



**Perusal Score - Not for Performance**

# Light Descending

music for concert band  
Kevin Poelking

**Perusal Score- Not for Performance**

# Light Descending (2023)

## Instrumentation

-Many parts are doubled or cued in another instrument to allow the work to be played by ensembles with incomplete instrumentation.  
-Percussion can be eliminated (due to a percussionist shortage) at the conductor's discretion.

Flute I-II  
Oboe (divisi)  
Bassoon (divisi)

Timpani

Clarinet in Bb I-II-III  
Bass Clarinet

Percussion I:

*Glockenspiel (piano can be substituted, transpose up 2 octaves)*

Alto Saxophone I-II  
Tenor Saxophone  
Baritone Saxophone

Percussion II:

*Vibraphone, Marimba (piano can be substituted)*

Trumpet in Bb I-II-III  
Horn I-II  
Trombone I-II-III  
Euphonium  
Tuba

Percussion III:

*Suspended Cymbal, Low Toms*

*Metallic instruments positioned throughout the concert hall*

Percussion IV:

*Triangle, Bass Drum, Tam-tam*

Duration: ca. 4 ½ minutes

## Note from the Composer:

*Light Descending* draws its inspiration from the counterintuitive idea that as we move downward, away from the sunlight, the world can become even *more* magnificent.

The music begins in full light with a *Grandioso* introduction, representing the more obvious beauty that we can see every day. The work is anchored by an eighth note ostinato which is intentionally ambiguous as to whether it is ascending or descending, representing that physically moving lower does not necessarily mean the same emotional response.

Towards the end of the work, the *Grandioso* from the introduction returns as if to show that if we are willing to find it, *the beauty above can be found*.

(This work was written shortly after I finished reading Robert McFarlane's *Underland: A Deep Time Journey*. While perhaps not literally represented, the vivid descriptions of hidden water, cave systems, and glaciers were certainly fresh in my mind during the compositional process.)

## Performance Notes:

### Measure 35 (Ethereal)

The conductor has the option to place additional "percussionists" throughout the performance venue (backstage, within the audience, etc.) to enhance the effect of emptiness or floating within a large space with small points of light, or constant dripping water. Resonant metallic instruments like triangles, wind chimes, etc. are appropriate. If pitched percussion instruments are used (glockenspiel, crotales, etc.) they should limit their pitch to those indicated in the Percussion I and II parts.

### Measures 48-49 (Freely)

Exact entrances are important in these measures; members of each section can "stagger" into their entrance. The effect of a gradual crescendo is the priority and the (imperfect) notation serves as a general guideline as to when each voice should enter.

### Tempo markings throughout

A number of tempo suggestions are provided to guide the conductor. However, the conductor may make musically informed changes to any of these if they so choose. The presence of these suggestions should not limit a unique, thoughtful interpretation.

More information, recordings, composer bio and contact at  
[KevinPoelking.com](http://KevinPoelking.com)

Cover photo by Michael Worden

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# The 2023 Purposeful Repertoire Consortium Members

This work is a collaboration between the composer and a small consortium of conductors with intimate knowledge of the repertoire and the needs of ensembles in this genre.

All members agreed that this work should be available to all ensembles after an unusually short "exclusivity period" in order to provide a new piece to the concert band community that they serve.

Dr. Cassandra Bechard

*University of Northwestern St. Paul*

Dr. Zach Cheever

*Indiana University of Pennsylvania*

Mr. Nick Garofalo

*Chattahoochee High School*

Mr. Aaron Herman

*Fossil Ridge High School*

Mr. Robert Hickey

*Penn State University*

Dr.etsy McCann

*University of Minnesota- Twin Cities*

Dr. Rebecca Phillips

*Fort Collins Wind Symphony*

Dr. Jonathan Sweet

*Washington State University*

Dr. Jayme Taylor

*Colorado State University*

Dr. JoAnn Wieszyk

*Moravian University*

Dr. Quintus F. Wrighten Jr.

