

# ANDREW DAVID PERKINS

*Commissioned by the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association, District III, for the Oxford High School Wind Ensemble, Jim Gibbons, Director. Dedicated to the students lost on November 30, 2021, and the survivors who bravely carry on.*

# VOX NOSTRA

FOR SYMPHONIC WINDS & NARRATION

*Words written by members of the Oxford High School Wind Ensemble,  
compiled and edited by the composer.*

FULL SCORE / 2 1 1 3 (+Bass) Alto (2), Tenor, Bari / 3 2 3 1 1 Timp Perc (4)

DURATION: approximately 8:45

GRADE: 4



## PROGRAM NOTE

*Commissioned by the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association, District III, for the Oxford High School Wind Ensemble, Jim Gibbons, Director. Dedicated to the students lost on November 30, 2021, and the survivors who bravely carry on.*

On November 30, 2021, a mass shooting occurred at Oxford High School in the Detroit exurb of Oxford Township, Michigan. Four students were killed and seven people were injured, including a teacher. Shortly afterwards, I was approached by the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (District 3) and asked to compose a piece of music for the Oxford High School Band, to commemorate the lives of the deceased, and honor the survivors. This work is the result of several dialogues I held with Jim Gibbons (the Oxford Director of Bands), the students at Oxford, and the incredible community of music directors in the state.

I initially struggled with finding the right approach for this piece, as there were so many important and complex points of view about the subject matter. It was important to me that the voices of the Oxford students themselves were represented, and included in the performance, hence the title "VOX NOSTRA" (OUR VOICE in Latin). The resulting work juxtaposes the students' words of anguish, anger, and despair against the consonant and reflective harmonies that honor the lives of the deceased. It offers the listener an opportunity to experience this range of emotions; disbelief, sorrow, anger, regret, but also healing, and ultimately, hope.

Andrew David Perkins, May, 2022

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Composer, conductor, & GRAMMY® nominated music educator Andrew David Perkins (b.1978) holds an advanced specialist certificate in Orchestration from the Berklee College of Music, a Master of Music degree from the University of Michigan, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Michigan State University. Finalist for The National Band Association Revelli Award, Merrill Jones Award, and The Ravel International Composition Prize, Perkins' music is regularly performed at state, national, and international contests & conferences, and at the Midwest International Band Clinic. Mr. Perkins is the winner of the 2018 National Band Association/Alfred Publishing Young Band Composition Contest, and the 2021 American Prize in Wind Band Composition.

Mr. Perkins has received commissions from a number of organizations including The Royal Academy of Music London, Le Conservatoire de Limonest, The Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association, Bowling Green State University, The Flint Youth Symphony Orchestra, and his works have been performed by hundreds of ensembles around the world. His music is exclusively published through APOLLO STUDIOS Music Publishing (ASCAP) and he resides in Michigan with his family.

## PERFORMANCE NOTE

The narration is absolutely critical to the performance, and the piece should not be performed absent the words. The narration should be executed using either the mp3 audio track (available at [www.andrewdavidperkins.com](http://www.andrewdavidperkins.com)) or performed live as spoken word. The mp3 is preferred, as it includes the recorded voices of the Oxford students themselves.

Special attention must be paid to tempo, in order to create sonic spaces for the voices to exist in the texture. This will require additional rehearsal with playback systems, etc. When in doubt, the ensemble should be lower in volume than the narration, removing players if necessary.

After the final narration cue, the conductor may more freely interpret the tempi and dynamics for greatest effect.



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## INSTRUMENTATION

### Full Score

Flute 1 (requires 3 players minimum)

Flute 2 (requires 3 players minimum)

Oboe

Bassoon

Clarinet 1

Clarinet 2

Clarinet 3

Bass Clarinet

Contra Alto Clarinet in Eb (opt.)

Alto Saxophone 1

Alto Saxophone 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

Trumpet 3

Horn 1

Horn 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Euphonium T.C.

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani

Wind Chimes/Glockenspiel Vibraphone

Bass Drum

Suspended Cymbal/Triangle Tam-Tam

Chimes

Narration Track (download from [www.andrewdavidperkins.com](http://www.andrewdavidperkins.com))

(may also be performed live as spoken word)

*(The purchase of this set of score & parts includes a license to reproduce the parts per your ensemble needs.)*



Full Score

# VOX NOSTRA

ANDREW DAVID PERKINS (ASCAP)

Slow ♩ = 60

3/4

freely, independently

stagger breathe

5

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe

Bassoon

Clarinet 1

Clarinet 2

Clarinet 3

Bass Clarinet

Contra Alto Clarinet in Eb

Alto Sax. 1

Alto Sax. 2

Tenor Sax. 1

Baritone Sax.

