

music excellence *london.*

AsCent



Composed for the Key Stage Two or
Key Stage Three Classroom by

Keir C. Crawley

'AsCent'

Notes from the Composer

'AsCent' is the culmination of a number of ideas and experiences, first of which was the need to compose exciting and challenging music for the classroom. This piece attempts to put the Key Stage 2 or Key Stage 3 budding musician into the musical world of the Marvel Cinematic Universe or other similar big budget sci-fi action adventure films. Combining motor ostinati with contextually more adventurous accompanying harmony my aim is to move the musical learning away from the sometimes twee and undemanding into something with a little more musical bite. As such 'AsCent' should be playable by students from Year 6 upwards, either in its entirety as written live or to a backing track.

The title comes from a recent 'flight' on the British Airways i360 on Brighton seafront. This is an almost hard sci-fi sky-tether-esque oblate ellipsoid viewing pod that majestically raises its passenger's 453 feet above the Sussex coastline revealing a magnificent 360 degree panorama. The capital A and C also represent the main tonal centres found in the piece. Finally the majority of the melodic contours rise in some way.

'AsCent' is composed to be adaptable; there are parts in C and Bb. I hear this as flute and trumpet but with careful octave transpositions these could equally be for violin and clarinet. There are also straightforward parts for bass guitar (also notated in tab) and keyboard/synthesiser aimed at students who have taken lower end ABRSM or similar exams. The piano part is aimed at the teacher.

Glockenspiels and xylophones – after 15 years of music teaching I have a love hate relationship with these particularly the former! There's nothing better for creating an immediate access, inclusive sense of ensemble but nothing worse than the headache inducing sound of 28 pupils simultaneously preparing their own line for even 5 minutes. 'AsCent' has 2 glockenspiel and 2 xylophone parts, which stay within a relatively small range and on the 'white' notes. This should help facilitate as many students as possible joining in.

The percussion part could be shared by two students but is also just about playable by one. Please feel free to use whatever comes to hand, if you don't have a bass drum try a surdo. No snare drum, perhaps a djembe? The body percussion part as well as being fashionable at the time of writing is another useful way of including as many as possible in the music making. Again please feel free to adapt what's written or better still encourage your young musicians to compose their own in response to the piece.

In my own teaching I would divide up the parts for 'AsCent' roughly as follows:

- **C Part:** 1 or 2 players doubling
- **Bb Part:** 1 or 2 players doubling
- **Glockenspiel 1:** 5 players
- **Glockenspiel 2:** 5 players
- **Xylophone 1:** 5 players
- **Xylophone 2:** 5 players
- **Body Percussion:** 4 or 5 performers
- **Percussion:** 1 or 2 players
- **Keyboard/Synth:** 1 player or 2 players sharing, 1 on each hand
- **Piano:** 1 player, probably but not necessarily, the music teacher

Rhythmically 'AsCent' is based around alternating time signatures of three-four and six-eight (representing the 3 and 6 of the i360) with a middle section (bar 57, letter D) in four-four. Quaver equals quaver throughout. I would therefore suggest, from a teaching perspective, that this pattern is introduced first. Teach your performers to clap on the strong beats and then move to the body percussion patterns. This way what might at first seem an intimidating score from the rhythmic perspective with its ever changing time signatures will soon become second nature. This approach will also help with bars 33-35 where a two-four bar is also introduced.

A recording of 'AsCent' can be found at: www.soundcloud.com – Keir C. Crawley – AsCent, a piece for the classroom. <https://soundcloud.com/keir-c-crawley/ascent-a-piece-for-the-classroom>

'AsCent' is dedicated to all music teachers everywhere – never forget you do an amazing and vital job in schools throughout the country and beyond.

Keir C. Crawley
London, December 2016

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2015 – 2016

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Music Excellence London
2016 – 2017

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C Part – suggesting flute or violin
Bb Part – suggesting trumpet or clarinet

Glockenspiel 1

Glockenspiel 2

Xylophone 1

Xylophone 2

Body Percussion

Percussion – Bass Drum, Snare Drum & Suspended Cymbal

Bass Guitar

Keyboard/Synthesiser – String Sound, Synth & Pad Sound

Piano

SCORE IN C

Duration – 2:06

AsCent

For KS2 or KS3 Classroom Ensemble

Keir C. Crawley

Fast and rhythmic ♩=152

A

The score is arranged in a multi-staff format. The top section includes:

- C Part**: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, starting with a *ff* dynamic and a *f* dynamic later.
- Bb Part**: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, starting with a *ff* dynamic.
- Glockenspiels 1 & 2**: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, starting with a *ff* dynamic.
- Xylophones 1 & 2**: Treble clef, 3/4 time signature, starting with a *ff* dynamic.
- Body Percussion**: Snare drum, 3/4 time signature, with markings for Clap and Click.
- Percussion**: Bass Drum, 3/4 time signature, starting with a *ff* dynamic.
- Bass Guitar**: Bass clef, 3/4 time signature, starting with a *ff* dynamic.
- Keyboard/Synth.**: Treble and Bass clefs, 3/4 time signature, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

The bottom section includes:

- Piano**: Treble and Bass clefs, 3/4 time signature, starting with a *ff* dynamic.

