

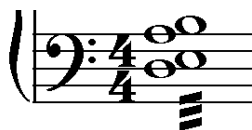
Program Notes

Stardance is a programmatic piece in five movements played without pause. In the first movement *Solar Embers*, the fire of the sun is extinguished as it sinks below the horizon. An arctic fox pursues its prey across the cold landscape in *Chase*, and the hunt is interrupted only by the display of the northern lights. *Aurora* features the crackling energy of the charged particles that put on a colored tapestry of magic light. As they fade, *Rest* is the deep of the night where the tranquility gives way to *Stardance*, where the dust and rocks from beyond stream by as they turn into a thousand brilliant lights.

On a different level, *Stardance* is a study on the interval of a major second. The main motive is played on vibraphone at the beginning, two major seconds a minor second apart:



The harmony supporting it is two major seconds as well, and the four tones in the motive above fit between the E and A of the chord played in the marimbas below:



As the movements unfold, the motive is not so much transformed as it restated in a multitude of ways that color it in a variety of ways just as the particles of the sun and bits of matter from space are colored so spectacularly as they pass through the atmosphere.