*University of South Carolina*

*Members are listed in alphabetical order by last name.*

# for concert band Light Descending

Kevin Poelking (2023)

Grandioso ♩ = 72

rit.

solo

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe

Bassoon

Clarinet in B $\flat$  1

Clarinet in B $\flat$  2

Clarinet in B $\flat$  3

Bass Clarinet

Alto Sax 1

Alto Sax 2

Tenor Sax

Baritone Sax

Trumpet in B $\flat$  1

Trumpet in B $\flat$  2

Trumpet in B $\flat$  3

Horn in F 1

Horn in F 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion I

Percussion II

Percussion III

Percussion IV

Sus. Cym.

Low Tom with hard yarn mallets

B.D.

Tam-tam

Vib.

Ped. sempre

2

3

4

5

6

Steady, legato ♩ = 64

Mallets

Fl. 1 *tutti* *p*

Fl. 2 *p*

Ob. *p*

Bsn. *p*

B♭ Cl. 1 *p*

B♭ Cl. 2 *p*

B♭ Cl. 3 *p*

B. Cl. *p*

A. Sx. 1 *p*

A. Sx. 2 *p*

T. Sx. *p*

B. Sx. *p*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *p*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *p*

B♭ Tpt. 3 *p*

Hn. 1 *p*

Hn. 2 *p*

Tbn. 1 *p*

Tbn. 2 *p*

Tbn. 3 *p*

Euph. *p*

Tuba *p*

Timp. *pp*

Perc. I *pp* Glock.

Perc. II *n.* *mp*

Perc. III *n.*

Perc. IV *B.D.* *pp resonant* *Tam-tam. continuous scrape with metal beater* *n.*

Rehearsal Score - Not for Performance

Fl. 1 *mp*

Fl. 2 *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 3 *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sx. 1 *mp*

A. Sx. 2 *mp*

T. Sx. *mp*

B. Sx. *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *pp*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *pp*

B♭ Tpt. 3 *pp*

Hn. 1 *mp*

Hn. 2 *mp*

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mp*

Tbn. 3 *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tuba *mp* 1 player *tutti*

Timp.

Perc. I *p*

Perc. II *Vib only*  
*Ped. with slur markings*

Perc. III *mp*

Perc. IV *mf* *n.* *mp* *n.*

**Retinal Score - Not for Performance**

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
B♭ Cl. 1  
B♭ Cl. 2  
B♭ Cl. 3  
B. Cl.  
A. Sax. 1  
A. Sax. 2  
T. Sax.  
B. Sax.  
B♭ Tpt. 1  
B♭ Tpt. 2  
B♭ Tpt. 3  
Hn. 1  
Hn. 2  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Tbn. 3  
Euph.  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Perc. I  
Perc. II  
Perc. III  
Perc. IV

*mf*  
*mf*  
*molto mp*  
*p*  
*molto mf*  
*mp*  
*molto mp*  
*mp*  
*molto mp*  
*mp*  
*molto mp*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
*p*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
*p*  
*p*  
*n.*  
*n.*  
*n.*  
*n.*  
*p*  
*p*  
*p*  
*n.*  
*mf* on shell, log drum, or other resonant wood material  
*pp*  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*pp*  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*mp*  
*mp* (scrape)  
*mf*  
*mp*

Trombone 3

Perusal Score - Not for Performance



Fl. 1  
 Fl. 2  
 Ob.  
 Bsn.  
 B♭ Cl. 1  
 B♭ Cl. 2  
 B♭ Cl. 3  
 B. Cl.  
 A. Sax. 1  
 A. Sax. 2  
 T. Sax.  
 B. Sax.  
 B♭ Tpt. 1  
 B♭ Tpt. 2  
 B♭ Tpt. 3  
 Hn. 1  
 Hn. 2  
 Tbn. 1  
 Tbn. 2  
 Tbn. 3  
 Euph.  
 Tuba  
 Timp.  
 Perc. I  
 Perc. II  
 Perc. III  
 Perc. IV

Perusal Score - Not for Performance



rit.

