




Andrew Bohman

Light-Years from the Vatican

A Tone Poem for Clarinet, Horn, Viola, Cello, and Percussion

based on "The Star" by Arthur C. Clarke



"It is three thousand light-years to the Vatican. Once, I believed that space could have no power over faith, just as I believed the heavens declared the glory of God's handwork. Now I have seen that handiwork, and my faith is sorely troubled."

B \flat Clarinet (dbl. E \flat Clarinet)

Horn

Percussion (Vibraphone, Glockenspiel

Bass Drum, Tom-Toms, Tam-Tam,
Suspended Cymbal)

*Requires 2 bows and assorted
mallets, sticks, and beaters*

Viola

Cello

"...oh God, there were so many stars you could have used. What was the need to give these people to the fire, that the symbol of their passing might shine above Bethlehem?!"*

Light-Years from the Vatican

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While the stars and the nebulae would swing around us in silent, endless arcs ...

Glassy and tranquil (♩ = ca. 38)

B♭ Clarinet

F Horn

Percussion
Glockenspiel
with bows
pp
(opt.)

Viola
pp
senza vib.

Cello
pp
senza vib.



5
Perc. To Vib.
With serene majesty (♩ = ca. 48)

Vla.
p *f* *p* *f* *p*
... *con vib.*

Vc.
p *f* *p* *f* *p*
... *con vib.*

11 poco accel.

Hn.

pp *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

Perc.

Vibraphone
soft yarn m.

pp *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vla.

f *p* *mf* (alt.)

Vc.

p *mf*



17 With rising tension (♩ = ca. 54)

Hn.

p *morendo*

Perc.

p *p* *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *To Glock.* *(let decay)*

Vla.

cresc. poco a poco *espress.* *fp* *morendo*

Vc.

espress. *cresc. poco* *pp*

A tenuous shell of gas surrounding a single star ...

Sparse and uncertain (♩ = ca. 42)

22

Cl. *pp*
molto espress

Vla. *ppp*
sul tasto

Vc. *ppp*
sul tasto

6

8^{va} 6 (slowly move bow to ord.)

Cue: Clar. 6

15^{ma} 6 (slowly move bow to ord.)

25

Cl.

Vla. (Cue) 8^{va} ord. (ord.)

Vc. (Cue) 15^{ma} ord. (ord.)

29

Cl. *dim.* *ppp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla. (Cue) 8^{va} *cresc. poco a poco*

Vc. (Cue) 15^{ma} *cresc. poco a poco*

33

Cl. *mf* *appass.* *dim.* *mp* *rall.*

Vla. *mf* *appass.* *p*

Vc. *mf* *appass.* *p* *dim.*

36

Cl. *dim.* *pp* *a tempo*

Vla. *dim.* *3* *3* *rapido*

Vc. *3* *rapido*

38

Cl. *ppp* *p*

Perc. *ppp* *small plastic m.* *Glockenspiel (Play)* *3* *3* *3* *(Cue)*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *p*

... I call to you in vain across the centuries and the light-years that lie between us.

42 Perc. *To Vibes*

Vc.

44 *rall.*

Cl.

Hn.

Vibraphone

Perc.

Vc.

pp

pp < fp

p med. m.

Red.

45 *With uncertain, frustrated sadness* (♩ = ca. 68)

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

pp <

Red.

(ped sim.)

47 *opt. to Eb*

Cl.

Perc.

Vla.

sfz

sfz

p

p

The glowing gas shells were all around us,
banishing the normal night of interstellar space.

49 Sweet and hopeful (♩ = ca. 50)

Musical score for measures 49-53. The score is in 2/4 time and features four staves: Horn (Hn.), Percussion (Perc.), Viola (Vla.), and Violin (Vc.).

- Hn.:** Measures 49-51 are rests. Measures 52-53 feature a melodic line starting with a *pp* dynamic.
- Perc.:** Measures 49-51 feature a complex rhythmic pattern with multiple layers of notes. Measures 52-53 feature a simpler pattern with a *p* dynamic.
- Vla.:** Measures 49-51 feature a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. Measures 52-53 feature a melodic line with a *p* dynamic.
- Vc.:** Measures 49-51 feature a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic. Measures 52-53 feature a melodic line with a *p* dynamic.

Annotations include "Cue: Vibes" and "(Play)" above the Vc. staff in measures 49 and 50. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 53.



Musical score for measures 54-58. The score is in 2/4 time and features five staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), Percussion (Perc.), Viola (Vla.), and Violin (Vc.).

- Cl.:** Measures 54-58 feature a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic. A dashed line labeled "8va" spans measures 54-56.
- Hn.:** Measures 54-58 feature a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic.
- Perc.:** Measures 54-58 feature a complex rhythmic pattern with multiple layers of notes.
- Vla.:** Measures 54-58 feature a melodic line with a *p* dynamic.
- Vc.:** Measures 54-58 feature a melodic line with a *p* dynamic.

Annotations include "8va" above the Cl. staff in measure 54. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 58.

