



Distant Thunder

STEVE PARSONS

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Flute 1	4
Flute 2	4
Oboe	2
B♭ Clarinet 1	4
B♭ Clarinet 2	4
B♭ Clarinet 3	4
Bass Clarinet	2
Bassoon	2
Alto Saxophone 1	2
Alto Saxophone 2	2
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
B♭ Trumpet 1	4
B♭ Trumpet 2	4
B♭ Trumpet 3	4
Horn in F 1	2
Horn in F 2	2
Trombone 1	3
Trombone 2	3
Euphonium	3
Baritone T.C.	2
Tuba	4
Timpani	2
Mallets	5
Bells, Chimes, Vibraphone, Marimba, Xylophone	
Percussion 1	3
Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Sleigh Bells	
Percussion 2	4
Gong, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Woodblock, Rain Stick, Mark Tree, Low Tom-tom	



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Steve is an award-winning composer, orchestrator, and music director. His composing credits include: Evensong (for Choir and Orchestra,) Seascapes (RBC Publications,) *Frankenstein: The Puppet Opera* (Translations Art Gallery,) *Visions* (an oratorio based on the book of Revelation,) *Rise City Silent, Sing!*, *College Slam* (video game, Akklaim,) and numerous commissions for symphony orchestra, wind ensemble, and choral ensembles. An experienced arranger for marching bands and show choirs throughout the United States and Canada, many of his original works and arrangements have been featured in national championships, including several Outstanding Music awards at Bands of America finals.

Steve's musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is published by Steele Spring Stage Rights in Los Angeles and has enjoyed performances at The Players Guild Theatre (14 seasons,) New York (Off-Off Broadway,) Los Angeles, and Vietnam (The International Choir and Orchestra of Ho Chi Minh City.) As an orchestrator, he has arranged the Grateful Dead musical *Cumberland Blues* (NYMF, NY,) *Life Could Be A Dream* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, LA,) *It's A Wonderful Life* (Regional,) and *Footloose* (Additional vocal arrangements/orchestrations, Rodgers & Hammerstein Library.) His other credits include: *Nunsense and Nunsense A-Men!* (music preparation, NY,) *The Tick* (member of the "Tickestra," FOX,) and *Defying Gravity: The Creative Career of Stephen Schwartz* (consultant and contributor, Applause Books.)

Steve has both Bachelor of Music and Master of Arts degrees in composition from Kent State University.

ABOUT DISTANT THUNDER

Distant Thunder depicts the ever-changing world of a rainforest, with sparkling textures glistening like rainwater on leaves giving way to the fierce rumble of a storm. This highly dramatic work is written to showcase the percussion section, using energetic syncopated rhythms and simple mixed meter patterns.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The piece begins with the sound of approaching thunder in the bass drum and gong, leading into a two-note brass fanfare that prefaces a *tutti* statement of the principal theme. Crashing chords subside into a quiet further appearance of the two-note motif, accompanied by birdsong in the Flute section, Bells and Wind Chimes depicting shimmering rain-soaked leaves, and the omnipresent sound of thunder lurking in the distance.

With sudden force, a Marimba solo takes center stage and presents a full statement of the main theme, with a supporting texture of low drums and an almost tribal Horn countermelody. Woodwinds answer back, then the complete ensemble plays a driving version of the theme. In contrast, a Rain Stick and other ambient percussion provide supporting texture to a soli Clarinet chant-like B section that provides respite from the storm's fury. Inevitably, thunder starts to rise once more out of the falling rain, and the main theme is recapped once more by Marimba and full winds, at first featuring the buzzing insect-like sounds of muted Trumpets, but then bursting forth into a full celebration of the rainforest's majesty.



Distant Thunder

Full Score

STEVE PARSONS
(ASCAP)

Allegro, con moto ♩ = 126

Flute

Oboe

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2, 3

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Alto Saxophone 1, 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpet 1

B♭ Trumpet 2, 3

Horn in F 1, 2

Trombone 1, 2

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani (F: G; B♭: D; E)

Mallets (Bells, Chimes, Vibraphone, Marimba, Xylophone)

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Sleigh Bells)

Percussion 2 (Gong, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Woodblock, Rain Stick, Mark Tree, Low Tom-Tom)

Chimes

Bass Drum

Sus. Cym.