This musical score page contains the following parts and markings:

- Fl. 1 & 2:** Flute parts with *pp* dynamics.
- Ob.:** Oboe part with *mp* dynamics and triplets.
- Bsn.:** Bassoon part with *mp* dynamics and triplets.
- B♭ Cl. 1, 2, 3:** Clarinet parts with *pp* dynamics.
- B. Cl.:** Bass Clarinet part with *pp* dynamics and triplets.
- A. Sx. 1 & 2:** Alto Saxophone parts with *pp* dynamics.
- T. Sx.:** Tenor Saxophone part with *n.* (no breath mark) and *f* dynamics.
- B. Sx.:** Baritone Saxophone part with *n.* and *f* dynamics.
- B♭ Tpt. 1, 2, 3:** Trumpet parts.
- Hn. 1 & 2:** Horn parts with *n.* and *f* dynamics.
- Tbn. 1, 2, 3:** Trombone parts with *pp* dynamics.
- Euph.:** Euphonium part with *f* dynamics and triplets.
- Tuba:** Tuba part with *mp* dynamics and triplets.
- Timp.:** Timpani part.
- Perc. I:** Percussion I part with instruction "dampen all".
- Perc. II:** Percussion II part with *n.* and *mf* dynamics, and a box labeled "Mba. only".
- Perc. III:** Percussion III part with *n.* and *mf* dynamics.
- Perc. IV:** Percussion IV part with *mf* dynamics.

Return Score - Not for Performance

35 Ethereal (♩ = ca. 72)

*meno mosso*

Fl. 1 *mf* 1 player *p* tutti

Fl. 2 *f* 1 player *p* tutti

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1 *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *pp*

B♭ Cl. 3 *pp*

B. Cl. *pp*

A. Sx. 1 solo *mf*

A. Sx. 2 *pp*

T. Sx. *pp*

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1 *pp*

Hn. 2 *pp*

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp. *ppp*

Perc. I randomly and sparsely play these pitches in all octaves

Perc. II randomly and sparsely play these pitches in all octaves

Perc. III All Available Play metallic, "sparkling" instruments onstage and throughout entire concert hall

Perc. IV All Available Play metallic, "sparkling" instruments onstage and throughout entire concert hall

*mf* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *n.*

Red diagonal watermark: "Rehearsal Score - Not for Performance"



*a tempo*

*rit.*

*Freely* solo

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B $\flat$  Cl. 1

B $\flat$  Cl. 2

B $\flat$  Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B $\flat$  Tpt. 1

B $\flat$  Tpt. 2

B $\flat$  Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

1 pl...

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

(low winds enter)

(low winds enter)

(low winds enter)

(low winds enter)

norm.

*p*

[39]

[40]

[41]

[42]

Score, p. 9

43 ca. ♩ = 64

*poco accel.*

*rit.*

Fl. 1 *tutti* *mf* *f*

Fl. 2 *mf* *f*

Ob. *pp* *mf* solo

Bsn. *mf*

B♭ Cl. 1 *tutti* *mp* *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp* *mp*

B♭ Cl. 3 *mp* *mf*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sx. 1 *tutti* *pp* *mp*

A. Sx. 2 *pp* *mp*

T. Sx. *mp*

B. Sx. *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 1 solo *pp* *mp*

B♭ Tpt. 2 *pp*

B♭ Tpt. 3 *pp*

Hn. 1 solo *n.* *f* *n.*

Hn. 2 *n.* *f* *n.*

Tbn. 1 *n.* *f* *n.*

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. I *f*

Perc. II *Vib. only* *Vib+Mba* *Vib. only* *f*

Perc. III *ppp* [metallic, instruments (as before)] *mf* *mf*

Perc. IV *mf* (scrape)

