

Russell Steinberg

COSMIC DUST

For Orchestra

Op. 68

Review Copy

©Copyright 2014 Russell Steinberg
All Rights Reserved

V 2.1 C

INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

2 Clarinets in Bb

2 Bassoons

2 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in Bb

3 Trombones

Timpani

1 Percussion (Glockenspiel, Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal

Tambourine, Triangle, Wind Chimes, Wood Block)

Strings

Commissioned by
the New West Symphony, the Bay Atlantic Symphony,
and the Hopkins Symphony

Review Copy

Program Notes

Whether you live in a major city or remote hamlet, at night you probably still look up at the sky in search of stars. We were all child stargazers, and that wonder we first experienced is what I was after in my orchestra piece *Cosmic Dust*. Nowadays, the Hubble Space Telescope provides images and discoveries that stretch the limits of our imagination. Even when it points at what seems an empty patch of space, it catches the light of over 3,000 galaxies formed at the beginning of the universe! These revelations make the heavens seem even more impossibly beyond human scale and understanding.

But then I heard Rabbi Harold Schulweis talking about mortality, and he put a whole new perspective on our fascination with astronomy. He said that in thinking of our short life span, we lament that we are but dust (we say “ashes to ashes, dust to dust”). But we must remember, he challenged, dust is not only the stuff of earth, but of stars as well. We ourselves come from stars—we are literally stardust, part of this eternal cosmic pageant. So we look up at night because we are drawn to our own origins. We gaze ultimately at ourselves.

Cosmic Dust is a single movement in four continuous sections: Magic Sky, Shooting Stars, Interstellar Dust, and Nova.

In Magic Sky, I ask the strings to play harmonics (“star music”). They create high bell-like tones by touching the fingers of their left hand very lightly on the instruments. In Shooting Stars, the strings use another effect called ricochet where they throw the bow against the string, almost like skipping rocks over water. This section also features the timpani in more dramatic music. Interstellar Dust takes its inspiration from those incredibly colorful nebulae revealed by telescopes. You’ll hear strings, woodwinds, and brass, each play different chords crossfading between each other. The calm inner part of this section features a violin solo. The final section—Nova—gathers the material from all the previous “star” music and bursts forth in a joyful final fanfare.

COSMIC DUST

For Orchestra

RUSSELL STEINBERG

I. Magic Sky

Allegro luminoso $\text{♩} = 120$

Musical score for the first movement, I. Magic Sky, featuring parts for Piccolo, Flute 1, 2, Oboe 1, 2, Clarinet 1, 2, Bassoon 1, 2, Horn 1, 2, Trumpet 1, 2, Trombone 1, 2, Trombone 3, Timpani, Percussion, and Glockenspiel. The score is in 3/4 time, key signature of A major (three sharps). The instrumentation includes woodwind, brass, percussion, and a solo timpani part. The score shows various dynamics such as *p*, *pp*, and *tr*. The title "I. Magic Sky" and movement instruction "Allegro luminoso $\text{♩} = 120$ " are at the top. A large diagonal watermark "Preview Copy" is across the page.

I. Magic Sky

Allegro luminoso $\text{♩} = 120$

Close-up of the musical score for the first movement, I. Magic Sky, showing parts for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score is in 3/4 time, key signature of A major (three sharps). The instrumentation includes strings. The score shows various dynamics such as *p*, *div.*, and *mp*. The title "I. Magic Sky" and movement instruction "Allegro luminoso $\text{♩} = 120$ " are at the top. The score shows complex string techniques like pizzicato and bows.

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

2

7

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Glock.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

(8) - - -

mp

p

unis.

p

p

8va

unis.

flautando

p

11

Fl. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Glock.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pp

pp

1.

pp

I div.

II

p

p

mp

p

(8) - - -

5

7

5

7

5

7

5

7

flautando

15

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Glock.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

pp

mp

a2

pp

mp

pp

mp

pp

mp

p

div.

8va

flautando

(8)

7

5

7

5

7

5

7

5

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

4

19

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Glock.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Review Copy

1. *f* *6*

1. *f* *6*

1. *f* *6*

1. *f* *5*

a2 *6*

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mp

off the string

mp

off the string

mp

off the string

div.

mp

pizz.

div. arco off the string

mp

pizz.

mp

arco off the string

23

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Timp.

Glock.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

31

A

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Tim. (tr)

Perc. Triangle

Vln. I unis. mp f tr pizz. arco battuto 5

Vln. II unis. mp f tr pizz. arco battuto 5 etc.

Vla. unis. non div. mp f tr pizz. unis. battuto 5 etc. pizz.

Vc. unis. mp f tr pizz. pizz.

Cb. unis. mp f tr pizz.

7

Review Copy

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

8

38

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 8, measure 38. The score includes parts for Flute 1, 2; Oboe 1, 2; Clarinet 1, 2; Bassoon 1, 2; Trombone 1, 2; Glockenspiel; Violin I; Violin II; Viola; Cello; and Bass. The instrumentation is primarily woodwind and brass, with strings providing harmonic support. The music features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note figures and sustained notes. Dynamic markings include *p*, *a2*, *5*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *etc.*, *non div.*, and *div.*. The score is set in common time with a key signature of two sharps.

