

Toward Sky's End

(2010)

for Wind Ensemble

Jared Beu (ASCAP)

About The Piece

"Toward Sky's End" was composed as an entry in the Austin Symphony Orchestra's 1st Annual Young Composers Competition where it was selected as a winning entry and premiered on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 at the Round Rock Independent School District Performing Arts Center by the ASO, conducted by David Mairs. Though originally for orchestra, it was initially envisioned for wind ensemble but transferred to orchestra for the ASO's competition. Now, almost two years after the completion of the orchestral version, I have re-written it for its originally intended ensemble.

The composition process began with two motifs. After playing around with those two motifs I came up with a main melody and devised detailed plan of how the entire piece would play out. I made it a goal to try to write something that built steadily and had a strong direction from the first note to the last. In writing, I wanted to combine emotion and lyricism with moderately fast tempos and exciting moments to try to create something that was captivating and broadly appealing. I completed the piece for orchestra on October 31, 2010 (at 3:21 AM).

Once I began the editing process, I realized that I had no title for the piece. People told me to think about what I saw in my mind while I was writing, but there was no theme in my mind and I had difficulty finding an appropriate name. I asked others what they imagined when they heard the piece and strangely, almost unanimously people imagined "soaring through the sky". Though slow to embrace that idea, with help I titled the piece "Toward Sky's End" – a title that combined both the recurring image of flying with the sense of direction that I wanted to portray in the writing.

The band adaptation of Toward Sky's End was premiered on May 11, 2012 by the McNeil High School Wind Ensemble at the Round Rock Independent School District Performing Arts Center.

Performance Notes

When performing this piece, it is crucial to keep in mind the sense of direction that was meant to be portrayed. The piece has a very subdued and almost minimalistic start, but constantly grows in intensity and complexity to its climactic ending. It is important to fully distinguish the bigger, powerful sections in the second half of the piece from the more lyrical passages in the first half.

The brass players, when given a ***ff*** dynamic marking, should really emphasize their parts with a big and full sound (especially in the low brass). The French Horns specifically should soar over the entire ensemble when they are featured. From measure 144 to the end, it is important that the Trumpets and French Horns both really bring out their parts, but contribute equally.

Though marked as "Celebratory", the climax of the piece from measures 144 to the end should be distinguished from prior sections by being the most exciting and dramatic part of the piece. The final crescendo should end as loud as the ensemble can (reasonably) play. The percussion should lead the entire ensemble to the cut-off, especially in the final measure of crescendo. As a general note, percussion should never be dampened unless instructed to do so in the part.

Instrumentation

Piccolo	4 F Horns	Timpani
2 Flutes	3 Bb Trumpets	Percussion 1
2 Oboes	2 Trombones	Orchestra Bells
4 Bb Clarinets	Bass Trombone	Percussion 2
Bb Bass Clarinet	Euphonium	Vibraphone, Tam-Tam
2 Bassoons	2 Tubas	Percussion 3
Contrabassoon*	String Bass*	Marimba, Suspended Cymbal, Chimes
2 Eb Alto Saxophones	Harp	Percussion 4
Bb Tenor Saxophone		Crotale (A, with bow), Bass Drum
Eb Baritone Saxophone	Piano	

* *Contrabassoon and String Bass are optional and cued as necessary, but strongly preferred.*

Duration: approximately 5 minutes and 30 seconds

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Full Score (Transposed)

Arranged for Wind Ensemble
from the Orchestral Version
by the composer (2012).

Toward Sky's End

for Wind Ensemble

Jared Beu (ASCAP)

2010

Slowly Building $\text{♩} = 128$

Toward Sky's End - 2

Toward Sky's End - 3

17

Picc. *mp*

Fl. 1 & 2 *Div.* *mp*

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2 (Play) *p*

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

Cb. *pizz.*

Hp. *mp*

Pno.

Tim. *Cue: Str. Bass, pizz.* *mp*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2 *mp*

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Toward Sky's End - 4

23

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

One Player

p

Cb.

Hp.

Pno.

Timp.

1

2

Perc.

3

4

Crot. (Yarn Mall.)

p ————— *mf* ————— *p*

Toward Sky's End - 5

29

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

Cb.

Hp.

Pno.

Timp.

1

2

3

4

33

2 Only, Div.

mf

mf

One Only

mf

One Only

dim.

dim.

pp

dim.

pp

dim.

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

p

mf

p

dim.

Toward Sky's End - 6

35

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

Cb.