Gong

1 2 3 4 5 6

Distant Thunder - Full Score

7

Fl. *mf* *f*

Ob. *mf* *f*

B^b Cl. 1 *mf* *f*

B^b Cl. 2, 3 *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *mp* *fp*

Bsn. *mp* *fp*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *mp* *mf* *f*

T. Sax. *mp* *f* *fp*

B. Sax. *mp* *fp*

7

B^b Tpt. 1 *mp* *mf* *fp*

B^b Tpt. 2, 3 *mp* *mf* *fp*

Hn. 1, 2 *mp* *mf* *f*

Tbn. 1, 2 *mp* *f* *fp*

Euph. *mp* *fp*

Tuba *mp* *fp*

Timp. *mp* *f*

Mal. *mp* *f*

Perc. 1 *mp* *f*

Perc. 2 *mp* *f*

7

8

9

10

11

12

Distant Thunder - Full Score

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

rit.

f

fp

ff

fff

mf

f

rit.

Tranquillo $\text{♩} = 84$

Solo

25 **Allegro, con brio** ♩ = 154
1st time only

Fl. *f* 1st time only

Ob. *f* 1st time only

B♭ Cl. 1 *f* 1st time only

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *f* 1st time only

B. Cl. *f* *mf*

Bsn. *f*

A. Sax. 1, 2 Cue: Horn 2nd time only *mf*

T. Sax. Cue: Horn 2nd time only *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

3 4 4

25 **Allegro, con brio** ♩ = 154

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2 2nd time only *mf*

Tbn. 1, 2 *f* *mf*

Euph. *f* *mf*

Tuba *f* *mf*

Timp. *f* *mf*

Mal. Marimba or Xylo. (2 players) *mf*

Perc. 1 S.D. 2nd time only Snares off *mf*
B.D.: Both times

Perc. 2 *mf*

3 4 4

Low Tom-tom 2nd time only 25

The image displays a page of a musical score for 'Distant Thunder - Full Score', page 8. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl., Ob., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2, 3, B. Cl., Bsn., A. Sax. 1, 2, T. Sax., B. Sax., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, 3, Hn. 1, 2, Tbn. 1, 2, Euph., Tuba, Timp., Mal., Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The score is written in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (B♭). A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'PREVIEW ONLY' is oriented diagonally across the center of the page. At the bottom of the page, the measure numbers 29, 30, 31, and 32 are indicated.

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2
Play
mf

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2
mf

Tbn. 1, 2
mf

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.
Bells
mp

Perc. 1
mf

Perc. 2
Sus. Cym. w/ mallets
mf

37 38 39 40

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinets (B♭ Cl. 1, 2, 3, and B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The saxophone section consists of Alto Saxophones (A. Sax. 1, 2), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sax.). The brass section includes Trumpets (B♭ Tpt. 1, 2, 3), Horns (Hn. 1, 2), Trombones (Tbn. 1, 2), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba. The percussion section features Timpani (Timp.), Maracas (Mal.), and two Percussion parts (Perc. 1, 2). The score spans six measures, numbered 55 to 60. The key signature is one flat (B♭). The flute and B♭ trumpet parts are marked with *mp* (mezzo-piano). The horn and euphonium parts are marked with *p* (piano). The maracas and Perc. 1 parts have specific rhythmic patterns indicated by stems and flags. The percussion parts (Timp., Perc. 2) are mostly silent, indicated by rests.

55

56

57

58

59

60

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B \flat Cl. 1 *mf*

B \flat Cl. 2, 3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *mf*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*
Cue: Tuba

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2 *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *mp*
Wood Block
Rain Stick

61 62 63 64 65 66

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mp

B.D.

