

# Firebirds

For Concert Band, Grade 2  
By Randall D. Standridge (ASCAP)

## Instrumentation

1 - Full Score  
8 - Flute  
2 - Oboe  
5 - Bb Clarinet 1  
5 - Bb Clarinet 2  
2 - Bb Bass Clarinet  
8 - Eb Alto Saxophone  
2 - Bb Tenor Saxophone  
2 - Eb Baritone Saxophone

4 - Bb Trumpet 1  
4 - Bb Trumpet 2  
4 - F Horn  
3 - Trombone 1  
3 - Trombone 2  
4 - Euphonium B.C./Bassoon  
2 - Euphonium T.C.  
4 - Tuba

2 - Bells  
2 - Chimes/Marimba  
2 - Timpani  
2 - Percussion 1&2: P1: Snare Drum/Ride Cymbal P2: Bass Drum (opt. 1 player on Drumset)  
2 - Percussion 3: Crash Cymbals/Triangle  
2 - Percussion 4: Tam-Tam/Tambourine/Suspended Cymbal

**Full Set - \$65.00**

**Extra Conductor Score - \$12.00**

**Extra Part - \$4.00**



# Firebirds

By Randall D. Standridge

## Program Notes

In 2024, I went through one of the most difficult mental health episodes of my life.

For months, I struggled with a deep depression that left me exhausted, unfocused, and disconnected from myself. As part of my ongoing *unBroken Project*—a musical initiative dedicated to mental health awareness—I knew I wanted to eventually write something that reflected not just the weight of that experience, but the journey back from it. The spark that finally lit the fire came from an unexpected place: Igor Stravinsky.

While reading during my recovery, I learned that Stravinsky himself experienced a period of profound depression late in his career. It struck a chord with me. Here was a composer whose music I admired—who had helped shape the sound of the 20th century—who had walked a similar path. That connection gave me a sense of comfort... and the idea for **Firebirds** was born.

Around that same time, I received a commission from the Falls Lake Academy Middle and High School Bands of Creedmoor, North Carolina, and their director, Jaron Cox. Their school mascot? The **Firebird**.

Funny how the universe works sometimes.

The timing felt too perfect to ignore, and the symbolism of the phoenix—rising from the ashes, renewed and reborn—tied together my personal experience, Stravinsky's legacy, and the spirit of the commissioning school in a way that felt meant to be.

This piece blends original material with themes from Stravinsky's *The Firebird Suite*, reimagining them in a Grade 2 setting for younger ensembles. The result is a high-energy work filled with fiery rhythms, shifting meters, bold percussion, and moments of soaring triumph. Like the mythical phoenix, the music is meant to symbolize resurgence, hope, and transformation.

*Firebirds* is dedicated to the loving memory of FLA staff member **Chris "THE BOSS" Williams**, and students **Nathan George** and **Hailey Brooks**. It is my hope that this music not only honors their lives, but also offers strength to those who carry their memory forward.

While **Firebirds** serves as a great introduction to Stravinsky's music, it's also a personal reflection—on perseverance, creativity, and finding your way back to the light after being lost in the dark.

To the students and teachers performing this work:

Know that you are stronger than your hardest days. Being down does not mean it's over.

It might just mean that a new beginning is waiting.

And just like a phoenix...

You can rise.

Peace, Love, and Music – Randy Standy

## Rehearsal suggestions

-The tempo of this work is critical to its character. When planning your preparation, make sure to allow time for proper technical development to achieve the written tempos, lest the work come off as "boring."

-Dynamics should be noticeable and taken to extremes.

-Percussion should be on the higher end of dynamic balance. Do not hide them.

## About the Composer



**Randall Standridge (b.1976)** received his Bachelor's of Music Education from Arkansas State University. During this time, he studied composition with Dr. Tom O'Connor before returning to Arkansas State University to earn his Master's in Music Composition, studying with Dr. Tom O'Connor and Dr. Tim Crist. In 2001, he began his tenure as Director of Bands at Harrisburg High School in Harrisburg, Arkansas. He left this post in 2013 to pursue a career as a full-time composer and marching arts designer.

Mr. Standridge's music is performed internationally. He has had numerous works selected for the J.W. Pepper's editor's choice. His compositions *Snake Charmer*, *Gently Blows the Summer Wind*, and *Angelic Celebrations* have been included in the "Teaching Music Through Performance in Band" series. He has had numerous works performed at the prestigious Midwest Clinic in Chicago, Illinois. The Arkansas State University Wind Ensemble premiered his work *Art(isms)* at the 2010 CBDNA conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and his work *Stonewall: 1969* was premiered at the National LGBA conference in 2019. His *Symphony no.1: A Ghost Story* was premiered in 2023. In addition, Mr. Standridge's "unBroken Project," a musical initiative about mental health, has received widespread acclaim for its musical content and for providing opportunities to normalize discussions about mental health for music students and audiences.

