



Star-Taker

The Astrolabe of Verona

LAURA ESTES

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Flute	8
Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)	2
B♭ Clarinet	8
Bass Clarinet	2
Alto Saxophone	5
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
B♭ Trumpet	8
Horn in F	4
Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon	6
Baritone T.C.	2
Tuba	4
Timpani	2
Mallets	2
Bells, Chimes	
Percussion 1	2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	5
Cash Cymbals, Tambourine, Finger Cymbals, Triangle, Gong	



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.

STAR-TAKER THE ASTROLABE OF VERONA

Have you ever wondered how ancient civilizations precisely calculated time and distance, plotted the position of the stars, and even forecast the future? Around 25 BCE, the Ancient Greeks invented a device to facilitate those calculations called an *astrolabe*. Refined in the Middle East over the centuries, astrolabes were hand-held metal discs with a pattern of wires, cutouts, perforations, and etchings of the known universe—like a map of the sky. Astrolabe translates to “Star Taker” from the Greek word *astrolabos*, a combination of the Greek words *astron* (star) and *lambanein* (to take). Most educated people owned an astrolabe, especially astronomers and astrologers. Used through the 17th century, think of astrolabes as the smartphones of the ancient world.

The Verona Astrolabe is an 11th-century artifact that was discovered in the vault of a museum in Verona, Italy, by Dr. Federica Gigante of the University of Cambridge (England). It appears to have originated in Al-Andalus, now known as Andalusia. An expert on Islamic astrolabes, Dr. Gigante determined that not only is this astrolabe one of the oldest existing astrolabes in the world, but inscriptions in both Hebrew and Arabic indicate this astrolabe was adapted, translated, and corrected over the centuries by Muslim, Jewish, and Christian users in Spain, North Africa, and Italy.

“Star-Taker: The Astrolabe of Verona” is a fun way to teach ancient history that is still relevant today. Students will enjoy using various instrumental colors to create the sounds of the medieval world both melodically and harmonically. Finger cymbals, Tambourine, Triangle, and Gong help create the ambiance that brings the centuries to life. Feel free to use the Snare Drum with the snares off to further enhance the mood. I hope your students enjoy playing this piece and learning about the Verona Astrolabe. In the words of Dr. Gigante:

“When I visited the museum and studied the astrolabe up close, I noticed that not only was it covered in beautifully engraved Arabic inscriptions, but I could see faint inscriptions in Hebrew. This isn't just an incredibly rare object. It's a powerful record of scientific exchange between Arabs, Jews, and Christians over hundreds of years.”



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Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Star-Taker

The Astrolabe of Verona

LAURA ESTES
(ASCAP)

Vivace ♩ = 152

4

Flute

Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)

B♭ Clarinet

Bass Clarinet

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Vivace ♩ = 152

B♭ Trumpet

Horn in F

Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon

Tuba

Timpani

Mallets (Bells, Chimes)

Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2 (Crash Cymbals, Tambourine, Finger Cymbals, Triangle, Gong)

(G: C)

Bells

Snare Drum: snares on or off

Bass Drum

1 2 3 4 5 6

A preview of a musical score for 'The Rose Tree' by J. S. Bach. The image shows three staves of music. The top staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes, with various musical markings such as accents (>) and dynamic markings (f). A large, diagonal watermark is superimposed over the entire image, reading 'Preview Only' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, and 'Excelcia Music Publishing' in a smaller font below it. The watermark is oriented from the bottom-left towards the top-right.

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

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To Chimes

Tambourine

f

13 14 15 16 17 18

19

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.
mp
Cue: Horn

T. Sax.
mp
Cue: Tuba

B. Sax.
mp

19

B $\flat$ Tpt.
mp

Hn.
mp

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn.
mp

Tuba
mp

Timp.
mp
Chimes

Mal.
mp

Perc. 1
mp
Finger Cymbals

Perc. 2
mp

20 21 22 23 24

DCB2504FS

37

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

B $\flat$ Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

37

B $\flat$ Tpt. *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn. *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f*

Mal. *f*
Bells

Perc. 1 *f*

Perc. 2 *f*
Gong

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Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

dampen

ch.

Tamb.

f

42 43 44 45 46

DCB2504FS

[illegible]

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Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./Euph./Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

mf cresc. f dampen

5

Preview Only
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Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

f

f

f

f

dampen

dampen

ch.

ch.

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Preview Only
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