MICHAEL MARKOWSKI

DRAWING MARS

FOR WIND ENSEMBLE

SAMPLE SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE - NOT A PURCHASED COPY
INSTRUMENTATION FOR WIND ENSEMBLE

WOODWINDS
Flute 1 & 2
Oboe
Bassoon
B♭ Clarinet 1 & 2
B♭ Bass Clarinet
B♭ Contrabass Clarinet
Alto Saxophone 1 & 2
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone

BRASS
B♭ Trumpet 1 & 2
F Horn 1 & 2
Trombone 1 & 2
Euphonium
Tuba

PERCUSSION
1. Timpani
2. Glockenspiel, Chimes
3. Vibraphone, Tam-Tam
4. Marimba, Sus. Cymbal
5. Hi-Hat, Sus. Trash Cymbal, Tam-Tam
6. Temple Blocks, Tambourine, Crash Cymbals, Vibraslap
7. Snare Drum, Triangle
8. Bass Drum

Duration: ca. 5:00

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For more information, please visit http://www.michaelmarkowski.com
In 6th grade, my entire class participated in a “wax museum” history project — a “night at the museum” at Crismon Elementary School in Mesa, Arizona. We all stood along the perimeter in the library, in front of bookcases, with a small construction paper circle on the floor in front of us. This was the “button” that, when stepped on, activated the speeches we had memorized, narrated in the voices of the historic figures we had chosen to embody. One of us dressed as Sacajawea, another as Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Jr., etc. My costume was a simple turtleneck sweater. Long before Steve Jobs made turtlenecks trendy, there was Carl Sagan, and for one night, I became him.

Before I discovered my love for music, I loved space. In my bedroom, in the many craters of my popcorn ceiling, I stuck what must have been hundreds of tiny glow-in-dark stars. On hot, summer nights, a swirling galaxy would appear as I also peppered these stickers on the blades of my ceiling fan. On my desk next was a large plastic globe of the moon and, for a short-lived time in our living room, I had even constructed a homemade planetarium taped together from triangular pieces of heavy, black garbage bags and inflated by a table fan. Inside, equipped with a flashlight and a laser pointer, I talked to an imaginary audience about my favorite constellations and the planets of our solar system as they, too, glowed on the inside ceiling of this giant, dark plastic bubble. In the evenings, I spent hours looking at the surface of the moon, at Mars, at the rings of Saturn, at the moons orbiting Jupiter, at the Andromeda galaxy, at that fuzzy little nebula near Orion’s belt, all through an 8” diameter telescope in my backyard. I even remember trying to read a couple of Carl Sagan’s books, although in retrospect I was probably too young to really understand them. But after finding a few episodes of his show Cosmos, a TV program that made the wonders of the universe easily digestible, I was hooked. For a 7th grade English project, I even made a short film called Their First Encounter — my first attempt at writing and directing science-fiction, complete with fog, strobe lights, and tin foil costumes.
As my obsession grew, I eventually asked my mom to drive me two hours north to Flagstaff, Arizona where Lowell Observatory has stood at the top of Mars Hill Road for the last 100 years. Percival Lowell was born into a rich family in the mid 1800s, studied math at Harvard, travelled the world, but soon realized that the universe was calling to him. Out of his own pocket, he funded his own observatory.

Lowell was obsessed with the planet Mars. His colleague in Italy, a guy by the name of Giovanni Schiaparelli, had discovered strange lines all across the planet — lines that, in Italian, he called ‘canali’ (not to be confused with cannoli). In Italian, canali roughly translates to ‘channel-like landscapes’— like a riverbed — something naturally made — no big deal. But when Lowell translated the word, he called them ‘canals,’ which have a very different connotation. When we think of canals, as Lowell did, we probably think of something man-made, something that has been constructed with purpose and intention.

Lowell wanted to study these canals for himself, so night after night, he would look through his telescope up at Mars, then down at a piece of paper and draw the surface of the planet as he saw it. He did this for months and eventually developed a theory: he believed that Mars was a dying planet — that it was drying up — and in order to save their civilization, some kind of intelligent beings had constructed this incredible system of canals — some 30 miles wide — in an attempt to siphon melting water from the polar ice caps and funnel them down to the major metropolitan areas, the darker areas on the planet which he called oases.

