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**soaring over the white mountains**  
*for orchestra*

**David Vess**  
January 2022

## **Instrumentation:**

2 flutes, piccolo, 2 oboes  
2 clarinets in Bb, bass clarinet in Bb, 2 bassoons

4 horns in F, 3 trumpets in Bb  
2 tenor trombones, bass trombone, tuba

timpani, snare drum, suspended cymbal, xylophone, bass drum, piatti

strings

## **Duration: 8:30**

### **Program:**

This work was commissioned by the Brockton Symphony Orchestra in celebration of a return to live music. When I first played for the BrSO back 2015, I did not know what I was getting myself into. A new world of orchestral music and collaboration was ahead of me. I've had the great fortune to play tuba here for several seasons, and I'm even more lucky to have commissioned twice (!) by such a fantastic ensemble.

Right from the onset we hear a triumphant theme in the horns. This theme will form the backbone of the work, constantly shifting and mutating with each appearance. I really wanted to find this feeling of flying through the air.

There is an irregular heartbeat motive, that skips a beat. We fly through several episodes, each featuring different sections of the orchestra: a piccolo solo, a timpani solo and brassy fanfares. The piece reaches its apex at section I've marked: "at the peak of the mountain", where the horn, trumpet and trombone revive the theme from the opening. There is a feeling of possibility, and almost apprehension, as if we are nervous to leap and take flight. But leap we do, and all of the various themes return, finding their final evolution before the piece roars to a finish. It has been an incredible privilege and delight to write for the BrSO.

-DV 2022

### **About the Composer:**

David Vess is an American composer, musician and teacher. He seeks to write deeply personal music for his friends and collaborators.

Originally from Asheville, NC, David holds degrees from the Boston Conservatory and UNC School of the Arts. He teaches composition at Bridgewater State University. David also produces *The Sand Dollar*, a podcast about doing creative work and learning from the art all around us. He lives in Foxborough, MA with his wife Sophie. (2022)

For more information, please visit: [davidvessmusic.com](http://davidvessmusic.com)

### **Related Works:**

*of yet and yonder* (2020) - for orchestra  
*Ignite* (2017) - fanfare for brass and timpani  
*Chroma the Great* (2014) - for orchestra

# soaring over the white mountains

commissioned by the Brockton Symphony Orchestra  
in celebration of a return to live music

David Vess  
Foxborough, MA, USA  
January 2022

Score is Transposed

breaking open  
♩ = 100

7

The musical score is arranged in systems for various instruments. The woodwind section includes Piccolo, Flute I and II, Oboe I and II, Clarinet I and II in Bb, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon I and II, Horn I-IV in F, Trumpet I-III in Bb, Tenor Trombone I and II, Bass Trombone, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Snare Drum, Sus. Cymbal, Xylophone, and Bass Drum. The string section includes Violin I and II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs, and dynamic markings such as *ff*, *mf*, and *f*. A section marked 'breaking open' with a tempo of 100 begins at the bottom of the page.

accel.

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. II

Ob. I

Ob. II

Cl. I

Cl. II

B. Cl.

Bsn. I

Bsn. II

Hn. I

Hn. II

Hn. III

Hn. IV

Tpt. I

Tpt. II

Tpt. III

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

accel.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

22 finally flying ♩ = 132

28

Picc.

Fl. I

Ob. I

Ob. II

Cl. I

Cl. II

B. Cl.

Bsn. I

Bsn. II

Hn. I

Hn. II

Hn. III

Hn. IV

Tpt. I

Tpt. II

Tpt. III

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

finally flying ♩ = 132

28

Perc. I

Perc. II

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Picc. *mf* *f* *p*

Fl. I *mf* *f* *p*

Fl. II *mf* *f*

Ob. I *f*

Ob. II *f*

Cl. I *f* *mf* *f*

Cl. II *f* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *mf*

Bsn. I *ff* *mf* *f*

Bsn. II *ff* *mf* *f*

Hn. I *f* *mf* *mf*

Hn. II *f* *mf*

Hn. III *f* *mf* *mf*

Hn. IV *f* *mf*

Tpt. I *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Tpt. II *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Tpt. III *mf* *f* *p* *mf*

Tbn. I *mf* *f* *p* *ff*

Tbn. II *mf* *ff*

B. Tbn. *mf* *ff* *mf*

Tba. *mf* *ff*

Timp. *p* *ff* *mf*

Perc. I *f*

Perc. II *p* *ff* *mf*

Vln. I *mf* *f* *div.* *f* *pizz.* *p* *arco*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *div.* *f* *pizz.* *p* *arco*