=

42

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 8, measure 42. The instrumentation remains the same as in measure 38. The score shows a continuation of the rhythmic patterns and dynamics from the previous measure. The woodwinds and brass continue their intricate textures, while the strings provide harmonic foundation. The dynamic levels fluctuate between *f*, *mf*, *p*, and *pp*.

Cosmic Dust Russell Steinberg

10

56

B

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

a2

mf cantabile

mf cantabile

B

① II III bariolage

① II III bariolage

① II bariolage

III ① bariolage

II ①

60

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Tambourine
Thumb roll
tr.

p

mf

mf

mp

p

p

p

p

p

mp

p

p

p

p

p

mp

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

12

64

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

5 5 5 6 5

5 5 5 6 5

5 5 6 5

6 5

p

p

mf

mf

mf

mf

Thumb roll
tr

quasi flautando
p

quasi flautando
p

quasi flautando
p

3

6

6

6

f

Thumb roll
tr

Review Copy

67

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf cantabile

mf cantabile

mf

(tr) ~~~~~

cantabile

f

mf

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

14 [70]

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Glock.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

1.

f cantabile

f cantabile

f cantabile

f

Review Copy

=

[73]

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Glock.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Review Copy

Cosmic Dust Russell Steinberg

15

2

78

A musical score page featuring four staves. The top staff is for the Glockenspiel (Glock.), the second for Violin I (Vln. I), the third for Violin II (Vln. II), and the bottom for Cello/Violoncello (Vla.). The music is in common time, with a key signature of two sharps. Measures 1 through 4 show the Glockenspiel playing eighth-note patterns. Measures 5 through 8 show Violin I playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Measures 9 through 12 show Violin II playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Measures 13 through 16 show the Cello/Violoncello playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The score is annotated with a large, semi-transparent watermark reading "Review".

≡

80

Musical score for strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Cb.) in G major, 2/4 time. The score shows measures 5 through 7. In measure 5, Vln. I and Vln. II play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Vla. and Cb. provide harmonic support. Measure 6 begins with a dynamic *p*, followed by eighth-note patterns from all four instruments. Measure 7 begins with a dynamic *pp*, continuing the eighth-note patterns.

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

16

82 C

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

Fl. 1, 2 *pp*

Cl. 1, 2 *pp*

Triangle

Perc. *pp*

Vln. I C

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. *pp*

Cb.

84

Fl. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tim.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Review Sample

88

Fl. 1, 2 *p*

Ob. 1, 2 *p*

Cl. 1, 2 *p*

Bsn. 1, 2 *p*

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

(tr)

Review Copy

pp

pp

pp

pp

mp

mp

mp

div.

mp

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

18

93

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vcl.

Cb.

Susp Cymbal
tr.

f 6 5

1. *f* 6 5

1. *f* 6 5

1. *f* 6 5

1. *f* 6 5

mf 3 3 3

mf 3 3 3

mf 3 3 3

mf 3 3 3

f

f

mp

unis.

mp

unis.

mp

f

mp

97

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Review Copy

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

20

100

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

D

103

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Vln. I arco *p*

Vln. II arco *p*

Vla. arco *p*

Vc. arco *p*

Cb. arco

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

22

107

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

5

6

5

5

1.

1.

5

5

a2 3

3

a2

3

3

p

mf

3

3

3

tr.....

p

mf

Triangle

f

pizz.

f

pizz.

f

pizz.

f

pizz.

f

pizz.