The crazy thing about all this is that people believed him! Actually, there was really no reason to doubt him. He was well-educated, he had the best technology available for the times and one of the biggest telescopes in the world. He wrote three really convincing books arguing this theory, and in 1905, even The New York Times ran a full page article under the headline “THERE IS LIFE ON THE PLANET MARS: Prof. Percival Lowell, recognized as the greatest authority on the subject, declares there can be no doubt that living beings inhabit our neighbor world.” In fact, it would take another 50 years for scientists to get close enough to Mars to see in better detail that oh... there aren’t actually any Martian-made canals after all. Although we now know that the canals that Lowell saw were largely psychological tricks, his observations captured the imagination of the world and even inspired early 20th century science-fiction like H.G. Welles’s War of the Worlds and Edgar Rice Boulough’s many Mars-inspired books.

I don’t think the music in Drawing Mars tells a story about aliens invading Earth or of “first contact” or anything like that, but I do think it tries to get inside Lowell’s head as he looks through his telescope, night after night, in the dark, all alone, as his mind maybe starts to wander... and wonder... woah, what if I’m right? What if there is life on Mars?

Of course, we now know that Lowell’s imagination maybe got the best of him, but as Einstein said, “imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited, whereas imagination embraces the entire world, stimulating progress, giving birth to evolution.”
COMMISSIONED BY

PATRICK MARSH
MIDDLE SCHOOL
7TH GRADE BAND

Sun Prairie, Wisconsin
Chris Gleason, Director
PREMIERE PERFORMANCE

*Drawing Mars* premiered on May 7, 2019 in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin with the Patrick Marsh Middle School 7th Grade Band conducted by Chris Gleason.

**FLUTE**
- Molly Abler
- Grace Feisthammel
- Meciya Jurak
- Johannah Kolstad
- Kelsi Lauritsen
- Alexsys Lupori
- Makenzie Martinez
- Kaitlyn Truitt
- Alanna Winburn

**OBOE**
- Spencer Zych

**BASSOON**
- Aiden Bontrager
- Maggie Loesch

**CLARINET**
- Megan Anciaux
- Bridget Bedner
- Kaitlin Bindley
- Lydia Budde
- Ella DeSelle
- Jordan Durbin
- Avery Greenberg
- Lydia Gross
- Alex Hartman
- Ava Koch
- Nicholas Koppen
- Kate Oettinger
- Alyssa Pearson
- Hannah Pertzborn
- Talya Spatola
- Cassie Swissdorf
- Adison Wildes
- Laire Woznicki

**BASS CLARINET**
- Suvan Sharma
- Shrom Tripathi
- Anisa Whipple

**ALTO SAXOPHONE**
- Brooke Ayres
- Kaylie Frydenlund
- Sahuna Lauritsen
- Ella Stebitz
- Luna Velazquez-Valdes
- Zitha Wambura

**TENOR SAXOPHONE**
- Reece Buckingham
- Nathanael Codlyn
- Breah Menzel

**BARITONE SAXOPHONE**
- Lauren Ausse
- Connor Niedermeier

**TRUMPET**
- Adan Alt
- Ben Amessoudijii
- Ethan Barnford
- Brock Blake
- Bennett Braatz
- Connor Dahlberg
- Kane Dahler
- Tristan Dega
- Miles Emaad
- Elijah Floyd
- Jacob Hamen
- Landon Holmen
- Finnian Munn
- Trevor Nicodemus
- Landon Pederson
- Landon Rabbitt
- Austin Raduechel
- Trevor Rahaman
- Daniel Reid
- Julia Shore
- Jace Stolte
- Gus Swingen
- Danica Walters
- Caleb West

**TROMBONE**
- Andrew Anderson
- Jonathan Daniels
- Ajahna Daughtry
- Remy Godard
- Kylee Haak
- Alexander Horton
- Justin Jenkins
- Zoe Leffel
- Megan Lindgren
- Jordan Marshall
- John McLean
- Jordan Reid
- Lowan Wagner
- Joren Wilson

**EUPHONIUM**
- Kasey Karls
- Alex Nawrot
- Allie Rausch
- Ismael Tepox Carrillo
- James Weckerle
- Ethan Wedekind

**TUBA**
- Gretchen Bedner
- Grant Camp
- Miles Gleason
- Lamin Janneh
- Gretchen Meier
- Logan Nour
- Augustus Pierre
- Alton Williams

**PERCUSSION**
- Sara Drake
- Ben Gleiter
- Elliot Lydon
- Mylerson Maughan
- Jackson Nesbit
- Mason Page
- Audrey Seefeldt
- Chyler Smith
- Hayden West
- Daniel Wilson