alien robots unite!

for wind ensemble

revised november 2015
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Composed by Adam Silverman (2014). Duration: 8 minutes.

» Instrumentation «

- Piccolo
- 4 Flutes (2° dbl. Picc.)
- 2 Oboes
- English Horn in F
- Clarinet in E♭
- 3 Clarinets in B♭
- Bass Clarinet in B♭
- Contrabass Clarinet in B♭
- 2 Bassoons
- Piano
- Contrabassoon
- Timpani

- 4 Saxophones (SATB)
- 4 Trumpets in B♭
- 3 Tenor Trombones
- Bass Trombone
- Euphonium
- Tuba
- Contrabass
- Cymbals (shared)
- Hi-hat (shared)
- Vibraphone, Metal Guiro, Hotel Bell, Bass Drum (shared)
- Cymbals (shared)
- Snare Drum, 2 Low Tom-toms; 3 Brake Drums (or sim. metals); 2 Suspended Crash Cymbals
- Chimes, Bass Drum (shared), 2 Wood Blocks, Tambourine, Hi-hat (shared)

Percussion 1: Glockenspiel, Ride Cymbal
Percussion 2: Crotales (two octaves), Cymbals (shared), Hi-hat (shared)
Percussion 3: Xylophone, Cymbals (shared)
Percussion 4: Vibraphone, Metal Guiro, Hotel Bell, Bass Drum (shared), Cymbals (shared)
Percussion 5: Snare Drum, 2 Low Tom-toms; 3 Brake Drums (or sim. metals); 2 Suspended Crash Cymbals
Percussion 6: Chimes, Bass Drum (shared), 2 Wood Blocks, Tambourine, Hi-hat (shared)

» Program note by the composer «

Oddly enough, the original creative spark of this piece came from flapping my hand over the lips of my 5-month old daughter, Zoey, while she made rudimentary moans and coos. By having muted trumpets imitate this sound, I was able to create burbling sounds that reminded me of the wonderfully bizarre sounds in robot and alien movies from the 1950s and ’60s. I then set forth to create a fantastical concert piece that used these beeps and blurs to make a palette of sounds that I had never before explored. Further inspiration for this piece was drawn from a bizarre hodgepodge of sources, including memories from sci-fi soundtracks, sound effects from the old Lost In Space TV series, atonal techniques blended with overtone harmony, 8-bit video game sounds, ring modulators, automatic arpeggiators, “color music” pieces by Michael Torke such as Ecstatic Orange and Green Music and the soundtrack to Mars Attacks! by Danny Elfman, the sound of a 2400 baud dial-up modem, and elementary school science filmstrips.

» For performance materials «

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