

Polytonalmodalyodel

for Concert Band



Bill Robinson

Polytonalmodal yodel for Concert Band

Duration: about 7 minutes

Composed 1990; 2004; May 7–27, 2015; November 2023

In 1990 I wrote several works for my friend Fred Robinson who was the composer/arranger at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Among these was a brass quintet, and also a work for jazz band, *The Popular Music of Planet X (PMPX)* in three “Books”. The idea was the rather whimsical one that somewhere among the myriad planets there could be a civilization where the prime incentive for the music industry was *not mercenary*. Clearly such a planet must be far, far away. The Air Force didn’t seem to appreciate the effort, and the scores and parts were returned. (When you bomb with the Air Force....you *REALLY BOMB!*)

Come summer of 2004 and I once again was writing music, and turned my attention to the Air Force music, including the brass quintet. I made many major alterations, added a movement, and had a brand new version. However, this work remained unperformed. I made another version with an additional movement, but this also sat in my files. In 2015 I decided to try again, with the last movement (*Polytonalmodal yodel*) of this brass quintet arranged for concert band, and used as the first movement of a new symphonic-scale *PMPX*. In fall of 2023, I arranged *PMPX* for piano quintet, and then *Symphony No. 1: PMPX*, with a new third movement. The four movements of the band version of *PMPX* are now offered only as separate works.

Note that this work is actually polytonal and polymodal in many places, and the themes and motifs frequently have very large intervals, much more than my usual tunes.

Considering that the music in *PMPX*, including this movement, was my personal vision of what music intended for mass consumption would be in a more ideal world, I’ve allowed myself to allow the influence of jazz and blues in a rather obvious manner. However, as all of my music, this is strictly in the classical tradition, with no improvisation, and to be treated in the same way as other “serious” art music—even, and perhaps especially, when it’s intended to be for fun. This piece could fit on either classical or pops concerts.

Performance Notes

The String Bass part is intended for an acoustic bass, as there are bowed passages. An electric bass may not be used in its stead. Accidentals hold through the measure and not beyond. This is a C score with the usual transpositions in the parts.

Cover; painting by Salvador Dali.

Bill Robinson

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www.billrobinsonmusic.com

Giant leaps for mankind (♩ = 105)

The score is a C-instrument arrangement for a large ensemble. It begins with a first-measure repeat sign. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 105. The score is divided into several systems of staves. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Piccolo:** 1 staff, mostly rests.
- 2 Flutes:** 2 staves, mostly rests.
- Flute:** 2 staves (1 and 2), starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Oboe:** 2 staves (1 and 2), starting with a *p* dynamic. Oboe 1 has a *ff* passage later.
- 2 Bassoons:** 2 staves, mostly rests.
- Bassoon:** 2 staves (1 and 2), starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Clarinet in Bb:** 3 staves (1, 2, 3). Clarinet 1 has a *p* dynamic, Clarinet 2 has a *ff* passage, and Clarinet 3 has a *f* dynamic.
- Bass Clarinet in Bb:** 1 staff, mostly rests.
- E♭ Alto Saxophone:** 2 staves, mostly rests.
- B♭ Tenor Saxophone:** 1 staff, mostly rests.
- E♭ Baritone Saxophone:** 1 staff, mostly rests.
- Horn in F:** 4 staves (1, 2, 3, 4). Horn 1 has a *ff* dynamic, Horn 2 has a *ff* dynamic, Horn 3 has a *p* dynamic, and Horn 4 has a *ff* dynamic.
- Trumpet in Bb:** 3 staves (1, 2, 3). Trumpet 1 has a *ff* passage.
- Trombone:** 2 staves (1, 2), both with *ff* dynamics.
- BTbn. (Baritone Trombone):** 1 staff, mostly rests.
- Euphonium:** 1 staff, mostly rests.
- Tuba:** 2 staves (1, 2). Tuba 1 has a *p* dynamic, Tuba 2 has a *ff* dynamic.
- Timpani:** 1 staff, starting with a *p* dynamic, then *mf*, and *f*.
- String Bass:** 1 staff, starting with a *p* dynamic, then *mf*, and *f*. It includes markings for *arco* and *pizz.*

Giant leaps for mankind (♩ = 105)

This page contains the musical score for measures 39 through 48 of a symphony. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with staves for various instruments. The instruments listed on the left are: Piccolo (Picc.), Flutes (Fl. 1 and 2), Oboes (Ob. 1 and 2), Bassoons (Bn. 1 and 2), Clarinets (Cl. 1, 2, and 3), Bass Clarinet (BCL), Alto Saxophone (Alto Sax. 1 and 2), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Horns (Hn. 1 and 3), Trumpets (Tpt. 1 and 2), Trombones (Tbn. 1 and 2), Baritone Trombone (BTbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tubas (Tuba 1 and 2), Timpani (Timp.), and Snare Drum (SB). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is used frequently throughout the piece, particularly in the lower woodwinds and brass sections. Measure numbers 39 and 48 are clearly marked at the beginning and end of the page, respectively.

