

Written for Richard Farley and the Sand Creek, Michigan
Junior High School Band for the occasion of their performance
at the A.S.B.D.A. National Convention at Interlochen, Michigan
on June 26, 1987

StarRise

(Images of a Night Sky)

1. Sunset
2. Star Bright
3. Shooting Stars
4. Moonbeams
5. Sunrise

By
Michael Pratt

Sunset begins with the sun burning, white-hot and intense, just on the horizon, at day's end. As it sinks slowly on the horizon, it turns to deep crimson red, horizontally laced with white streaks of cloud. Gradually disappearing from view, the sky becoming a dimmer, paler hue of rose, the sun is no longer visible. All is blackness.

Star Bright begins with the first star of the night becoming visible. This is followed by the gradual addition of more and more stars until the night sky is brilliantly illuminated by star light.

Star light, star bright,
First star I see tonight,
I wish I may, I wish I might,
Have the wish I wish tonight.

Shooting Stars begins with the ebony backdrop of the night sky being startlingly broken by a shimmering and rapidly disappearing shooting star. As time passes, another shooting star streaks towards fiery oblivion, followed by another and another, until the ethereal fireworks spends itself and the night sky is left with but the remembrance of the magnificent luminosity.

Moonbeams begins with the full moon beaming down strong and bright, lighting the night sky almost as if it were day. A cloud drifts across the face of the moon and the brightness abruptly dims, casting all about in a hazy darkness in which very little is clearly visible. Openings in the cloud allow streaks of moonbeam to cascade down, once again illuminating all around. The clouds drift aimlessly and the moon beams on, then off, then on again.

Sunrise begins with the quiet night sky in its last moment of repose before it begins to awaken from the magical and almost mystical, nightly imagery. The sky gradually brightens more and more, and all around appears afresh in the crystalline dawn of a new beginning.

Michael Pratt is the composer-in-residence of the Adrian Symphony Orchestra. Having written extensively for opera, orchestra, band, choir, and smaller ensembles over the past forty years his compositions have been performed frequently around the State of Michigan and elsewhere. He holds degrees from The University of Toledo and The University of Michigan where he studied with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett. As a tuba player he has performed with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, and since 1981 with the Adrian Symphony Orchestra. As a singer he has performed with The Toledo Choral Society, Toledo Symphony Chorale, Opera!Lenawee, and The University Musical Society Choral Union of The University of Michigan with whom he has performed with The Detroit Symphony Orchestra, The San Francisco Symphony, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars.

Conductor

Duration: 10:00

Commissioned by the Sand Creek, Michigan Junior High School Band
Richard Farley, Director

StarRise (Images of a Night Sky)

I. Sunset

Michael Pratt, ASCAP

Quite Slowly - With Great Intensity - Broad & Connected

5 Very Rhythmical

The score is written for a large band ensemble and percussion. The woodwind section includes Flute 1 & 2, Clarinet in B♭ 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1 & 2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpet in B♭ 1 & 2, Horn in F, Trombone 1 & 2, Baritone - Bassoon, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani (2 players), Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Suspended Flower Pots, Tam-tam, Suspended Cymbal, Vibra-Slap, Triangle, Finger Cymbals, Glass Wind Chimes, Suspended Cymbal, Water Tam-tam, Maracas, Glass Wind Chimes, Xylophone, Temple Blocks, Wood Blocks, Chimes, and Bass Drum.

The score begins with a tempo/mood instruction: "Quite Slowly - With Great Intensity - Broad & Connected". At measure 5, the tempo changes to "5 Very Rhythmical". The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B♭ major or D minor). The woodwinds and brass play sustained notes with a *fff* dynamic, while the percussion provides a rhythmic accompaniment. A specific instruction for the percussion at measure 5 states: "ff 2nd player on bass drum with wooden beaters while roll continues".