mp

73 74 75 76

77

Fl. *f* *mf*

Ob. *f* *mf* Cue: Oboe

B♭ Cl. 1 *f* *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *f*

B. Cl. 2nd time only *mf*

Bsn. *f* *mf*

A. Sax. 1, 2 2nd time only *mf*

T. Sax. 2nd time only *mf*

B. Sax. 2nd time only *mf*

77

B♭ Tpt. 1 Tutti St. Mute *mp* *mf*

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 St. Mute *mp* *mf*

Hn. 1, 2 2nd time only *mf*

Tbn. 1, 2 *f* *mf*

Euph. *f* *mf*

Tuba 2nd time only *mf*

Timp. *f* *mf*

Mal. Marimba or Xylo. (2 players) *mf*

Perc. 1 S.D. 2nd time only *mf* Snares off B.D.: Both times

Perc. 2 *mf* Low Tom-tom 2nd time only 77

3 4 4

3 4 4

3 4 4

3 4 4

3 4 4

3 4 4

3 4 4

3 4 4

78 79 80

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The instruments are listed on the left side of the page, grouped into woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinets (B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2, 3, B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax. 1, 2), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sax.). The brass section includes Trumpets (B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, 3), Horns (Hn. 1, 2), Trombones (Tbn. 1, 2), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani (Timp.), Mallets (Mal.), and two Percussion parts (Perc. 1, Perc. 2). The score is written in a key signature of one flat (B♭) and a time signature of 2/4. A large '2' and '4' are placed over the staff lines at the end of measures 83 and 84, indicating a change in the time signature. The music features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics such as *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte) are indicated in the brass parts.

Distant Thunder - Full Score

85

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

85

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

85 86 87 88

mf *fp* *mf* *fp*

This musical score page contains the following parts and dynamics:

- Fl.**: Flute
- Ob.**: Oboe
- B♭ Cl. 1**, **B♭ Cl. 2, 3**: Clarinets
- B. Cl.**: Bass Clarinet
- Bsn.**: Bassoon
- A. Sax. 1, 2**: Alto Saxophones
- T. Sax.**: Tenor Saxophone
- B. Sax.**: Baritone Saxophone
- B♭ Tpt. 1**, **B♭ Tpt. 2, 3**: Trumpets
- Hn. 1, 2**: Horns
- Tbn. 1, 2**: Trombones
- Euph.**: Euphonium
- Tuba**: Tuba
- Timp.**: Timpani
- Mal.**: Mallets (Bells)
- Perc. 1**: Percussion 1
- Perc. 2**: Percussion 2 (Sus. Cym.)

Dynamics include *mf*, *fp*, *p*, and *Sus. Cym.*. The score is divided into measures 89, 90, 91, and 92.

93

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

B \flat Cl. 1 *ff*

B \flat Cl. 2, 3 *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *ff*

T. Sax. *ff*

B. Sax. *ff*

93

B \flat Tpt. 1 *ff*

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3 *ff*

Hn. 1, 2 *ff*

Tbn. 1, 2 *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Mal. *ff*

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

3

4

4

3

4

4

3

4

4

3

4

4

The image displays a page from a full score for the piece "Distant Thunder". The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl., Ob., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2, 3, B. Cl., Bsn., A. Sax. 1, 2, T. Sax., B. Sax., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, 3, Hn. 1, 2, Tbn. 1, 2, Euph., Tuba, Timp., Mal. (Marimba or Xylo.), Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The music is written in a key signature of one flat (B♭) and a common time signature of 2/4. A large "2/4" is printed in the right margin of the score, indicating a change in the time signature. The page number "23" is located in the top right corner. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *ff*.

Distant Thunder - Full Score

101

Fl. *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *p*

Ob. *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *p*

B \flat Cl. 1 *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *p*

B \flat Cl. 2, 3 *mp* *p*

B. Cl. *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *p*

Bsn. *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *mp*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *mp* *p*

