

AUSTIN ALI

S P A C E

S C A P E

For Solo Harp

Full Score



Ninth Planet
Editions

PERUSAL SCORE

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(2024)

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PROGRAM NOTES

I composed *Space Scape* in New York City in March 2024, originally conceived as a landscape, in the spirit of a landscape painting. In the revision process over the following month, space revealed itself to me in the piece, yielding the title *Space Scape*. In my obsession with space, I made my first attempts at painting space subjects, marveled at images from the James Webb Telescope, and traveled to my hometown of Dallas, Texas to witness the total solar eclipse of April 8th, 2024. Each of these images inspired me to continue deepening my relationship with art, music, and the natural world. The result is my latest meditation on space.

The harp, the star of the piece, is unlike a woodwind, brass, or bowed string instrument because each note naturally decays after the harpist plucks a string. Akin to a shooting star, each note is ephemeral yet brilliant. When played together, the strings resonate as a meteor shower, always disappearing. This piece exploits the natural decay of the harp to convey the vastness of space, time, and humanity's place in the cosmos. The composition begins with three chords, a recurring motif forming the north star of the piece. As the harp explores the harmony, the textures vary, signifying the unfathomable variety of our universe. A sonic meditation, the piece is often abstract yet pithy.

I have paired this work with the "Pillars of Creation," a photograph taken by the James Webb Telescope (credit NASA), inspired by the Hubble's picture of the same iconic portion of the Carina Nebula in the Southern Sky.



Approx. Duration: 6 min.

Harp

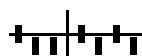
For Alexander Boldachev

SPACE SCAPE

Austin Ali (2024)

Con molto rubato ♩ = 72

Measures 1-3 of the piece. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The first measure features a fortissimo (*f*) *secco* chord in the right hand and a similar chord in the left hand. The second and third measures continue with similar harmonic structures, including some tremolos in the right hand.



Measures 4-6 of the piece. Measure 4 begins with a piano (*p*) *cantabile* section. Measures 5 and 6 feature a *slow arp.* (slow arpeggio) in the right hand, with the left hand providing harmonic support.

Measures 7-15 of the piece. Measures 7-15 are marked with a fortissimo (*f*) *secco* dynamic. The music features a rapid, ascending scale in the right hand, with the left hand playing sustained chords.

Measures 9-15 of the piece. Measures 9-15 are marked with a piano (*ppp*) *libero* dynamic. The music features a *Moving bisbig.* (moving whisper) in the right hand, with the left hand playing sustained chords. The tempo is marked as *accel.* (accelerando).

*Please tune the lowest strings to C-flat and D-sharp and the highest string to G-flat.

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Version 24.4.24

.....molto accel.....

14

cresc. poco a poco

A

..... rit. Tempo I (♩ = 72)

18

p sub. cantabile con rubato

f

Freely

4 seconds in duration

24

25

B a tempo

f

29 **C**

Pedal sound
p

Pedal gliss.

B $\flat$ D $\sharp$ A $\sharp$ G $\flat$ C $\sharp$ G $\sharp$ E $\sharp$

34 **D** Più mosso, ma sempre con rubato

f ord.

8 ba _ _ _

9

38

8 ba _ _ _

40

hum in any octave

f *p*

8 ba _ _ _ 8 ba _ _ _

44

ff

48

E

f secco

A $\flat$
C $\sharp$ B $\flat$

accel. rit.

51

A $\flat$ B $\flat$ G $\sharp$ E $\sharp$

F

54

ff but not abrasive

8^{va} $\lceil$

8^{ba} $\lfloor$

56

8va

8ba

57

8va

8ba

This system contains measures 56 and 57. Measure 56 is in 5/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Measure 57 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Both measures have a 'v' (accents) above the treble staff and a 'v' (accents) below the bass staff. The dynamic is 'pp' (pianissimo).

58

8va

8ba

59

8va

8ba

This system contains measures 58 and 59. Measure 58 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Measure 59 is in 5/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Both measures have a 'v' (accents) above the treble staff and a 'v' (accents) below the bass staff. The dynamic is 'pp' (pianissimo).

60

8va

8ba

slow arp.

slow arp.

G

f

This system contains measures 60, 61, 62, and 63. Measure 60 is in 5/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Measure 61 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Measure 62 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Measure 63 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Both measures have a 'v' (accents) above the treble staff and a 'v' (accents) below the bass staff. The dynamic is 'pp' (pianissimo).

64

65

66

67

This system contains measures 64, 65, 66, and 67. Measure 64 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Measure 65 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Measure 66 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Measure 67 is in 4/4 time and features a treble clef with a whole note chord of Bb3, D4, and F#4, and a bass clef with a whole note chord of Bb1, D2, and F#2. Both measures have a 'v' (accents) above the treble staff and a 'v' (accents) below the bass staff. The dynamic is 'pp' (pianissimo).