In addition to his career as a composer, Mr. Standridge is the owner and editor of Randall Standridge Music, LLC and Grand Mesa Marching. He is in demand as an arranger/designer for the marching arts. He lives in Jonesboro, Arkansas, with his husband, Steven, and their very, very spoiled pets.

For more information about Mr. Standridge, visit his website at: [www.randallstandridge.com](http://www.randallstandridge.com)

(Part of The unBroken Project, a musical initiative about mental and emotional health)

Score  
Grade 2  
Duration: 3:00

# Firebirds

Randall D. Standridge (ASCAP)  
with themes from  
The Firebird Suite by Igor Stravinsky

Always remember...from the ashes, you can RISE.

Soaring ♩=152

The musical score is written for a large ensemble. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as 'Soaring' with a quarter note equal to 152 beats per minute. The score is divided into six measures, numbered 1 through 6 at the bottom. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute:** Part 1 (f, fp, f), Part 2 (f, fp, f)
- Oboe:** Part 1 (f, fp, f), Part 2 (f, fp, f)
- B♭ Clarinet 1:** (f, fp, f)
- B♭ Clarinet 2:** (f, fp, f)
- E♭ Alto Saxophone:** (f, fp, f)
- B♭ Tenor Saxophone:** (f, fp, f)
- B♭ Trumpet 1:** (f, fp, f)
- B♭ Trumpet 2:** (f, fp, f)
- Horn in F:** (f, fp, f)
- Trombone 1-2:** (f, fp, f)
- Euphonium/Bassoon:** (f, fp, f)
- Low Reeds/Tuba:** (f, fp, f)
- Bells (hard acrylic mallets):** (f, fp, f)
- Chimes/Marimba:** (f, fp, f)
- Timpani (4):** (f, fp, f)
- Percussion 1&2\*:** (f, fp, f)
- Percussion 3:** (f, fp, f)
- Percussion 4:** (f, fp, f)

The score includes various dynamics (f, fp) and articulations (accents, slurs). The percussion section includes Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Crash Cymbals, Triangle, and Tam-Tam. The score is published by Randall Standridge Music, LLC.

9

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./ Bssn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls.

Ch./ Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

Ride Cym.

Sus. Cym. (yarn mallets)

*mf*

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

7

8

9

10

11

12

17

Fl. *mf* *f*

Ob. *mf* *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2 *fp*

A. Sx. *mf* *fp* *mf*

T. Sx. *fp* *mf*

Tpt. 1 *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mf*

Hn. *fp* *mf*

Trb. 1-2 *fp* *mf*

Euph./ Bssn. *fp* *mf*

L.R. Tuba *fp* *mf*

Bls. *f*

Ch./ Mar. *f*

Timp. *f* *fp* *mf*

Perc.1/2 *p* *mf*

Perc.3 1 *mf*

Perc.4 2 *mf* Tambourine *mf*

13 14 15 16 17 18

Fl. *mf* *fp* *f*

Ob. *mf* *fp* *f*

Cl. 1 *mf* *fp* *f*

Cl. 2 *fp* *f*

A. Sx. *fp* *f*

T. Sx. *fp* *f*

Tpt. 1 *fp* *f*

Tpt. 2 *fp* *f*

Hn. *fp* *f*

Trb. 1-2 *fp* *f*

Euph./ Bssn. *fp* *f*

L.R. Tuba *fp* *mf* *fp* *f*

Bls. *mf* *f*

Ch./ Mar. *mf* *f*

Timp. *fp* *mf* *fp* *f*

Perc.1/2 *fp* *f*

Perc.3 1 *f*

Perc.4 2

25

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./ Bssn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls.

Ch./ Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

Tam-Tam

25 26 27 28 29 30

33

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./ Bsn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls.

Ch./ Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

*fp*

*f*

*pp*

*mf*

*p*

Marimba (hard yarn mallets)

Sus. Cym. (yarn mallets)

31 32 33 34 35 36



37

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

A. Sx. *mf*

T. Sx. *mf*

Tpt. 1 *mp*

Tpt. 2 *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Trb. 1-2 *mp*

Euph./ Bssn. *mp*

L.R. Tuba *mp*

Bls. *mp*

Ch./ Mar. *mp*

Timp.

Perc.1/2 *mp*

Perc.3 1 Triangle *mf*

Perc.4 2 Tambourine *mf*

37 38 39 40 41 42

45

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./ Bssn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls.

Ch./ Mar.

Timp.

Perc. 1/2

Perc. 3/1

Perc. 4/2

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

43 44 45 46 47 48

51

Fl. 1  
*p* *mf*

Ob.  
*p* *mf*

Cl. 1  
*p* *mf*

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1  
*p* *mf*

Tpt. 2  
*p* *mf*

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./  
Bssn.