T. Sax. *mf* *mp*

B. Sax. *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *p*

101

B \flat Tpt. 1 *mp* *p*

B \flat Tpt. 2, 3 *mp* *p*

Hn. 1, 2 *mp* *p*

Tbn. 1, 2 *mf* *mp* *p*

Euph. *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *p*

Tuba *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *p*

Timp. *mp*

Mal. *mf* *p*

Perc. 1 *mp* *p*

Perc. 2 *mp* Gong *p*

101 102 103 104 105 106

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Fl.**: Flute, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111.
- Ob.**: Oboe, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111.
- B♭ Cl. 1**: Clarinet in B-flat, part 1, starting with a dynamic of *f*.
- B♭ Cl. 2, 3**: Clarinet in B-flat, parts 2 and 3, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *mp* at measure 112.
- B. Cl.**: Clarinet in B-flat, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111, then *mp* at measure 112.
- Bsn.**: Bassoon, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111.
- A. Sax. 1, 2**: Alto Saxophone, parts 1 and 2, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *mp* at measure 112.
- T. Sax.**: Tenor Saxophone, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111, then *mp* at measure 112.
- B. Sax.**: Baritone Saxophone, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111, then *mp* at measure 112.
- B♭ Tpt. 1**: Trumpet in B-flat, part 1, starting with a dynamic of *f*.
- B♭ Tpt. 2, 3**: Trumpet in B-flat, parts 2 and 3, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *mp* at measure 112.
- Hn. 1, 2**: Horns, parts 1 and 2, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *mp* at measure 112.
- Tbn. 1, 2**: Trombones, parts 1 and 2, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111, then *mp* at measure 112.
- Euph.**: Euphonium, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111.
- Tuba**: Tuba, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111, then *mp* at measure 112.
- Timp.**: Timpani, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111, then *mp* at measure 112.
- Mal.**: Mallets, playing Chimes (measures 107-110) and Marimba or Xylo. (measures 111-112), starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111, then *mp* at measure 112.
- Perc. 1**: Percussion 1, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111, then *mp* at measure 112.
- Perc. 2**: Percussion 2, starting with a dynamic of *f* and transitioning to *p* at measure 111.

Measure numbers 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, and 112 are indicated at the bottom of the score. Boxed measure numbers 111 and 112 are also present above the Flute and Clarinet in B-flat parts respectively.

Distant Thunder - Full Score

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following instruments and parts:

- Fl.:** Flute, starting with a rest and then playing a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- Ob.:** Oboe, mirroring the flute's melodic line with dynamics *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- B♭ Cl. 1:** Bass Clarinet 1, playing a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- B♭ Cl. 2, 3:** Bass Clarinet 2 & 3, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- B. Cl.:** Baritone Clarinet, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff*.
- Bsn.:** Bassoon, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff*.
- A. Sax. 1, 2:** Alto Saxophone 1 & 2, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- T. Sax.:** Tenor Saxophone, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff*.
- B. Sax.:** Baritone Saxophone, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff*.
- B♭ Tpt. 1:** Trumpet 1, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- B♭ Tpt. 2, 3:** Trumpet 2 & 3, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- Hn. 1, 2:** Horn 1 & 2, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- Tbn. 1, 2:** Trombone 1 & 2, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff*.
- Euph.:** Euphonium, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff*.
- Tuba:** Tuba, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *ff*.
- Timp.:** Timpani, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.
- Mal.:** Mallets, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.
- Perc. 1:** Percussion 1, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- Perc. 2:** Percussion 2, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *fp*, and *ff*.

The musical score is for the piece "Distant Thunder" and is page 27 of the full score. It features the following instruments and parts:

- Flute (Fl.):** Part 1 with dynamics *mf*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Part 1 with dynamics *mf*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- Clarinets (Cl.):**
 - B♭ Cl. 1:** Part 1 with dynamics *mf*, *fp*, and *ff*.
 - B♭ Cl. 2, 3:** Parts 2 and 3 with dynamics *mf*, *fp*, and *ff*.
 - B. Cl.:** Part 4 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Part 1 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
- Saxophones (Sax.):**
 - A. Sax. 1, 2:** Parts 1 and 2 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
 - T. Sax.:** Part 3 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
 - B. Sax.:** Part 4 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
- Trumpets (Tpt.):**
 - B♭ Tpt. 1:** Part 1 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
 - B♭ Tpt. 2, 3:** Parts 2 and 3 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
- Horns (Hn.):**
 - Hn. 1, 2:** Parts 1 and 2 with dynamics *mf*, *fp*, and *ff*.
- Trombones (Tbn.):**
 - Tbn. 1, 2:** Parts 1 and 2 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
- Euphonium (Euph.):** Part 1 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
- Tuba:** Part 1 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.
- Tympani (Timp.):** Part 1 with dynamics *fp*, *mf*, and *ff*.
- Mal. (Mallet Percussion):** Part 1 with dynamics *fp*, *mf*, and *ff*.
- Percussion 1 (Perc. 1):** Part 1 with dynamics *fp*, *ff*, *mf*, and *ff*.
- Percussion 2 (Perc. 2):** Part 2 with dynamics *fp* and *ff*.

Large **2/4** time signatures are prominently displayed in the center of the score, indicating the meter for the main orchestral parts. The score includes various musical notations such as trills, accents, and slurs.



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