Vla. *f* *mf* *f* *pizz.* *p* *arco*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *ff*

Db. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Picc. *f*

Fl. I *f*

Fl. II *f*

Ob. I *mf*

Ob. II *mf*

Cl. I *f*

Cl. II *f*

B. Cl. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Bsn. I *f*

Bsn. II *f*

Hn. I *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Hn. II

Hn. III *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Hn. IV

Tpt. I *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Tpt. II *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Tpt. III *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

B. Tbn. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Tba.

Timp. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Sus. Cymbal

Perc. I *p*

Perc. II *mf* *f* *mf* *p*

Vln. I *f* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *f* *f* *p* *f*

Vla. *f* *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *f* *p* *f*

Db. *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

8 **gentle and restrained**  
♩ = 100

61 66

Fl. I *ff* *p*

Fl. II *ff* *p*

Ob. I *ff* *p* *mf* *mf*

Ob. II *ff* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Cl. I *ff* *p* *mf* *mf* *uni.* *mf*

Cl. II *ff* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Bsn. I *ff* *p* *f* *mf*

Bsn. II *ff* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Hn. I *ff* *f*

Hn. II *ff*

Hn. III *ff* *f*

Hn. IV *ff*

Tpt. I *ff* *p*

Tpt. II *ff* *p*

Tpt. III *ff* *p*

Tbn. I *ff* *p*

Tbn. II *ff* *p*

Tba. *p*

Timp. *p* *mp* *mp* *p* *mf*

**gentle and restrained**  
♩ = 100

61 66

Perc. I *f* *p*

Perc. II *p* *mp* *mp* *p* *mf*

Vln. I *div.* *ff* *p* *mf* *mf* *p* *uni.* *mf*

Vln. II *div.* *ff* *p* *mf* *mf* *p* *uni.* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Db. *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*



glowing with warmth

♩ = 88

solo

70

Picc. *mf*

Fl. I *mf*

Fl. II *mf*

Ob. I *ff* *p*

Ob. II *ff* *p*

Cl. I *ff* *mf*

Cl. II *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Bsn. I *ff* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Bsn. II *ff* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Hn. I *ff* *mf* *mf*

Hn. II *ff*

Hn. III *ff*

Hn. IV *ff*

Tpt. I *ff* *p*

Tpt. II *ff* *p*

Tpt. III *ff* *p*

Tbn. I *ff* *p*

Tbn. II *ff* *p*

B. Tbn. *ff* *p*

Tba. *ff* *p*

Timp. *ff* *p* *mf* *p* *p*<sup>3</sup> *p*<sup>3</sup>

glowing with warmth

♩ = 88

Perc. I *f*

Perc. II *ff*

Vln. I *ff* *mf* *mf*

Vln. II *ff* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *ff* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Db. *ff* *mf* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

83

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. II

Ob. I

Ob. II

Cl. I

Cl. II

B. Cl.

Bsn. I

Bsn. II

Hn. I

Hn. II

Hn. III

Hn. IV

Tpt. I

Tpt. II

Tpt. III

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

83

Perc. I

Perc. II

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

**wickedly alive**  
♩ = 132

**98**

**accel.**  
*mp*

*ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Fl. I  
Fl. II  
Ob. I  
Ob. II  
Cl. I  
Cl. II  
B. Cl.  
Bsn. I  
Bsn. II  
Hn. I  
Hn. II  
Hn. III  
Hn. IV  
Tpt. I  
Tpt. II  
Tpt. III  
Tbn. I  
Tbn. II  
B. Tbn.  
Tba.  
Timp.

**wickedly alive**  
♩ = 132

**98**

**accel.**

*p* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

*arco*

Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Db.