L.R.  
Tuba

Bls.  
*p* *mf*

Ch./  
Mar.  
*p* *mf*

Timp.  
*p* *mf*

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1  
*mf*

Perc.4 2  
*p* *mf*

49 50 51 52 53 54

60

61

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./ Bssn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls.

Ch./ Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Tam-Tam

Perc.4 2

61 62 63 64 65 66

69

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./  
Bssn.

L.R.  
Tuba

Bls.

Ch./  
Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

Tambourine

*f* *ff* *f* *mf*

67 68 69 70 71 72

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./ Bssn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls.

Ch./ Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

sub. *p*

*mf*

*f*

77

73 74 75 76 77 78

81

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./  
Bssn.

L.R.  
Tuba

Bls.

Ch./  
Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

Tam-Tam

79

80

81

82



This musical score page for "Firebirds" covers measures 83 through 88. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinets 1 and 2 (Cl. 1, Cl. 2), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), Trumpets 1 and 2 (Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombones 1-2 (Trb. 1-2), Euphonium/Bassoon (Euph./Bssn.), Low Trumpet (L.R. Tuba), Bells (Bls.), Charley/Maracas (Ch./Mar.), Tom-tom (Timp.), and three Percussion parts (Perc. 1/2, Perc. 3 1, Perc. 4 2). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measures 83-84 feature woodwinds and strings. Measures 85-87 show a dynamic shift to *f* for the woodwinds. Measure 88 includes a *mp* marking for the percussion. The score is written for a full orchestra with various woodwind, brass, and percussion parts.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./  
Bssn.

L.R.  
Tuba

Bls.

Ch./  
Mar.

Timp.

Perc. 1/2

Perc. 3 1

Perc. 4 2

83 84 85 86 87 88

89 93

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

A. Sx. *mf*

T. Sx. *mf*

Tpt. 1 *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Trb. 1-2 *mf*

Euph./ Bssn. *mf*

L.R. Tuba *mf*

Bls. *mf*

Ch./ Mar. *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Perc.1/2 *mf*

Perc.3 1 *mf*

Perc.4 2 *f* Tambourine *mf*

89 90 91 92 93 94

Fl. 98

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./ Bssn.

L.R. Tuba

Bls.

Ch./ Mar. *mf*

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

Tam-Tam

95 96 97 98 99 100

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./  
Bssn.

L.R.  
Tuba

Bls.

Ch./  
Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

101 102 103 104 105 106

*p* *f*

This musical score page for 'Firebirds' covers measures 107 through 111. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinets 1 and 2 (Cl. 1, Cl. 2), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), Trumpets 1 and 2 (Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2), Horns (Hn.), Trombones 1 and 2 (Trb. 1-2), Euphonium/Baritone (Euph./Bssn.), Low Trumpet (L.R. Tuba), Bells (Bls.), Chimes/Maracas (Ch./Mar.), Tom-tom (Timp.), and various Percussion parts (Perc. 1/2, Perc. 3 1, Perc. 4 2). The score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). Measures 107-108 feature a complex woodwind and brass texture with many notes and slurs. Measure 109 has a repeat sign, and measure 110 has a double bar line. Measure 111 continues the woodwind and brass activity. The percussion parts provide a rhythmic foundation, with some parts having specific patterns or rests.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./  
Bssn.

L.R.  
Tuba

Bls.

Ch./  
Mar.

Timp.

Perc. 1/2

Perc. 3 1

Perc. 4 2

114

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Trb. 1-2

Euph./  
Bssn.

L.R.  
Tuba

Bls.

Ch./  
Mar.

Timp.

Perc.1/2

Perc.3 1

Perc.4 2

*p* *f*

112 113 114 115 116 117

This page of the musical score for "Firebirds" contains measures 118 through 122. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinets 1 and 2 (Cl. 1, Cl. 2), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), Trumpets 1 and 2 (Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2), Horns (Hn.), Trombones 1-2 (Trb. 1-2), Euphonium/Bassoon (Euph./Bssn.), Low Trumpet (L.R. Tuba), Bells (Bls.), Chimes/Maracas (Ch./Mar.), Tom-tom (Timp.), Percussion 1/2 (Perc. 1/2), Percussion 3/1 (Perc. 3 1), and Percussion 4/2 (Perc. 4 2). The score features a variety of musical notations, including eighth and sixteenth notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as *fp* (fortissimo piano) and *ff* (fortissimo). A crescendo hairpin is visible in the Flute part, and a decrescendo hairpin is in the Chimes/Maracas part. The percussion parts include complex rhythmic patterns, with the Tambourine specifically noted in measure 121.

118 119 120 121 122