Hp.

Pno.

Tim.

1

2

3

4

Perc.

a2
sub. *p*
a2
sub. *p*

mp

a2
mp

mp

mp

All
p
All

arco
mp

tre corda *

Celebratory

(ossia)

41

Picc. *f stacc.* sim.

Fl. 1 & 2 *f stacc.* sim.

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2 *f*

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. 1 & 2 *f*

C. Bn. *mf*

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx. *f*

B. Sx. *f*

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3 *f* (Play)

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 & Bs. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tuba 1 & 2 *mf* Opt. 1 Player 8th

Cb. *mf*

Hp.

Pno. *f legato*

Tim. *f*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3 *f*

Perc. 4

46

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

Cb.

Hp.

Pno.

Tim.

1

2

Perc.

3

4

Toward Sky's End - 9

Toward Sky's End - **10**

65

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1 & 2 *mf*

Ob. 1 & 2 *mf* Solo *f*

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4 *mf*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. 1 & 2 Div.

C. Bn. *mf*

A. Sx. 1 & 2 *mf* Solo *mf* Solo *mf*

T. Sx. *f*

B. Sx. *mf*

Hn. 1 & 3 *f*

Hn. 2 & 4 *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1 Cue: Ob. Solo *f*

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs. *mf*

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2 (Play) One Player

Cb. *mf* *p*

Hp. *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp* Solo

Tim. *f* *p* *mf*

1 *p* Cue: Piano *mp* *p*

2 *mp* *p* *p* *p*

Cue: Harp *mp* *p*

Perc. *f* *p*

Toward Sky's End - 12

Toward Sky's End - 14

Toward Sky's End - 15

100

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

Cb.

Hp.

Pno.

Timp.

1
2
Perc.
3
4

Toward Sky's End - 17

112 Majestically, $\text{♩} = 120$

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

Cb.

Hp.

Pno.

Timp.

1

2

Perc.

3

4

Toward Sky's End - 19

A detailed musical score page for orchestra and piano, page 124. The score includes parts for Picc., Fl. 1 & 2, Ob. 1 & 2, B♭ Cl. 1 & 2, B♭ Cl. 3 & 4, B. Cl., Bsn. 1 & 2, C. Bn., A. Sx. 1 & 2, T. Sx., B. Sx., Hn. 1 & 3, Hn. 2 & 4, B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2 & Bs., Euph., Tuba 1 & 2, Cb., Hp., Pno., Timp., and Perc. 1-4. The score features dynamic markings like *mp*, *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*. Performance instructions include "Div.", "a2", and "(Mba.)". The piano part (Pno.) has a section starting at measure 120 with a treble clef, 3/4 time, and a key signature of one flat. The percussion part (Perc. 1-4) has a section starting at measure 120 with a treble clef, 2/4 time, and a key signature of one flat.

127

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

Cb.

Hp.

Pno.

Tim.

1

2

Perc.

3

4

132

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Div.

a2

Hn. 2 & 4

Div.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

132

Cb.

132

Hp.

Pno.

Tim.

1

ff

2

Perc.

3

ff

4

ff

139

Picc.

Fl. 1 & 2

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 & 2

C. Bn.

A. Sx. 1 & 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Hn. 1 & 3

Hn. 2 & 4

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2 & Bs.

Euph.

Tuba 1 & 2

Cb.

Hp.

Pno.

Timp.

1

2

Perc.

3

4

molto rit.

a tempo

ff-mf

Orc. Bells

144 **Celebratory,** $\text{♩} = 138$

Picc. ***ff***

Fl. 1 & 2 ***ff***

Ob. 1 & 2

B♭ Cl. 1 & 2 ***f***

B♭ Cl. 3 & 4 ***f***

B. Cl. ***f***

Bsn. 1 & 2 ***f***

C. Bn. ***f***

A. Sx. 1 & 2 ***f***

T. Sx. ***f***

B. Sx. ***f***

Hn. 1 & 3 ***ff***

Hn. 2 & 4 ***ff***

B♭ Tpt. 1 ***ff***

B♭ Tpt. 2 & 3 ***ff***

Tbn. 1 ***f***

Tbn. 2 & Bs. ***f***

Euph. ***f***

Tuba 1 & 2 ***f***

Cb. ***f***

Hp.

Pno. ***f***

Tim. ***ff***

1 ***ff***

2 ***ff***

Perc. ***ff***

3 ***f***

4 ***fp***

Toward Sky's End - 25