



# Celestial Warriors

CONNOR DUNFORD

## Instrumentation

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Full Score	1
Flute	8
Oboe (Opt. Flute 2)	2
B $\flat$ Clarinet	2
Bass Clarinet	2
Alto Saxophone	5
Tenor Saxophone	2
Baritone Saxophone	2
B $\flat$ Trumpet	8
Horn in F	4
Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon	6
Baritone Tuba	2
Tuba	4
String Bass	2
Timpani (Opt.)	2
Mallets	2
Bells	
Percussion 1	2
Snare Drum, Bass Drum	
Percussion 2	4
Crash Cymbals, Mark Tree, Triangle, Gong	

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## About the Composer



Connor Dunford (b. 2006) is a saxophonist and composer studying Music Education at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia. In 2025, Connor graduated from Franklin County High School in Rocky Mount, Virginia, where he served as a drum major and performed in various ensembles. As one of the youngest published composers of band and orchestral music, Connor intends to offer a fresh musical voice that is engaging for musicians and audiences alike. Many of his compositions, which are published by Wingert-Jones Publications, have appeared on the BandWorld Top 100 List and are JW Pepper Editors' Choice Selections. Additionally, his pieces have been performed in new music reading sessions at major state and university conferences across the country.

As a saxophonist, Connor has received several honors in saxophone performance, including performances with the Virginia All-State Symphonic Band in 2024 and 2025, as well as performances in various other district and area honor bands. At James Madison University, he performs with the Symphonic Band, Wind Symphony, and the Marching Royal Dukes. His saxophone instructors have included Dr. Sheldon Johnson (Radford University), Wayne Tice (West Point Band), and David Pope (James Madison University). Professional affiliations as a composer and educator include the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), the National Association for Music Education (NAfME), and the Virginia Music Educators Association (VMEA). After college, Connor plans to continue to compose and arrange music, along with beginning his career as a public school music educator.

## Celestial Warriors

*Celestial Warriors* is a dramatic work that takes players and listeners through an intense intergalactic battle! The piece uses loud statements, accented passages, and active Percussion to show the clashing of these celestial warriors. The looming melody is introduced by the low voices at M.11, meant to represent a dark intergalactic force coming into battle. After the upper voices take on this melody, the two armies clash at M.27, demonstrated by the loud accented articulations from the Winds. After a brief restatement of the opening theme, the melody returns at M.43 to show the continuation of this intense battle, before the piece comes to a booming conclusion with the loud sounding of a gong on the final note!

### Rehearsal Suggestions

- While much of this piece is accented, ensure that areas that are not accented show contrast to the accented sections. For example, ensure that the melody in the low voices at M.11 is played full, yet long and connected to contrast other sections.
- Ensure that repeated staccato passages (e.g. upper Woodwinds, M.11) remain light and bouncy.

I hope that you and your students enjoy the thrilling intergalactic battle in *Celestial Warriors*!



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Recordings are available on all major streaming services.



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

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11

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B $\flat$  Cl. *mp*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax. *mf*

11

B $\flat$  Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn./  
Euph./  
Bsn. *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Mal.

Perc. 1 *mf* Mark Tree Triangle

Perc. 2 *mf*



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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27

27

27

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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35

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$  Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

35

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

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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

Gong

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