

David R. Gillingham
GALACTIC EMPIRES

INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo	1	B-flat Trumpet 1	3
Flute 1	4	B-flat Trumpet 2	3
Flute 2	4	B-flat Trumpet 3	3
Oboe 1/2 & English Horn ..	2	F Horn 1	1
Bassoon 1/2	2	F Horn 2	1
B-flat Clarinet 1	4	F Horn 3	1
B-flat Clarinet 2	4	F Horn 4	1
B-flat Clarinet 3	4	Trombone 1	2
Bass Clarinet	2	Trombone 2	2
E-flat Contralto Clarinet	1	Trombone 3	1
Soprano Saxophone	1	Euphonium	2
Alto Saxophone	3	[Baritone T.C.]	2
Tenor Saxophone	2	Tuba	4
Baritone Saxophone	1	Piano	1
Timpani (4)	1		
Percussion 1	1	brake drum, snare drum, triangle, suspended cymbal	
Percussion 2	1	bass drums, hi-hat, crash cymbals	
Percussion 3	1	xylophone, 4.3-octave marimba, suspended cymbal	
Percussion 4	1	bells, chimes, crash cymbals	
Percussion 5	1	crotales, vibraphone, tam-tam, slap stick	

PROGRAM NOTES

My lifelong fascination with the mysteries of the universe has come to fruition in *Galactic Empires*. Our understanding of distances on Earth, which have clear beginnings and endings, makes it inconceivable that the universe is endless. *Galactic Empires* is a musical journey through only three of an infinite number of galaxies, two foreign and one that is our own "Milky Way." To gain the inspiration for this work, I let my imagination run wild and envisioned each galaxy as having a particular aura that is reflected in the music.

The work is set in three connected movements, each representing a "star" in a particular universe:

1. Battlestar of the Andromeda Nebula

Within the Andromeda Nebula Galaxy lies a star where hate radiates into its atmosphere a smoky, black cloud forming a ring around the angry sphere. Close to the surface, one can hear the incessant drumming rhythms of war, for this is an empire bent on destruction of all other life forms on the galaxy. Across the jagged, dark, cold landscape are thousands of domed bases housing troops and weapons of annihilation. Multitudes of amphibious-like alien creatures clad in silver and black armor move in and out of the domes while hundreds of disk-shaped airships land and take off from the surface. All of this occurring against the backdrop of a sky lit with explosions from other stars of the galaxy as they are one by one destroyed by the empire of the Battlestar.

2. Eveningstar of the Magellanic Cloud

In stark contrast to the Battlestar is the Eveningstar found in the center of the galaxy of the Magellanic Cloud. This is a place of beauty beyond words. Four suns of multiple colors shine upon this star making the star appear as a huge domed rainbow. Life on the Eveningstar is one of tranquility and peace. The aliens of this star are thin, stick-like beings with oversized heads and large silver and oval slanted eyes reflecting warmth, understanding, and superior knowledge. The inhabitants of this star are the most advanced of the entire universe and exist in a sort of utopic state.

3. Earthstar of the Milky Way

The Earthstar is the most vibrant and eclectic star to be found in any galaxy of the universe. The humans who inhabit this star have a most interesting history that reflects both the most hideous atrocities and the most marvelous achievements of its people. It has the potential to achieve a status equal to the Eveningstar of the Magellanic Cloud but must begin to learn from the mistakes of the past. Still, a sense of joy and celebration radiates from the surface of the Earthstar... an energy field created by unbounding faith and hope for humankind.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

David R. Gillingham (b. 1947) earned Bachelor and Master Degrees in Instrumental Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and the PhD in Music Theory/Composition from Michigan State University. Dr. Gillingham has an international reputation for the works he has written for band and percussion. Many of these works are now considered standards in the repertoire. His commissioning schedule dates well into the first decade of the 21st century. His numerous awards include the 1981 DeMoulin Award for Concerto for Bass Trombone and Wind Ensemble and the 1990 International Barlow Competition (Brigham Young University) for Heroes, Lost and Fallen. Dr. Gillingham's works have been recorded by Klavier, Sony and Summit and Centaur. His works are regularly performed by nationally recognized ensembles including the Prague Radio Orchestra, Cincinnati Conservatory of Music Wind Ensemble, The University of Georgia Bands, North Texas University Wind Ensemble, Michigan State University Wind Ensemble, Oklahoma State Wind Ensemble, University of Oklahoma Wind Ensemble, Florida State Wind Ensemble, University of Florida (Miami) Wind Ensemble, University of Illinois Symphonic Band, Illinois State Wind Symphony, University of Minnesota Wind Ensemble, Indiana University Wind Ensemble and the University of Wisconsin Wind Ensemble. Also, nationally known artists, Fred Mills (Canadian Brass), Randall Hawes (Detroit Symphony) and Charles Vernon (Chicago Symphony Orchestra) have performed works by Dr. Gillingham. Over sixty of his works for band, choir, percussion, chamber ensembles, and solo instruments are published by C. Alan, Hal Leonard, Southern Music, Music for Percussion, Carl Fischer, MMB, T.U.B.A., I.T.A., and Dorn. Dr. Gillingham is a Professor of Music at Central Michigan University and the recipient of an Excellence in Teaching Award (1990), a Summer Fellowship (1991), a Research Professorship (1995), and the recently, the President's Research Investment Fund grant for his co-authorship of a proposal to establish an International Center for New Music at Central Michigan University. He is a member of ASCAP and has been receiving the ASCAP Standard Award for Composers of Concert Music since 1996.



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