



Ancient Badlands

LAURA ESTES

Instrumentation

Full Score	1
Flute	8
Oboe	2
B♭ Clarinet 1	6
B♭ Clarinet 2	6
Bass Clarinet	2
Bassoon	2
Alto Saxophone	5
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
B♭ Trumpet 1	6
B♭ Trumpet 2	6
Horn in F	4
Trombone	4
Euphonium	2
Baritone T.C.	2
Tuba	4
Timpani	2
Mallets	2
Bells + Rainstick	
Percussion 1	2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	4
Claves, Sandpaper Blocks/Optional Shaker, Ratchet, Crash Cymbals	
Percussion 3	3
Castanets, 2 Tom-toms, Triangle	



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.

ANCIENT BADLANDS

After receiving the commission project for the Brandon Valley Intermediate School 5th Grade Band, I wanted to write a piece that would resonate with the students' connection to South Dakota. The ancient history of the South Dakota Badlands piqued my interest. Mesmerized by the prairie landscape's stark beauty, I discovered that millions of years ago it was covered by a sub-tropical shallow sea called the *Western Interior Seaway*. Towards the end of the Cretaceous period, this seaway had partially receded, leaving in its wake beautiful temperate forests and rivers in what eventually would become the Badlands of South Dakota. These forests and rivers were teeming with life, filled with creatures large and small. It was the age of dinosaurs.

"Ancient Badlands" takes us back 66 million years to a specific point in time—one day before the catastrophic Chicxulub Asteroid slammed into the Yucatán Peninsula. This devastating asteroid caused the mass extinction of dinosaurs and most non-avian life on our planet, bringing an end to the Cretaceous period. On the day before this cataclysmic event, one would have heard all kinds of forest sounds along with the clicking and scratching chatter of dinosaurs. Students will enjoy creating the sounds of the rainforest and dinosaurs with Wind Chimes, Rain Sticks, finger snaps, and by rubbing hands together. Woodwinds will especially enjoy adding to the ambiance with trills and key-clicks, while Percussionists will have fun imitating dinosaur clicking and scratching with Sand Blocks, Castanets, Claves, stick-clicks, Ratchet, and Vibra Slap. There are even a couple of Trombone glissandi—because who doesn't like Trombone glissandi in a rainforest? With limited accidentals, this piece is an excellent way to introduce several new concepts in fun and engaging ways. I hope you and your students enjoy learning "Ancient Badlands."

DEDICATION

Ancient Badlands is dedicated to Del Hubers and the 2023-2024 Brandon Valley Intermediate School 5th Grade Band. This piece was my very first band commission, and I am forever grateful for the trust placed in me.



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Recordings are available on all major streaming services.

Ancient Badlands

Andante ♩ = 84

LAURA ESTES
(ASCAP)

Instrument to play position

(ASCAP)
 Instrument to play position
 Flute
 Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)
 B $\flat$ Clarinet 1
 B $\flat$ Clarinet 2
 Bass Clarinet
 Alto Saxophone
 Tenor Saxophone
 Baritone Saxophone
 B $\flat$ Trumpet 1
 B $\flat$ Trumpet 2
 Horn in F
 Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon
 Tuba
 Timpani (Wind Chimes, Timpani)
 Mallets (Rainstick, Bells)
 Percussion 1 (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
 Percussion 2 (Claves, Sandpaper Blocks/opt. Shaker, Ratchet, Crash Cymbals)
 Percussion 3 (Castanets, 2 Tom-toms)
 Andante $\text{♩} = 84$
 Finger-snaps
 Wind Chimes
 Rainstick
 Snare Drum
 Bass Drum
 S.D.: on rim
 Claves
 Castanets
 1 2 3 4 5
 Preview Only
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6

Fl. *f* Play

Ob. *f* Play

B $\flat$ Cl. 1 *f* Play

B $\flat$ Cl. 2 *f* Play

B. Cl. *f* Play

A. Sax. *f* Play

T. Sax. *f* Play

B. Sax. *f* Play

6

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1 *f* Play

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2 *f* Play

Hn. *f* Play

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn. *f* Play

Tuba *f* Play

L.V. To Timpani

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1 *f* On Head: snares off

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3 *f*

12 Allegro ♩ = 144

Rub hands together,
imitate Sandpaper Blocks

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

B♭ Cl. 1 *f*

B♭ Cl. 2 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. *f*

T. Sax. *f*

B. Sax. *f*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *f*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn. *f*

Tuba *f*

Timpani *f*

Mal. *f* To Bells

Perc. 1 *f* S.D.: on rim

Perc. 2 *f* Ratchet

Perc. 3 *f* Tom-toms Sandpaper Blocks (opt. Shaker)

20 Play

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn.

Tuba

Timp.

Mal.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

mf Play

mf

mf

mp

mp

mp

mp

20

Rub hands together,
imitate Sandpaper Blocks

Rub hands together,
imitate Sandpaper Blocks

Rub hands together,
imitate Sandpaper Blocks

mp

mp

mp

mf Bells

On Head: snares off

mp

mp

mp

Preview Only

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28

mf *f*

Play

mf *f*

Play

mf *f*

This image shows a preview of musical notation, likely for a piano or organ piece. It features several staves with various musical symbols, including notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as "ff". A large, diagonal watermark reading "Preview Only" and "Excelcia Music Publishing" is overlaid across the center of the page. In the upper right corner, there is a small box containing the number "34". The notation includes treble and bass clefs, key signatures with sharps and flats, and various note values and rests. Some staves have slurs indicating phrasing. The overall appearance is that of a professional music score.

[illegible]

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn./
Euph./
Bsn.

Tuba

W.C.

Timpani

Mal.

Perc. 1

Sandpaper Blocks
(Opt. Shaker)

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

48

Fl. *mf* *legato*

Ob. *mf* *legato*

B $\flat$ Cl. 1 *mf* *legato*

B $\flat$ Cl. 2 *mf* *legato*

B. Cl. *mf* *legato*

A. Sax. *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

B. Sax. *mf*

48

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1 *mf*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2 *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Tbn./Euph./Bsn. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Mal. *mf*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf*

Perc. 3 *mf* Triangle

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58

[illegible]

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74

ff

sfz

ff

ff

sfz

sfz

ff

sfz

sfz

ff

sfz

sfz

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