f

B, D, F

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

23

111

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Susp. Cymbal
tr

mp *f* *p*

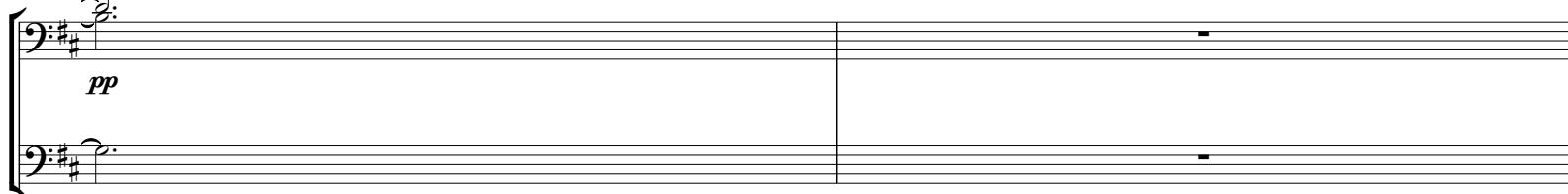
arco *p lightly* *6*

arco *p lightly*

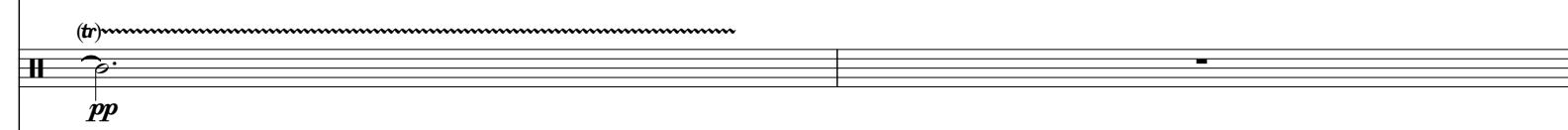
arco *p lightly*

Cosmic Dust
Russell Steinberg

24 **115**

Tbn. 1, 2 

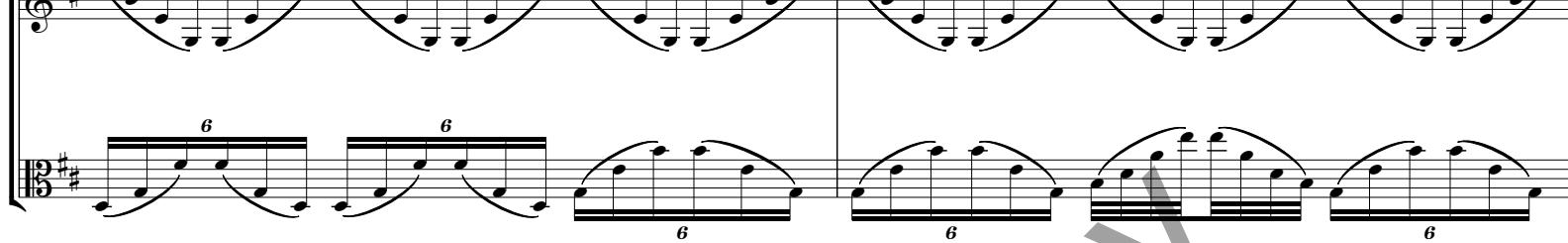
Tbn. 3 

(tr) 

Perc. 

Vln. I 

Vln. II 

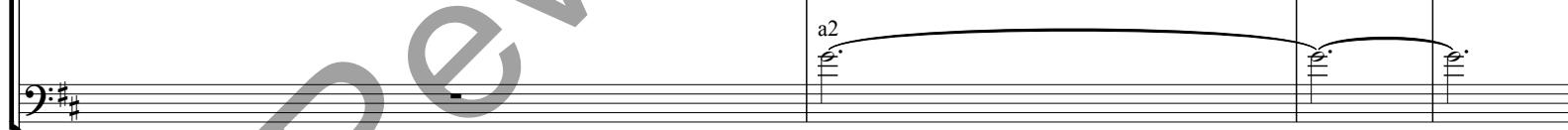
Vla. 

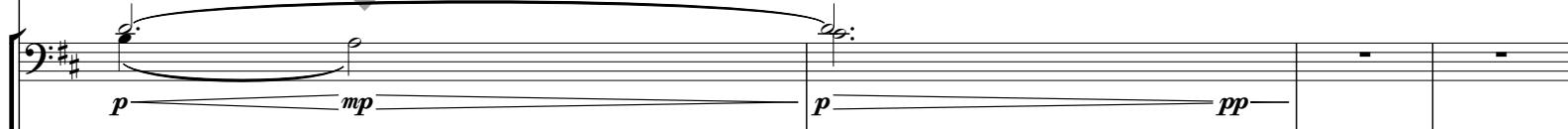
117

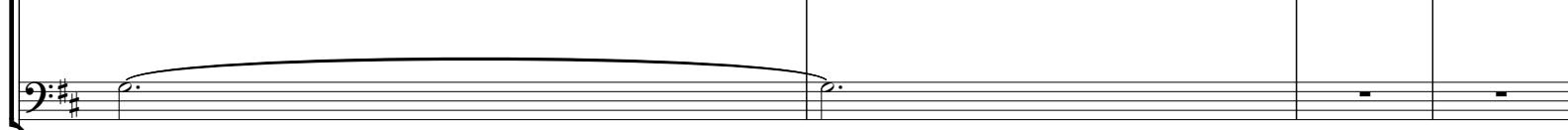
Fl. 1, 2 

Ob. 1, 2 

Cl. 1, 2 

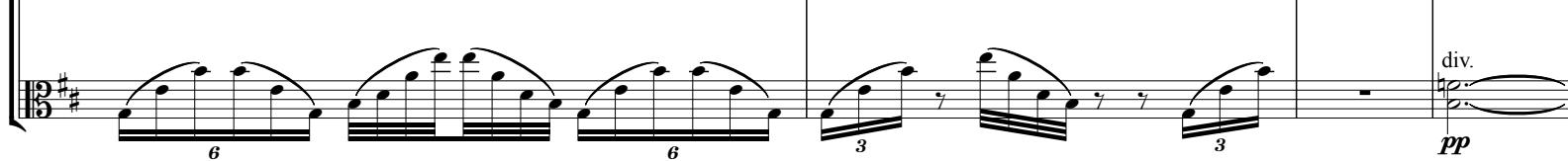
Bsn. 1, 2 

Tbn. 1, 2 

Tbn. 3 

Vln. I 

Vln. II 

Vla. 

II. Shooting Stars
Fantasia

121

Fl. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

124

Fl. 1, 2

Cl. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 2

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.