Picc. *[Musical staff]*

Fl. I *[Musical staff]* *mf* *f* *p* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Fl. II *[Musical staff]* *p* *mf* *p*

Ob. I *[Musical staff]* *f* *f*

Ob. II *[Musical staff]* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Cl. I *[Musical staff]* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

Cl. II *[Musical staff]* *mf* *f* *p* *f*

B. Cl. *[Musical staff]*

Bsn. I *[Musical staff]* *p* *mp*

Bsn. II *[Musical staff]* *p* *mp*

Hn. I *[Musical staff]* *pp* *p*

Hn. II *[Musical staff]* *pp* *p*

Hn. III *[Musical staff]* *pp* *p*

Hn. IV *[Musical staff]* *pp* *p*

Tpt. I *[Musical staff]*

Tpt. II *[Musical staff]*

Tpt. III *[Musical staff]*

Tbn. I *[Musical staff]* *p*

Tbn. II *[Musical staff]*

B. Tbn. *[Musical staff]* *p*

Tba. *[Musical staff]* *p*

Timp. *[Musical staff]* *p*

Perc. I *[Musical staff]*

Perc. II *[Musical staff]* *p*

Vln. I *[Musical staff]* *mf* *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *[Musical staff]* *div.* *uni.* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vla. *[Musical staff]* *p* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vc. *[Musical staff]* *pizz.* *mp* *p* *mp*

Db. *[Musical staff]* *pizz.* *mp* *p* *mp*

114

Picc. *sfz*

Fl. I *fp* *fp* *fp* *p* *ff*

Fl. II *sfz* *ff*

Ob. I *sfz* *ff*

Ob. II *fp* *fp* *fp* *p* *ff*

Cl. I *sfz* *ff*

Cl. II *sfz* *ff*

B. Cl. *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Bsn. I *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Bsn. II *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Hn. I *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Hn. II *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Hn. III *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Hn. IV *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Tpt. I *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Tpt. II *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Tpt. III *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Tbn. I *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Tbn. II *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

B. Tbn. *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Tba. *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Timp. *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Xyl

Xylophone

Perc. I *sfz* *ff* *sfz* *ff*

Perc. II *mf* *mf*

Vln. I *sfz* *ff* *sfz* *ff*

Vln. II *fp* *fp* *fp* *p* *ff* *ff* *sfz* *ff*

Vla. *fp* *fp* *fp* *p* *ff* *ff* *sfz* *ff*

Vc. *arco* *ff* *ff* *sfz* *ff*

Db. *arco* *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

123

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. II

Ob. I

Ob. II

Cl. I

Cl. II

B. Cl.

Bsn. I

Bsn. II

Hn. I

Hn. II

Hn. III

Hn. IV

Tpt. I

Tpt. II

Tpt. III

Tbn. I

Tbn. II

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Xyl.

Perc. II

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*mf*

*f*

*sfz*

*p*

129

Picc. *mf*

Fl. I *mf*

Fl. II

Ob. I *ff*

Ob. II *ff*

Cl. I *ff*

Cl. II *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. I *ff* *mf* *f*

Bsn. II *ff*

Hn. I *ff*

Hn. II *ff*

Hn. III *ff*

Hn. IV *ff*

Tpt. I *ff*

Tpt. II *ff*

Tpt. III *ff*

Tbn. I *ff*

Tbn. II *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Timp. *ff* *mf*

Xyl. *mf* Sus. Cymbal *p*

Perc. II *ff* *p* *mf*

Vln. I *ff* *mf* *p*

Vln. II *ff* *f* *ff*

Vla. *ff* *f* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *f* *ff*

Db. *ff* *mf* *f*

rit. . . . .

at the peak of the mountain  
♩ = 80

Picc. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Fl. I *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Fl. II *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Ob. I *f* *p*

Ob. II *f* *p*

Cl. I *ff* *mf* *p*

Cl. II *ff* *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf*

Bsn. I *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf*

Bsn. II *f* *p* *mf* solo

Hn. I *f* *p* *mf*

Hn. II *f* *p*

Hn. III *f* *p*

Hn. IV *f* *p*

Tpt. I *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Tpt. II *f* *p*

Tpt. III *f* *p*

Tbn. I *p* *f* *p*

Tbn. II *p* *f* *p*

B. Tbn. *p* *f* *p*

Tba. *mf* *f* *p* *p*

Timp. *mf* *f* *p* *mp*

rit. . . . .

at the peak of the mountain  
♩ = 80

Perc. *p* *p* *p* *f*

Perc. II *f* *p* *mp*

Vln. I *f* *p* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *ff* *mf* *p*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *p*

Db. *mf* *f* *p* *p*



To purchase the score and parts to this work, or to request a full perusal score, please contact me at:

[www.davidvessmusic.com/contact](http://www.davidvessmusic.com/contact)

Many thanks for your  
interest in my work.

I look forward to hearing from you.

-DV