The score concludes with a **Con Ped.** instruction and a crossed-out icon of a piano pedal.

7

C Part

B \flat Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.

~~Icon~~

14

C Part

B \flat Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

Clap

Click

Legs



B

20

C Part

Bb Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.

Snare Drum

B



27

C Part

Musical staff for C Part, 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with slurs and ties across measures.

Bb Part

Musical staff for Bb Part, 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with slurs and ties across measures.

Glocks. 1

Musical staff for Glocks. 1, 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with slurs and ties across measures.

Glocks. 2

Musical staff for Glocks. 2, 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with slurs and ties across measures.

Xyls. 1

Musical staff for Xyls. 1, 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with slurs and ties across measures.

Xyls. 2

Musical staff for Xyls. 2, 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with slurs and ties across measures.

Body Perc.

Musical staff for Body Perc., 3/4 time signature, featuring a rhythmic line with rests and accents.

Perc.

Musical staff for Perc., 3/4 time signature, featuring a rhythmic line with eighth notes and accents.

Bass Guitar

Musical staff for Bass Guitar, 3/4 time signature, featuring a rhythmic line with eighth notes and accents.

Fingerings for Bass Guitar, showing fret numbers (0, 2) and string numbers (A, B) for each measure.

Keyb/Synth.

Musical staff for Keyb/Synth., 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with slurs and ties across measures.

Pno.

Musical staff for Pno., 3/4 time signature, featuring a melodic line with slurs and ties across measures.



C Part

Musical staff for C Part, featuring a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4.

Bb Part

Musical staff for Bb Part, featuring a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4.

Glocks. 1

Musical staff for Glocks. 1, featuring a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4.

Glocks. 2

Musical staff for Glocks. 2, featuring a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4.

Xyls. 1

Musical staff for Xyls. 1, featuring a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4.

Xyls. 2

Musical staff for Xyls. 2, featuring a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4.

Body Perc.

Musical staff for Body Percussion, featuring a double bar line and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4. Annotations include 'Clap', 'Click', and 'Legs'.

Perc.

Musical staff for Percussion, featuring a double bar line and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4. Annotations include 'Snare Drum' and 'Bass Drum'.

Bass Guitar

Musical staff for Bass Guitar, featuring a bass clef and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4. Below the staff is a fretboard diagram with a string grid and fret markers.

Keyb/Synth.

Musical staff for Keyboard/Synth, featuring a treble clef and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4.

Pno.

Musical staff for Piano, featuring a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The staff contains six measures of music with varying time signatures: 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, 3/4, 6/8, 2/4, and 3/4.



C

39

C Part

Musical staff for C Part, treble clef, 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a long slur over the first two measures and a dynamic marking of *f*.

Bb Part

Musical staff for Bb Part, treble clef, 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a long slur over the first two measures and a dynamic marking of *f*.

Glocks. 1

Musical staff for Glocks. 1, treble clef, 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*.

Glocks. 2

Musical staff for Glocks. 2, treble clef, 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*.

Xyls. 1

Musical staff for Xyls. 1, treble clef, 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a rhythmic line with a dynamic marking of *f*.

Xyls. 2

Musical staff for Xyls. 2, treble clef, 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a rhythmic line with a dynamic marking of *f*.

Body Perc.

Musical staff for Body Perc., common time signature. The staff contains a rhythmic line with a dynamic marking of *f*.

Perc.

Musical staff for Perc., common time signature. The staff contains a rhythmic line with dynamic markings of *mf* and *f*.

Bass Guitar

Musical staff for Bass Guitar, bass clef, 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a rhythmic line with a dynamic marking of *f*.

Bass guitar fretboard diagram showing fret numbers for the strings: 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 0 0 0 0 0 | 0 0

Keyb/Synth.

Musical staff for Keyb/Synth. (treble clef), 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a long slur over the first two measures.

Musical staff for Keyb/Synth. (bass clef), 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a rhythmic line.

C

Pno.

Musical staff for Pno. (treble clef), 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f*.

Musical staff for Pno. (bass clef), 3/4 time signature. The staff contains a rhythmic line.



45

C Part

B \flat Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.

mf ————— *f* *mf* ————— *f* *mf* —————

A 0 0 0 0 0 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 0 -

B 3

51

C Part

ff

Bb Part

ff

Glocks. 1

ff

Glocks. 2

ff

Xyls. 1

ff

Xyls. 2

ff

Body Perc.

ff

Perc.

ff *mf*

Bass Guitar

ff

0 0 0 | 0 0 | 0 3 | 1 1 0 | 0 0 | 0 0

Keyb/Synth.

ff

Pno.

ff

8^{vb}



D

57

C Part

Bb Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.



