

**Bakhari S. Nokuri**

# **AFROSPIRE (2023)**

## **INSTRUMENTATION**

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Full Score	Bb Trumpet 1
Piccolo	Bb Trumpet 2
Flute 1	Bb Trumpet 3
Flute 2	F Horn 1
Oboe	F Horn 2
Bb Clarinet 1	Trombone 1
Bb Clarinet 2	Trombone 2
Bb Clarinet 3	Bass Trombone
Bb Bass Clarinet	Euphonium
Bb Contrabass Clarinet	Tuba (String Bass)
Bassoon 1	Piano
Bassoon 2	Percussion (7-9 Players):
Contrabassoon	Timpani
Eb Alto Saxophone 1	Mallet Percussion 1
Eb Alto Saxophone 2	Mallet Percussion 2
Bb Tenor Saxophone	Percussion 1
Eb Baritone Saxophone	Percussion 2
	Percussion 3

**Nokuri Music**



## The Composer

Bakhari S. Nokuri (b. 2005) is a composer, producer, percussionist, and drummer from Howard County, Maryland. Bakhari loves to find and incorporate new colors and grooves into his music, all while keeping the energy high and engaging. Bakhari is now an undergraduate composition major at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music.

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## AFROSPIRE

In the process of creating this work, I found it hard to place a label on it. This composition is a swelling-dance inspired by afro-cuban rhythms and grooves, most notably from Chick Corea's "*La Fiesta*" and Stan Kenton's "*Malagueña*". While the harmonic language in the piece shifted over time from when the piece was first created in April 2022, the meaning and feeling of the piece never changed. When I started the work, I was going through a particularly challenging time in school, lacking motivation and drive. I had to dig deep inside myself to find a sense of motion and reason to go on. I turned to music, finding songs that instilled a fire in me. I found that the sounds of African drums resonated within my soul the most, making me feel connected to my African roots, and pushing me to go on. *Afrospire* encapsulates this feeling of being transcended from reality and being left in a trance or dream that tells you to keep going. The word itself is a combination of two words: *Afro*-, meaning relating to african diaspora, and *Spir*-, deriving from spirit.

- Bakhari S. Nokuri (2023)

*Bakhari's piece, "Afrospire" made him the 2024 Recipient of the Atlantic Coast Conference Band Directors Association James E. Croft Grant for Young and Emerging Wind Band Composers Awarded in memory of Robert M. Carnochan, as well as a finalist for the 2024 ASCAP Foundation Morton Gould Young Composer Awards.*

The piece was premiered by Howard County's High School G/T Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Saul Green, Stephen Dunlap, and J.D. Grizzle.

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## Additional Resources

Additional information and music can be found on [nokurimusic.com](https://nokurimusic.com).

Full Score

# AFROSPIRE

BAKHARI S. NOKURI (ASCAP)

Dancing (♩ = 180+)

**Piccolo**

**Flutes** 1 2

**Oboe**

**B♭ Clarinets** 1 2 3

**B♭ Bass Clarinet**

**Bassoons** 1 2

**Contrabassoon**  
(and/or B♭ Contrabass Clar.  
or E♭ Contra Alto Clar.)

**E♭ Alto Saxophones** 1 2

**B♭ Tenor Saxophone**

**E♭ Baritone Saxophone**

**Dancing (♩ = 180+)**

**B♭ Trumpets** 1 2 3

**F Horn** 1 2

**Trombones** 1 2

**Bass Trombone**

**Euphonium**

**Tuba**  
(String Bass)

**Piano**

**Timpani**  
F, D♭, C, G

**Mallet Percussion 1**  
(Crotales, Xylophone,  
Glockenspiel)

**Mallet Percussion 2**  
(Xylophone,  
Vibraphone, Marimba)

**Percussion 1**  
(Opt. Drums, Shaker,  
Castanets)

**Percussion 2**  
(Bongos, Concert Toms,  
Tam-tam,  
Suspended Cymbal, Triangle)

**Percussion 3**  
(Concert Toms, Tambourine,  
Mark Tree, Suspended Cymbal,  
Tam-tam)

**Xylophone**

**Crash Cymbals**

**Bongos**

**Tambourine**

**Concert Toms**

Picc. *Solo* *(end)*  
 Fls. 1 *ff*  
 Fls. 2 *ff*  
 Ob. *ff*  
 Cls. 1 *f*  
 Cls. 2 *f*  
 Cls. 3 *f*  
 B. Cl. *ff*  
 Bsns. 1 *f*  
 Bsns. 2 *ff*  
 Chsn. *sf*  
 A. Sax. 1 *Solo* *(end)*  
 A. Sax. 2 *ff*  
 T. Sax. *ff*  
 B. Sax. *f*  
 Tpts. 1 *f*  
 Tpts. 2 *f*  
 Tpts. 3 *f*  
 Hns. 1 *ff*  
 Hns. 2 *ff*  
 Hns. 3 *ff*  
 Tbns. 1 *ff*  
 Tbns. 2 *ff*  
 B. Tbn. *f*  
 Euph. *f*  
 Tuba *f*  
 Pno. *f*  
 Timp. *sf*  
 Mlt. 1 *(Xyl)*  
 Mlt. 2 *(H.I. hu)*  
 Perc. 1 *(B.D. (Bengra))*  
 Perc. 2 *(S.D.)*  
 Perc. 3 *(Tamb.)*



20

Picc. *ff* *div.*

Fls. 1 *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. 1 *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. 1 *ff*

Chsn. *ff*

A. Sax. 1 *ff*

T. Sax. *ff*

B. Sax. *ff*

20

Tpts. 1 *ff*

2 *ff*

3 *ff*

Hn. 1 *f*

2 *f*

Thsn. 1 *f*

2 *f*

B. Thn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tuba *f*

Pno. *f*

Timp. *f*

Mlt. 1 (Xylo.) *f*

Mlt. 2 (Hli-lu) *f*

Perc. 1 (Benga) (B.D.) *ff*

Perc. 2 (Tamb.) *ff*

Perc. 3 (Tomo) *ff*

28

Picc. 

Fls. 1  2 

Ob. 

Cl. 1  2  3 

B. Cl. 

Bsns. 1  2 

Chsn. 

A. Sax. 1  2 

T. Sax. 

B. Sax. 

28

Tpts. 1  2  3 

Hn. 1  2 

Thns. 1  2 

B. Thn. 

Euph. 

Tuba 

Pno. 

Timp. 

Mit. 1 

Mit. 2 

Perc. 1 

Perc. 2 

Perc. 3 

Picc.  
 Fls. 1  
 2  
 Ob.  
 Cls. 1  
 2  
 3  
 B. Cl.  
 Bsns. 1  
 2  
 Chsn.  
 A. Sax. 1  
 2  
 T. Sax.  
 B. Sax.  
 Tpts. 1  
 2  
 3  
 Hns. 1  
 2  
 Thns. 1  
 2  
 B. Thn.  
 Euph.  
 Tuba  
 Pno.  
 Timp.  
 Mlt. 1  
 Mlt. 2  
 Perc. 1  
 Perc. 2  
 Perc. 3

(Xylo.)  
 (S.D.)  
 (B.D.)  
 (Bongro)  
 (Tamb.)  
 (Czanh Cym.)  
 Str. Cym.  
 mp  
 mp

30 31 32 33 34 35