60 (to B \flat)

Cl. *6*

Hn. *6*

Perc. To Tam-tam *morendo*

Vla. *morendo*

Vc. *morendo*

67 gradually release pressure and vibrato *senza vib.* (slide off note with muted, toneless pressure)

Vla. *senza vib.* *8 s* slide up and down fingerboard repeatedly, independent of cello *sul pont.*

Vc. *senza vib.* *sotto voce* *sul pont.*

(slide off note with muted, toneless pressure) *sotto voce* slide up and down fingerboard, repeatedly, independent of viola

71a *Mysterious* ($\text{♩} = 52-60$)

Cl. *p molto libero* *3* *6* *3* *3* ease into flutter

Perc. **Tam-tam** *ppp* slowly scrape with stick (like white noise)

Vla.

Vc.

71b 72 Cue: Horn (Play) *pp*

Ci. *pp*

Hn. Cue: Bowed Glock. (Play) *pp*

Perc. **Glockenspiel with bows** *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*



To outshine all the massed suns of the galaxy...
Boldly (♩ = ca. 74)

73 *f*

Hn. *molto* *f*

Perc. **Tom-toms** heavy mallets *f* **Tam-tam**

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

74

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vla.

Vc.

mf

Bass Dr.

sim.



76

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vla.

Vc.

tr

79 *tr*

Cl. *6*

Hn.

Perc. *p* *mf* *mp* *f*
Tam-tam Susp. Cym.

Vla.

Vc.



82

Cl. *sp* <>

Hn. *mp* *sp* <>

Perc. *fp* *mf* *dim.*

Vla. *mf* *sp* <>

Vc. *mf* *sp* <>

85

Cl. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Perc. **Glockenspiel**
p (muted)

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*



87

Cl.

Hn.

Perc. 5 3 7

Vla.

Vc. *sim.*

13

90

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vla.

Vc.

(open)

Tam-tam

p

6



93

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vla.

Vc.

Bass Dr.

Susp. Cym.

Tom-toms

mf *mp* *pp* *mp* *f*

3

96

Cl. *f*

Hn. *f*

Perc. T-tam, Bs. Dr. *mf*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*



99

Cl. *f*

Hn.

Perc. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc.

15

101

Cl.

6 6 6 6 6 7

Hn.

Perc.

f

Vla.

Vc.

To Vibes

103

Hn.

pp *p* *pp* *ppp* *rall.*

Vla.

pizz. *mp* *p*

Vc.

tr *sub. p* *3* *3* *tr* *dim.*

We found the vault...
... an immovable and all but eternal beacon calling to the stars.

106

Hazy and foreboding ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 64$)

Hn.

Vla.

arco *sul pont.* *pp*

Vc.

tr *pp* *tr*

... *sul pont.*

110

(Horn enters)

Cl. *pp*

Hn. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Perc. (Horn enters) **Vibraphone**
pp soft mallets

Vla. (Clar. enters) (Horn enters)

Vc. (Clar. enters) (Horn enters)



115

Cl. *p* *cresc poco a poco*

Hn. "wah" effect wet sound, increase buzz to flutter
fp *fp* *fp* *f* *fff* *pp*

Perc. *p*

Vla. *ord. trill* *p* *cresc poco a poco*

Vc. *ord. trill* *p* *cresc poco a poco*

119

Cl. *tr*

Hn. *f* *pp* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Perc. *mp* *Red.*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*



122

Cl. *tr*

Hn.

Perc.

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

124

Cl. *ff* 7 6 7 5 5 5 *p*

Hn. *ff*

Perc. Bass Dr. *f* beaters 3 Susp. Cym.

Vla. *ff* *pp*

Vc. *ff* 6 7 6 6 6 6 6 3 *pp*

126 +Tam-T. *ff* *mf* *p*

129

Cl. *ff* 6 6 6 6 6 6 *pp*

Hn. *ff* *pp*

Perc. Tom-toms heavy mallets *f* *p*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

131

Cl. *f* 6 6 6 6 6 *pp*

Hn. *f* *pp*

Perc. **Tom-toms** *mf* *pp*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*



To be destroyed so completely in the full flower of its achievement ...

133 Mournfully (♩ = ca. 46)

Cl. *ppp* *pp*

Hn. *ppp* *pp*

Perc. **Vibraphone**
bowed *ppp* *pp*

Vla. *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

Vc. *ppp* *pp*

sotto voce *sul tasto* *ord.* *sul tasto* *ord.*

138a **6** *sul tasto* *ord.*

Vla. *p* \rightrightarrows *pp* \rightrightarrows *p* \lll \lll \rightrightarrows *fp*

139

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f* *ord.* *mf*

Cue: Viola

142 *poco più mosso*

Cl. *mf*

Hn. *mf* *pp*

Perc. *mf*

Vla. *mf* *p* \lll *mp* \rightrightarrows *p* \lll *mf*

Vc. *mf* *p* \lll *mp* \rightrightarrows *p* \lll *mf*

146

Cl. *rall.* *a tempo precedente*

Hn. *p* *p*

Vla. *pp* *mf* *mf* *mp* *p*

Vc. *pp* *mf* *mf* *mp* *p*



150

Cl. *pp* *ppp*

Hn. *pp* *ppp*

Vla. *pp* *ppp*

Vc. *pp* *ppp*