi - ant's back Stands trans - fixed a - gain, by Ti - - - tan's gaze.

A: sphere up - on ringed gi - ant's back Stands trans - fixed a - gain, by Ti - - - tan's gaze.

T: sphere up - on ringed gi - ant's back Stands trans - fixed a - gain, by Ti - - - tan's gaze.

B: sphere up - on ringed gi - ant's back Stands trans - fixed a - gain, by Ti - - - tan's gaze.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1&2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1&2

Hn. 3&4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Bar. 1&2

Tuba

Timp.

Glk.

T.B.

Cym.

S.Dr.

B. Dr.

95

B. Tbn. — mp

S

A

T

B

Fl. 1 — pp

Fl. 2 — pp

Ob. — pp — ppp

B♭ Cl. 1 — ppp

B♭ Cl. 2 — ppp

B. Cl. — ppp

Bsn. — ppp

A. Sx. — solo — mp — p

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1&2 — pp

B♭ Tpt. 3 — pp

Hn. 1&2 — pp

Hn. 3&4 — pp

Tbn. 1 — pp

Tbn. 2 — pp

Bar. 1&2 — p — ppp

Tuba — p — ppp

Timp. — pp — ppp

Glk. — mp — p — pp

T.B. — mp

Cym.

S.Dr.

B. Dr.

III. upon ringed giant's back

Allegro ala marcha ♩. = 98

Bass Trombone
Soprano
Alto
Tenor
Bass
Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe
Clarinet in B♭ 1
Clarinet in B♭ 2
Bass Clarinet
Bassoon
Alto Sax.
Tenor Sax.
Baritone Sax.
Trumpet in B♭ 1 & 2
Trumpet in B♭ 3
Horn in F 1 & 2
Horn in F 3 & 4
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Baritone 1 & 2
Tuba
Timpani
C Bb G F
Xylophone
Tubular Bells
Cymbals
Snare Drum
Bass Drum

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

A

27

B. Tbn.

S

A

T

B

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1&2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1&2

Hn. 3&4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Bar. 1&2

Tuba

Timp.

Xyl.

T.B.

Cym.

S.Dr.

B. Dr.

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

B

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

C

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

D

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.
113
ah
f
mf
mp

E

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.
139
fff
ff
f
mf
ah

F

B. Tbn. — fff f ff f ff

S — ah ah ah ah ah

A — ah ah ah ah ah

T — ah ah ah ah ah

B — ah ah ah ah ah

Fl. 1 — f ff f ff

Fl. 2 — f ff f ff

Ob. — f ff f ff

B♭ Cl. 1 — ff f ff

B♭ Cl. 2 — ff f ff

B. Cl. — f

Bsn. — f

A. Sx. — f

T. Sx. — f

B. Sx. — mf f

B♭ Tpt. 1&2 — f ff

B♭ Tpt. 3 — f ff

Hn. 1&2 — ff

Hn. 3&4 — ff

Tbn. 1 — f ff

Tbn. 2 — f ff

Bar. 1&2 — f ff

Tuba — mf f ff

Timp.

Xyl.

T.B.

Cym.

S.Dr.

B. Dr.

G

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

B. Tbn.
S
A
T
B
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn.
A. Sx.
T. Sx.
B. Sx.
B♭ Tpt. 1&2
B♭ Tpt. 3
Hn. 1&2
Hn. 3&4
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Bar. 1&2
Tuba
Timp.
Xyl.
T.B.
Cym.
S.Dr.
B. Dr.

Ti - tan's gaze! Ti - tan's

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H

B. Tbn. — fff — ffff

S — gaze! — Ti - tan's — gaze!

A — gaze! — Ti - tan's — gaze!

T — gaze! — Ti - tan's — gaze!

B — gaze! — Ti - tan's — gaze!

Fl. 1 — Fl. 2 — Ob. — B♭ Cl. 1 — B♭ Cl. 2 — B. Cl. — Bsn. — A. Sx. — T. Sx. — B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1&2 — B♭ Tpt. 3 — Hn. 1&2 — Hn. 3&4 — Tbn. 1 — Tbn. 2 — Bar. 1&2 — Tuba

Timp. — Xyl. — T.B.

Cym. — S.Dr. — B. Dr.

B. Tbn.

S — ah — Ti - tan's gaze!

A — ah — Ti - tan's gaze!

T — ah — Ti - tan's gaze!

B — ah — Ti - tan's gaze!

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1&2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1&2

Hn. 3&4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Bar. 1&2

Tuba

Timp.

Xyl.

T.B. — let it ring

Cym.

S.Dr.

B. Dr.