This page contains the musical score for measures 87 through 91 of a symphony. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with the following parts:

- Picc.** Piccolo
- Fl.** Flute (1 and 2)
- Ob.** Oboe (1 and 2)
- Bn.** Bassoon (1 and 2)
- Cl.** Clarinet (1, 2, and 3)
- BCl.** Bass Clarinet
- Alto Sax.** Alto Saxophone (1 and 2)
- Ten. Sax.** Tenor Saxophone
- Bari. Sax.** Baritone Saxophone
- Hn.** Horn (1 and 3)
- Tpt.** Trumpet (1 and 3)
- Tbn.** Trombone (1 and 2)
- BTbn.** Baritone Trombone
- Euph.** Euphonium
- Tuba** (1 and 2)
- Timp.** Timpani

The score begins at measure 87 and ends at measure 91. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The music features a variety of dynamics, including *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo), and includes complex rhythmic patterns, particularly in the woodwinds and strings. The woodwinds play melodic lines, while the strings provide a rhythmic accompaniment. The brass section enters in measure 91 with a powerful *ff* dynamic.

Picc. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Bn. 1
Bn. 2

94

p *mp*

mp cresc.

p *mp*

mp cresc.

mp

Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
BCL.

94

p *cresc.* *(mp)*

Alto Sax. 1
Alto Sax. 2
Ten. Sax.
Bari. Sax.

94

Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4

94

ff

mp cresc.

Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3

94

ff

p *mp*

Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
BTbn.
Euph.

94

ff

p *mp*

Tuba 1
Tuba 2
Timp.
SB

94

ff

p *pizz.* *mp*

98

Musical score for PTMY, page 10, measures 102-105. The score includes parts for Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Baritone Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Snare Drum. The score is in 2/4 time and features dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. The Piccolo part begins at measure 102 with a *mf* dynamic, while other instruments enter at measure 103 with *ff* dynamics. The Snare Drum part is marked *f* at measure 105.