Musical score for measures 57-60. The score includes parts for C Part, Bb Part, Glocks. 1, Glocks. 2, Xyls. 1, Xyls. 2, Body Perc., Perc., Bass Guitar, Keyb/Synth., and Pno. The key signature is D major and the time signature is 4/4. The score features various musical notations including notes, rests, dynamics (f, mf), and performance instructions (Clap, Synth Pad Sound). The bass guitar part includes a fretboard diagram with fingerings: A3, B3, 1-3-3, 3, 3-3.

62

C Part

Musical staff for C Part, showing five measures of rests.

Bb Part

Musical staff for Bb Part, showing five measures of rests.

Glocks. 1

Musical staff for Glocks. 1, starting with a forte (f) dynamic marking.

Glocks. 2

Musical staff for Glocks. 2.

Xyls. 1

Musical staff for Xyls. 1, showing five measures of rests.

Xyls. 2

Musical staff for Xyls. 2, showing five measures of rests.

Body Perc.

Musical staff for Body Percussion, featuring rhythmic patterns in measures 2 and 4.

Perc.

Musical staff for Percussion, showing a steady eighth-note pattern.

Bass Guitar

Musical staff for Bass Guitar, showing a melodic line.

Guitar fretboard diagram showing fingerings: 3 3 0 | 2 0 0 | 0 0 | 3 3 | 3 3 0

Keyb/Synth.

Musical staff for Keyboard/Synth, showing chords and bass lines.

Pno.

Musical staff for Piano, showing a complex melodic and harmonic texture.



8^{vb}-----]

8^{vb}-----]

67

C Part

Bb Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.

f

f

mf

mf

Clap

Click

Legs

f

f

f



72

C Part

Musical staff for C Part, 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. A slur covers the last three notes.

Bb Part

Musical staff for Bb Part, 3/4 time signature. Notes: whole note G3, whole note F3, whole note E3, whole note D3. A slur covers all four notes.

Glocks. 1

Musical staff for Glocks. 1, 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4.

Glocks. 2

Musical staff for Glocks. 2, 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4.

Xyls. 1

Musical staff for Xyls. 1, 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. A slur covers the last three notes. Dynamics: *f*.

Xyls. 2

Musical staff for Xyls. 2, 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. A slur covers the last three notes. Dynamics: *f*.

Body Perc.

Musical staff for Body Perc., 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Dynamics: *f*.

Foot Stomp
(randomly but build)

Perc.

Musical staff for Perc., 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Dynamics: *f*.

Suspended Cymbal

Bass Guitar

Musical staff for Bass Guitar, 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2, quarter note B1, quarter note A1, quarter note G1. Dynamics: *f*.

Fingerings for Bass Guitar: 4 4 | 1 1 1 1 | 1 1 1 1 | 2 2 2 2 | 2 2 2 2

Keyb/Synth.

Musical staff for Keyb/Synth. (treble clef), 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Dynamics: *f*.

Musical staff for Keyb/Synth. (bass clef), 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2, quarter note B1, quarter note A1, quarter note G1. Dynamics: *f*.

Pno.

Musical staff for Pno. (treble clef), 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4. Dynamics: *f*.

Musical staff for Pno. (bass clef), 3/4 time signature. Notes: quarter note G2, quarter note F2, quarter note E2, quarter note D2, quarter note C2, quarter note B1, quarter note A1, quarter note G1. Dynamics: *f*.



E

77

C Part
ff

B \flat Part
ff

Glocks. 1
ff

Glocks. 2
ff

Xyls. 1
ff

Xyls. 2
ff

Body Perc.
ff

Perc.
ff

Bass Guitar
ff

Keyb/Synth.
ff

Pno.
ff

Clap

Click

Legs

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

0 0 0 | 0 0 3 | 2 2 2 | 2 2 3 | 0 0 0 | 0 0 3

83

C Part
mf --- *ff* *mf* --- *ff*

Bb Part
mf --- *ff* *mf* --- *ff*

Glocks. 1
 Stick end of beater on metal, e.g. chair leg

Glocks. 2
 Stick end of beater on metal, e.g. chair leg

Xyls. 1
 Stick end of beater on metal, e.g. chair leg

Xyls. 2
 Stick end of beater on metal, e.g. chair leg

Body Perc.
mf --- *ff*

Perc.
mf --- *ff*

Bass Guitar
mf --- *ff*

Keyb/Synth.
mf --- *ff*

Pno.
mf --- *ff*



8^{vb}

89

C Part

Bb Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

String Sound

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.

0

2 2

3

8^{va}

95

C Part

Bb Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.

mf *ff* *mf*

Normal end of beater

8^{vb}



99

C Part

Bb Part

Glocks. 1

Glocks. 2

Xyls. 1

Xyls. 2

Body Perc.

Perc.

Bass Guitar

Keyb/Synth.

Pno.

Clap

Foot Stomp

Suspended Cymbal

Bass Drum

ff

(8).....

8^{vb}.....