



Above Cloud Nine

LAURA ESTES

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	4
Baritone I.C.	2
Tuba	4
Timpani	2
Mallets 1	2
Bells, Xylophone	
Mallets 2	2
Chimes	
Percussion 1	2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	5
Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle, Sleigh Bells, Wind Chimes	



ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Laura Estes taught middle and high school band for 36 years before retiring in 2018 from the Cobb County School System (GA). Upon retirement she began composing, and her first piece *Kvetchers (Surprises in Controversial Time)* was accepted for publication in Excelcia's 2020 catalog. In addition to her music being performed at The Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Estes' concert works have been selected for the J.W. Pepper Editor's Choice List as well as being named Five Star Features from Stanton's Sheet Music. With her composition *Walking on Air*, Estes was named the winner of the 2021 Women Band Directors International (WBDI) Composition Competition.

Throughout Estes' career, her bands consistently earned Superior ratings at performance evaluations, and she was awarded the National Band Association's Citation of Excellence as her middle and high school bands were selected to perform at clinics in the Southeast.

A South Florida native, Estes earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from The Florida State University and her Master's Degree in Music Education from Georgia State University. In addition to composing, Estes continues to serve as an adjudicator, guest conductor, clinician, and mentor. Estes and her husband Gil reside in Marietta, GA, and have 5 amazing children: Adrienne, April, Eric, Daniel, and Michelle.

ABOVE CLOUD NINE

Working hard to realize a dream is no small task. Indeed, it can be a very large and time-consuming commitment. Sometimes a dream is realized in a matter of months. And sometimes, it takes many years to achieve a goal. Setting and achieving goals, such as auditioning and being selected for an honor band, was my original inspiration as I began writing this piece. But as the writing progressed, I realized I was not only thinking about achievement, but the exhilarating feeling of surpassing initial aspirations by going beyond one's wildest expectations – going above and beyond cloud nine. To recognize the collective accomplishments of their students upon becoming members of the 2025 GMEA (Georgia Music Educators Association) District 9 Honor Band, "Above Cloud Nine" was commissioned by the middle school band directors of this district. As a band director, it was a joy to watch my students' musical dreams come true. I know the District 9 middle school band directors are just as proud.

DEDICATION AND PREMIERE

"Above Cloud Nine" is dedicated to the students and directors of the 2024-2025 GMEA District 9 Honor Band. May you continue to not only reach your goals but to surpass them.

"Above Cloud Nine" was premiered by the District 9 Honor Band North under the baton of Jennifer Isenhour, and the District 9 Honor Band South under the baton of Linda Gammon in February of 2025.



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Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Above Cloud Nine

LAURA ESTES
(ASCAP)

Allegro ♩ = 144

Flute 1, 2

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: B♭: C: E♭)

Mallets 1 (Bells, Xylophone)

Mallets 2 (Chimes)

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle, Sleigh Bells, Wind Chimes)

Crash Cymbals

Suspended Cymbal

1 2 3 4 5

6

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2, 3

B. Cl.

Bsn.

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

6

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mp *f* *mf* *f*

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6 7 8 9 10

Fl. 1, 2

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. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

11

12

13

14

15

24

Fl. 1, 2 *a2*
mp *cresc.* *f*

Ob.
mp *cresc.* *f*

B $\flat$ Cl. 1
f

B $\flat$ Cl. 2, 3
f

B. Cl.
cresc. *f*

Bsn.
f

A. Sax. 1, 2
f

T. Sax.
f

B. Sax.
cresc. *f*

24

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1
mp *cresc.*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2, 3
a2
mp *cresc.*

Hn. 1, 2
f

Tbn. 1, 2
f

Euph.
f

Tuba
cresc. *f*

Timp.
mf *f*

Mal. 1
f

Mal. 2
f

Perc. 1
mp *cresc.* *mf* *f*

Perc. 2
f Cr. Cym.

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legato cresc.

legato cresc.

mf legato cresc.

28

legato cresc.

legato cresc.

legato cresc.

a2

mp

9

$$mf \quad \text{---} \quad f$$

Fl. 1, 2

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. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

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Sleigh Bells

[illegible]

Fl. 1, 2

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. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

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a2

p legato

p legato

a2

p legato

64

Fl. 1, 2 *mf* *cresc.* *f* a2

Ob. *mf* *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf* *cresc.* *f*

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *mp* *cresc.* *f* Add Cl. 3 a2

B. Cl. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

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

T. Sax. *mp* *cresc.* *f*

B. Sax. *mp* *legato* *cresc.* *f*

64

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mp* *legato* *cresc.* *f* a2

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 *mp* *legato* *cresc.* *f*

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

Tbn. 1, 2 *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *f*

Euph. *mp* *Play* *mp* *cresc. legato* *mf* *f*

Tuba *f* *legato*

Timp. *f*

Mal. 1 *mf* *f*

Mal. 2 *mp* *mf*

Perc. 1 *mp* *mf* Sus. Cym.: on rim w/ stick

Perc. 2 *mf* Tri. *mp*

64 65 66 67 68 69

72

mf

mf

a2

mf

mf

mf

mf

rit.

76 *a tempo* *molto rit.*

Fl. 1, 2 *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

A. Sax. 1, 2

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

76 *a tempo* *molto rit.*

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal. 1 *mf*

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 *mf*

on rim w/ stick

4 3 4 4 3 4

mp

82

44

44

44

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Fl. 1, 2

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. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Sus. Cym.

ch.

f

subito p

legato

mf

f

dampen

ch.

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Fl. 1, 2

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. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

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23

111

Above Cloud Nine - Full Score

25

[illegible]

122

Fl. 1, 2 *ff* a2

Ob. *ff*

B♭ Cl. 1 *ff*

B♭ Cl. 2, 3 *ff* a2

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

A. Sax. 1, 2 *ff* a2 *sfz*

T. Sax. *ff*

B. Sax. *ff*

122

B♭ Tpt. 1 *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 2, 3 *ff* a2

Hn. 1, 2 *ff* *sfz*

Tbn. 1, 2 *ff* a2

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Mal. 1 *ff* Bells

Mal. 2 *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff* Sleigh Bells

The musical score is for measures 122 through 126 of the piece 'Above Cloud Nine'. It features a full orchestral arrangement. The woodwind section includes Flutes 1 & 2, Oboe, Clarinets in B♭ (1, 2 & 3), Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophones 1 & 2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpets in B♭ (1, 2 & 3), Horns 1 & 2, Trombones 1 & 2, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, two sets of Maracas (1 & 2), and two types of Percussion (1 & 2), with specific instructions for 'Bells' and 'Sleigh Bells'. The score is written in a key signature of two flats (B♭ and E♭) and a common time signature. Dynamics such as *ff* (fortissimo) and *sfz* (sforzando) are indicated throughout. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'Preview Only' and 'Excelcia Music Publishing' is oriented diagonally across the center of the page.

129

Fl. 1, 2

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. 1

Mal. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

127 128 129 130 131

RCB2503FS

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[illegible]