Refusal Score - Not for Performance

Freely

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

B♭ Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2

B♭ Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. I

Perc. II

Perc. III

Perc. IV

*n.*

*f*

*tutti*

Vib+Mba

48

49

50

51

Perusal Score - Not for Performance

FL 1  
FL 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
B♭ Cl. 1  
B♭ Cl. 2  
B♭ Cl. 3  
B. Cl.  
A. Sx. 1  
A. Sx. 2  
T. Sx.  
B. Sx.  
B♭ Tpt. 1  
B♭ Tpt. 2  
B♭ Tpt. 3  
Hn. 1  
Hn. 2  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Tbn. 3  
Euph.  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Perc. I  
Perc. II  
Perc. III  
Perc. IV

**Rehearsal Score! Not for Performance**

*mp* *f* *p* *mf*  
*f* *n.* *mf*

52 53 54 55



Score page 58, featuring parts for Flutes (Fl. 1, Fl. 2), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinets (Bb Cl. 1, Bb Cl. 2, Bb Cl. 3, B. Cl.), Saxophones (A. Sax. 1, A. Sax. 2, T. Sax., B. Sax.), Trumpets (Bb Tpt. 1, Bb Tpt. 2, Bb Tpt. 3), Horns (Hn. 1, Hn. 2), Trombones (Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba, Timpani (Timp.), Percussion I (Perc. I), Percussion II (Perc. II), Percussion III (Perc. III), and Percussion IV (Perc. IV). The score includes various dynamics (ff, ff, ff, p, mf) and performance instructions like "as before, more quickly this time" and "metallic instruments as before, more quickly this time".

Rental Score! Not for Performance

*poco rit. poco meno mosso*

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
B $\flat$  Cl. 1  
B $\flat$  Cl. 2  
B $\flat$  Cl. 3  
B. Cl.  
A. Sx. 1  
A. Sx. 2  
T. Sx.  
B. Sx.  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 1  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 2  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 3  
Hn. 1  
Hn. 2  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Tbn. 3  
Euph.  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Perc. I  
Perc. II  
Perc. III  
Perc. IV

*mf* *mp* *f* *pp* *mf* *n.* *f*

60 61 62 63

*poco accel.* *poco rit.* **Grandioso** *rit.*

Fl. 1 *p* *mp* *ff*

Fl. 2 *mp* *ff*

Ob. *mp* *ff*

Bsn. *mf* *ff*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf* *ff*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mf* *ff*

B♭ Cl. 3 *mf* *ff*

B. Cl. *mf* *ff*

A. Sx. 1 *mf* *ff*

A. Sx. 2 *mf* *ff*

T. Sx. *mf* *ff*

B. Sx. *mf* *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *ff* *mf* 1 player

B♭ Tpt. 2 *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 3 *ff*

Hn. 1 *pp* *ff*

Hn. 2 *pp* *ff* *mp*

Tbn. 1 *pp* *ff* *mf*

Tbn. 2 *pp* *ff* *mf*

Tbn. 3 *pp* *ff* *mf*

Euph. *pp* *ff* *mf*

Tuba *p* *ff* *mf*

Timp. *p* *f* *p*

Perc. I *ff*

Perc. II *p* *ff*

Perc. III *n.* *ff* *n.* *f*

Perc. IV *norm.* *n.* *ff* *ffz* *mf* *pp* *mp*

64 65 66 67 68

G.P. *morendo*

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
B $\flat$  Cl. 1  
B $\flat$  Cl. 2  
B $\flat$  Cl. 3  
B. Cl.  
A. Sx. 1  
A. Sx. 2  
T. Sx.  
B. Sx.  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 1  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 2  
B $\flat$  Tpt. 3  
Hn. 1  
Hn. 2  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Tbn. 3  
Euph.  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Perc. I  
Perc. II  
Perc. III  
Perc. IV

*p* *poco* *pp* *ppp*

Tenor Sax  
Horn 1  
Euphonium  
*pp* Euphonium

69 70 71 72 73 74