

Dancing the Skies

Kevin Mixon

FPS77 INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score
Flute
Oboe (opt. Flute 2) 2
Clarinet 1 in Bb 4
Clarinet 2 in Bb 4
Bass Clarinet in Bb 2
Alto Saxophone in Eb 5
Tenor Saxophone in Bb
Baritone Saxophone in Eb
Irumpet 1 in B 4
Irumpet 2 in B♭ 4
Horn in F 4
Irombone, Baritone B.C., Bassoon 6
Baritone T.C. in Bb 2
Tuba
Mallet Percussion1
Bells
Timpani1
Percussion 1 2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum
Percussion 2 3
Wind Chimes, Tambourine or Sleigh Bells, Triangle

CARL FISCHER®

Program Notes

This piece was inspired by the poem "High Flight" written by John McGee, Jr., an American World War II fighter pilot. He writes to his parents, "I am enclosing a verse I wrote the other day. It started at 30,000 feet, and was finished soon after I landed." Tragically, he was killed during the war, but his poem is quoted often and has served as inspiration for many.

Performance Notes

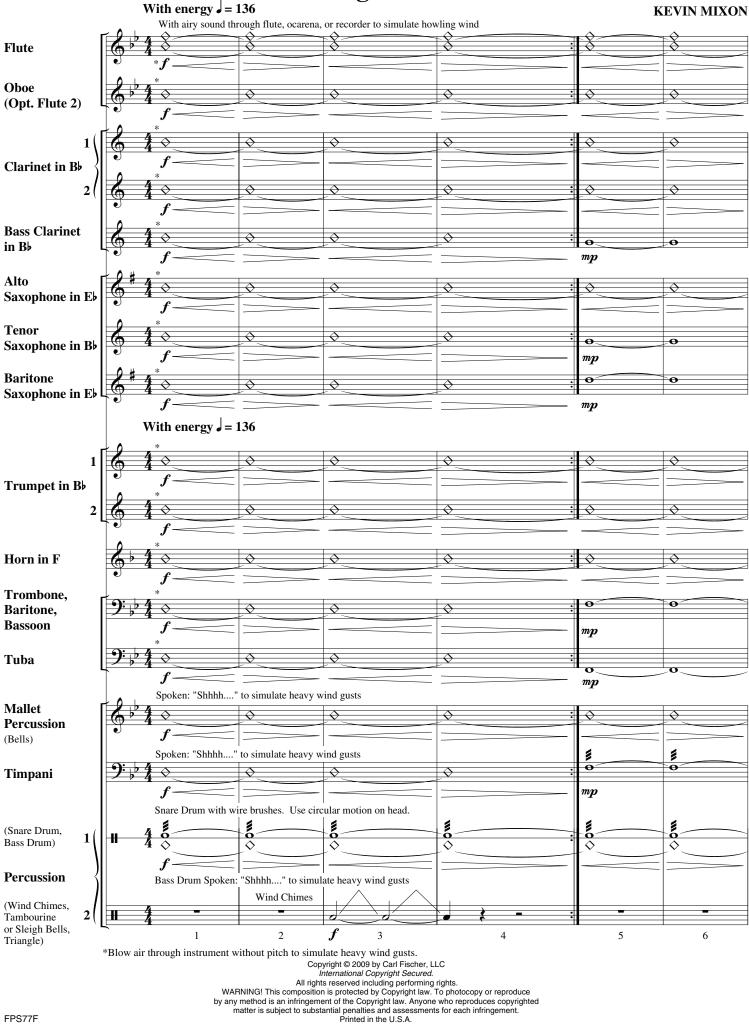
For wind sounds, players will need to make sure their lips do not buzz into brass mouthpieces or become firm around woodwind mouthpieces, as unintentional sounds will occur. I tell players to make a loose "O" with the lips around the mouthpiece to avoid extraneous sounds. Be sure to perform the crescendos and decrescendos and to teach students to stagger breathe to help the authenticity of the wind effect. The whistles by flute, flute head joint, ocarina, recorder, etc., should only be performed by one or two players while the others blow air through their instruments. The roll with brushes in the snare part can be created by moving both brushes in a circular motion on the head. The wind chimes or mark tree should be played with fingers using a motion similar to typing to simulate wind blowing through the instrument. Students love experimenting and will usually create quite an authentic flight! To add interest, be sure to vary the style between the bravura and lyrical sections.

About the Composer

Kevin Mixon teaches instrumental music at Blodgett K-8 School, Syracuse City Schools, New York. He regularly presents clinics internationally including The International Society for Music Education Convention, The Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic, Music Educators National Conference events, and state and regional music conferences. He holds degrees, summa cum laude, from Onondaga Community College, Syracuse University, and the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign), and is currently completing a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership. Several of his articles have appeared in Music Educators Journal, Teaching Music, The Instrumentalist, and The National Band Association Journal. He is author of Reaching and Teaching All Instrumental Music Students and co-author of Teaching Music in the Urban Classroom (MENC/Rowman & Littlefield Publications). Mr. Mixon is also an accomplished composer and arranger with several published works for band and orchestra.

Full Score

Dancing the Skies









6





8







11









