

Wind Sculptures

by Michael Pratt

For Richard Farley and the Sand Creek, Michigan High School Band

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1. Clouds
2. Magnificent Desolation
3. Utah Monuments
4. Sand Abstracts
5. Winds From Limbo
6. Night Winds

The title *Wind Sculptures* has a double meaning. On one level it means a group of pieces for an ensemble of wind instruments. On another level it musically depicts scenes of nature, both physical and abstract, which have been created by physical winds. In other words, it signifies an ensemble of wind instruments carving out, or sculpting, sound images of natural and abstract formations constructed, or sculpted, by the blowing winds of nature. No more program is intended than is inherent in the imagery of the various titles. The instrumentation is for normal high school band. The players are required, however, to perform with new techniques and new sounds are explored in the percussion. For example, the imagery of "clouds" is enhanced by five sets of glass winds chimes over which the flutes and clarinets play in a completely free, independent, and unmetered style (with the band whistling at one point). "Magnificent Desolation" is constructed of pianissimo lines alternating with large block chords and rushing sounds produced by the brass players blowing through reversed mouthpieces. "Winds From Limbo" depicts images the subconscious mind sees; the eerie quality is effected in part by the water tam-tam whose ghostly, glissandoing timbres conjure up spectral images.

Dr. Michael Pratt has degrees in music education and music composition from The University of Toledo, The University of Michigan, and Boston University. He studied composition with Pulitzer Prize winning composers Ross Lee Finney and Leslie Bassett at The University of Michigan, and taught music in the public schools for many years in Michigan. He has sung 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 Kirov Orchestra, The Russian National Orchestra, The Ann Arbor Symphony, The Lansing Symphony, The Grand Rapids Symphony, The Toledo Symphony, The Birmingham Symphony, The Gabrieli Consort, and The Tallis Scholars. He has played tuba with The Toledo Symphony, Toledo Concert Band, Toledo Opera, University of Toledo Faculty Brass Quintet, Adrian Chamber Brass, Adrian College Faculty Brass Quintet, The Crosswell Opera House, The Adrian Symphony Orchestra and The Adrian City Band. He has performed with many notable conductors, including, Valery Gergiev, Michael Tilson Thomas, Neeme Jarve, Mikhail Pletnev, Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos, Leonard Slatkin, John Adams, Gennady Rozhdestvensky, Paul McCreech, Peter Phillips, Catherine Comet, Eric Kunzel, Margaret Hillis, Martin Katz, and John Finley Williamson. Michael Pratt is a member of ASCAP.

Wind Sculptures was commissioned by the Sand Creek, Michigan High School Band, Richard Farley, director, for performance at the Midwest Music Educators Conference at The University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where they were a featured band in January of 1975.

Wind Sculptures

1. Clouds

Michael Pratt, ASCAP

1 5 secs => 2 5 secs => 3 5 secs => 4 5 secs => 5 5 secs => 6 circa 90 secs =>

Flute 1 *mf* freely as if floating on a cloud

Flute 2

Oboe

Bb Clarinet 1

Bb Clarinet 2

Bass Clarinet

Eb Contra-Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Alto Saxophone 1 & 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

1 5 secs => 2 5 secs => 3 5 secs => 4 5 secs => 5 5 secs => 6 circa 90 secs =>

Cornet 1

Cornet 2

Cornet 3

F Horn 1

F Horn 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Baritone

Tuba

Percussion 1 *mp* glass wind chimes - shake gently

Glass Wind Chimes

Timpani

Suspended Cymbal

Temple Blocks

Glass Wind Chimes 2 *mp* glass wind chimes - shake gently

Suspended Cymbal

High/Low Bongo

High/Low Wood Block

Crash Cymbals

Maracas/Finger Cymbal

Glass Wind Chimes 3 *mp* glass wind chimes - shake gently

Tam-Tam*/Vibra Slap

High/Low Tenor Drums

Suspended Cymbal

Snare Drum/Sand Blocks

Glass Wind Chimes 4 *mp* glass wind chimes - shake gently

Bells

Chinese Bell Tree

Small Bass Drum

Suspended Cymbal

Tam-Tam*

Glass Wind Chimes 5 *mp* glass wind chimes - shake gently

Large Bass Drum

Suspended Cymbal

Tam-Tam*

* requires tub of water

Wind Sculptures

Fl 1

Fl 2

Oboe

Clar 1

Clar 2

B Clar

Eb Cntr

Bsn

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

Cor 1

Cor 2

Cor 3

F Hn 1

F Hn 2

Trb 1

Trb 2

Trb 3

Btn

Tuba

Perc 1
wind chimes continue

Perc 2
wind chimes continue

Perc 3
wind chimes continue

Perc 4
wind chimes continue

Perc 5
wind chimes continue

7 15 seconds =>

8 10 seconds =>

Fl 1

Fl 2

Oboe

Clar 1
p floating
enter like a canon - each player is an individual - do not lock together
continue ad lib
enter like a canon - each player is an individual - do not lock together

Clar 2
pp

B Clar

E♭ Cntr

Bsn

A Sax

T Sax

B Sax

7 15 seconds =>

8 10 seconds =>

Cor 1

Cor 2

Cor 3

F Hn 1

F Hn 2

Trb 1

Trb 2

Trb 3

Btn

Tuba

Perc 1
wind chimes continue

Perc 2
wind chimes continue

Perc 3
wind chimes continue

Perc 4
wind chimes continue

Perc 5
wind chimes continue