69 **H**

p

73

f *p sub.*

77

f *p sub.*

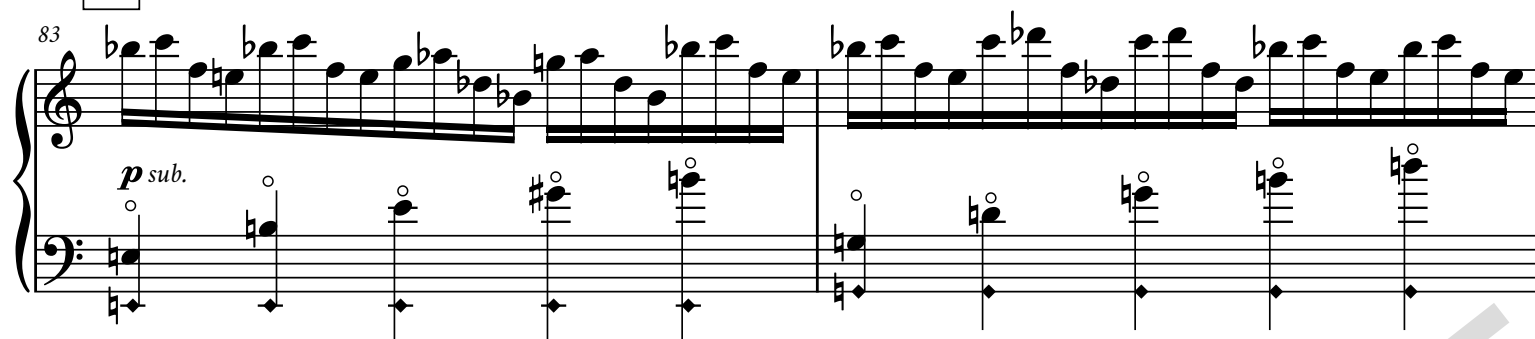
80

f *p sub.*

I

83

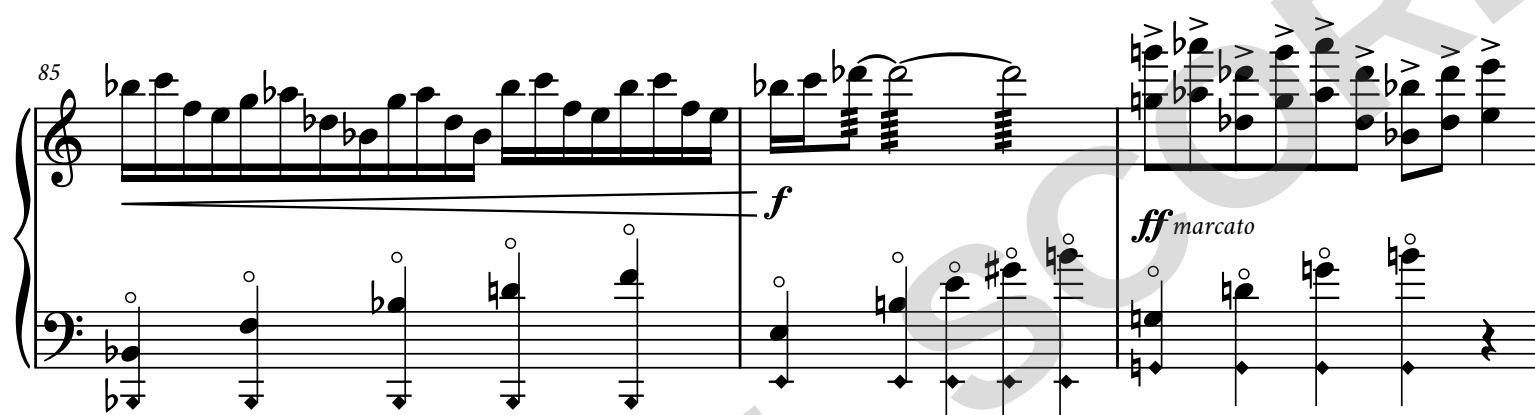
p sub.



85

f

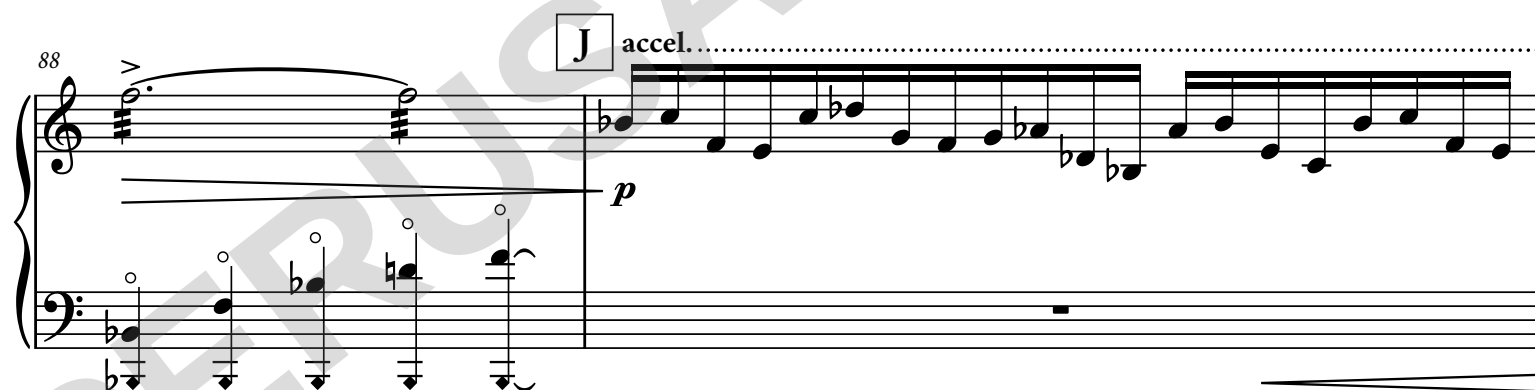
ff marcato



88

J accel.

p



90

mf



92

ff *p cresc.*

94

K

molto *ff secco*

98

p cantabile

101

L Free time

f sonore *8va*