120

Picc. *ff*

Fl. 1 *f+* *ff*

Fl. 2 *ff*

Ob. 1 *f+* *ff* *solo ff dim.*

Ob. 2 *f+* *ff*

Bn. 1 *ff*

Bn. 2 *ff*

Cl. 2 *ff*

Cl. 3 *ff*

BCL. *ff*

Alto Sax. 1 *f+* *ff*

Alto Sax. 2 *f+* *ff*

Ten. Sax. *f+* *ff*

Bari. Sax. *ff*

Hn. 1 *ff*

Hn. 2 *ff*

Hn. 3 *ff*

Hn. 4 *f+* *ff*

Tpt. 2 *ff*

Tpt. 3 *ff*

Tbn. 1 *ff*

Tbn. 2 *ff*

BTbn. *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba 1 *ff*

Tuba 2 *ff*

SB *120 f+* *8va ff*

PTMY

14

127

Ob. 1 *p* *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)*

Cl. 1

Alto 1 Sax. *p* *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)*

Ten. Sax. *p* *mp*

Bari. Sax. *p* *mp*

Hn. 1 *mf*

Hn. 2 *p* *mp*

Tuba 1 *p*



139

Picc. **145**

Ob. 1 *f*

Ob. 2 *f*

Bn. 1 *f*

Bn. 2 *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2 *f*

BCL. *f*

Alto 1 Sax. *f*

Bari. Sax. *f*

Hn. 1 *f*

Hn. 2 *f*

Tpt. 1 *f assez*

Tuba 1 *f assez* *mp*

Timp. *f* *mp* **145**

SB *f* *mp* **145**



146 solo

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tuba 1

Timp. 146

SB 146

155

151

Picc. *mp*

Fl. 1 *ff* *mp* *mp*

Fl. 2 *ff* *mp*

Ob. 1 *ff* *mp* *mp*

Ob. 2 *ff*

Bn. 1 *ff*

Bn. 2 *ff*

Cl. 1 *ff*

Cl. 2 *ff* *mp*

Cl. 3 *ff*

BCl. *ff*

Alto Sax. 1 *ff*

Alto Sax. 2 *ff*

Ten. Sax. *ff* *mp* *non stacc.*

Bari. Sax. *ff*

Hn. 1 *ff* *mp*

Hn. 2 *ff*

Hn. 3 *ff*

Hn. 4 *ff* *mp*

Tpt. 2 *ff*

Tpt. 3 *ff*

Tbn. 1 *ff*

Tbn. 2 *ff*

BTbn. *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba 1 *ff*

Tuba 2 *ff*

SB *ff*

155

160

Picc. *mf* *f* *ff*

Fl. 1 *f* *ff*

Fl. 2 *f* *ff*

Ob. 1 *f* *mf* *f* *ff*

Ob. 2 *f* *ff*

Bn. 1 *ff*

Bn. 2 *ff*

Cl. 1 *ff*

Cl. 2 *ff*

Cl. 3 *ff*

BCl. *ff*

Alto Sax. 1 *mf* *f* *ff*

Alto Sax. 2 *ff*

Ten. Sax. *mf* *f* *ff*

Bari. Sax. *ff*

Hr. 1 *f* *mf* *f* *ff*

Hr. 2 *non stacc.* *ff*

Hr. 3 *ff*

Hr. 4 *ff*

Tpt. 2 1 *ff*

Tpt. 2 3 *ff*

Tbn. 1 *mf* *f* *ff*

Tbn. 2 *ff*

BTbn. *f* *mf* *f* *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba 1 *ff*

Tuba 2 *ff*

SB *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *ff*

168

Picc. 1 2

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

Bn. 1 2

168

Cl. 1 2 3

BCl. 1 2

168

Alto Sax. 1 2

Ten. Sax. 1 2

Bari. Sax. 1 2

168

Hn. 1 2 3 4

168

Tpt. 1 2 3

Tbn. 1 2

BTbn. 1 2

Euph. 1 2

168

Tuba 1 2

168

Timp. *ff*

168

SB

177 178

Picc. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1 2

Bn. 1 2

Cl. 2 3

BCl.

Alto Sax. 1 2

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1 3 4

Tpt. 2 3

Tbn. 1 2

BTbn.

Euph.

Tuba 1 2

Timp.

SB

f assez

ff

178

185

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bn. 1

Bn. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B.Clar.

Alto Sax. 1

Alto Sax. 2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

BTbn.

Euph.

Tuba 1

SB

189

This page of a musical score, titled "PTMY", contains 22 measures and a rehearsal mark "222". The score is arranged for a large orchestra with the following instruments and parts:

- Picc.**: Piccolo
- Fl.**: Flutes (1 and 2)
- Ob.**: Oboes (1 and 2)
- Bn.**: Bassoons (1 and 2)
- Cl. 2**: Clarinet in Bb (2)
- Cl. 3**: Clarinet in Bb (3)
- BCL.**: Bass Clarinet
- Alto Sax.**: Alto Saxophones (1 and 2)
- Ten. Sax.**: Tenor Saxophone
- Bari. Sax.**: Baritone Saxophone
- Hn.**: Horns (1, 2, 3, and 4)
- Tpt. 2**: Trumpet in Bb (2)
- Tpt. 3**: Trumpet in Bb (3)
- Tbn.**: Trombones (1 and 2)
- BTbn.**: Baritone Trombone
- Euph.**: Euphonium
- Tuba**: Tubas (1 and 2)
- SB**: Snare Drum

The score includes various dynamic markings and performance instructions:

- mf**: mezzo-forte
- cresc.**: crescendo
- f**: forte
- ff**: fortissimo
- f₄**: forte with a fourth line (likely for Piccolo or Flute 4)
- 8^{va}**: octave up

The rehearsal mark "222" is placed at the beginning of the first staff of the Clarinet in Bb 2 part.

(♩ = 105)

Tempo I

Musical score for measures 239-250. The score is in 2/4 time and includes parts for Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Horns 1-4, Trumpet 1, Tuba 1, and Snare Drum. The tempo is marked **Tempo I** with a quarter note equal to 105 (♩ = 105). The dynamics are *pp* (pianissimo) throughout. The Clarinet 1 part features a melodic line with a *pp* dynamic and a *(no rit.)* instruction. The Clarinet 2 part has a *pp* dynamic. The Horns 1-4 parts have a *pp* dynamic. The Trumpet 1 part has a *pp* dynamic and a *Mute solo* instruction. The Tuba 1 part has a *pp* dynamic. The Snare Drum part has a *pizz.* (pizzicato) dynamic and a *(no rit.)* instruction.

Tempo I (♩ = 105)