3/4

5

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

Trumpet 3

Horn in F 1

Horn in F 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Euphonium

Tuba

Narration

Timpani

Wind Chimes/Glockenspiel

Vibraphone

Bass Drum

Sus. Cymbal/Triangle

Tam-tam

Chimes

very soft mallets, no articulation

mp

tr

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

"The day it happened, it didn't feel real"

4/4 3/4 6/4 4/4 3/4

Fl. 1 (tr)

Fl. 2 (tr)

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1 *p mp n mp mf p mp p mp mf p*

Cl. 2 *p mp n mp mf p mp p mp mf p*

Cl. 3 *p mp n mp mf p mp p mp mf p*

B. Cl.

C. A. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 *p mp n mp mf p mp p mp mf p*

A. Sax. 2 *mp mf p mp p mp mf p*

T. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

4/4 17 3/4 6/4 4/4 3/4

Tpt. 1 *mp p mp p mp mf p*

Tpt. 2 *mp p mp p mp mf p*

Tpt. 3 *mp p mp p mp mf p*

Hn. 1 *mp mf p mp p mp mf p*

Hn. 2 *mp mf p mp p mp mf p*

Tbn. 1 *mp mf p*

Tbn. 2 *mp mf p*

Tbn. 3 *mp mf p*

Euph.

Tba.

Narr. "My teacher rushed in the room and locked the door. We all hid in the corner. I texted my family that I loved them. I needed them to know, just in case." "I called my Dad, and he was crying." "That hit me hard, I don't see him cry often." "It was surreal, like the world was ending but in slow motion. We were in total shock."

Temp.

W.Ch.

Vib. (tr)

B. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Chim.

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27

39

♩ = 48

♩ = 72

Full Score

3

3/4 4/4 5/4 4/4 poco rall.

Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob., Bsn., Cl. 1, Cl. 2, Cl. 3, B. Cl., C. A. Cl., A. Sax. 1, A. Sax. 2, T. Sax., Bari. Sax.

3/4 27 4/4 39 5/4 4/4

Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Tpt. 3, Hn. 1, Hn. 2, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, Euph., Tba.

"I felt helpless. Nobody ever thought it would actually happen to us." "It all just felt like a bad dream."

soft mallets

Temp., W.Ch., Vib., B. D., Cym., T.-t., Chim.



♩ = 60

♩ = 72

Full Score ♩ = 60

44

52

poco accel. . . . . poco rall. . . . .

FL. 1

FL. 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

C. A. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

44

52

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tba.

"Where are we now? Will anything just pause?"

"School feels like a false normal. Everyone holds their breath when the announcements come on. It feels like everyone's trying to act OK, but there will never be a normal again. I guess there never was. Safe is a myth."

"I try and keep myself distracted and focused while I'm at school, I'm always looking over my shoulder to make sure nothings going on behind me. Gotta stay on my toes, stay vigilant. I think about it everyday. I have flashbacks of the lockdown, feeling confused, scared, angry..."

Narr.

Timp.

W.Ch.

Vib.

B. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Chim.

60

68

FL. 1  
FL. 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
Cl. 1  
Cl. 2  
Cl. 3  
B. Cl.  
C. A. Cl.  
A. Sax. 1  
A. Sax. 2  
T. Sax.  
Bari. Sax.

60

68

Tpt. 1  
Tpt. 2  
Tpt. 3  
Hn. 1  
Hn. 2  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Tbn. 3  
Euph.  
Tba.

Narr. "Mostly I'm sad. I have nightmares all the time, and when I have nothing to think about it's the first thing to pop in my mind." "I lost one of my best friends, and I can't bring her back to matter what I do. She's gone." "I'm so tired. I feel sad and lost." "I'm on edge almost all the time." "This shit scares the hell out of me." "I'm just trying to get through the day."

Temp.  
W.Ch.  
Vib.  
B. D.  
Cym.  
T.-t.  
Chim.

60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75

76

5/4

4/4

3/4 87

FL. 1 *f* *>mf* *>mp* *mf* *>p* *mp* *p* *tr* *stagger breathe*

FL. 2 *f* *>mf* *>mp* *mf* *>p* *mp* *p* *tr* *stagger breathe*

Ob.

Bsn. *>mf* *mp* *>p* *mp* *pp*

Cl. 1 *f* *>mf* *>mp* *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *n*

Cl. 2 *f* *>mf* *>mp* *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *n*

Cl. 3 *f* *>mf* *>mp* *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *n*

B. Cl. *f* *>mf* *mp* *pp*

C. A. Cl. *mp* *pp*

A. Sax. 1 *>mf* *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *n*

A. Sax. 2 *>mf* *mp* *p*

T. Sax. *>mf* *mp* *p*

Bari. Sax.

76

5/4

4/4

3/4 87

Tpt. 1 *f* *>mf*

Tpt. 2 *f* *>mf*

Tpt. 3 *>mf*

Hn. 1 *>mf* *mf* *mp* *p*

Hn. 2 *>mf* *mf* *mp* *p*

Tbn. 1 *f* *>mf* *mp* *pp*

Tbn. 2 *f* *>mf* *mp* *pp*

Tbn. 3 *f* *>mf* *mp* *pp*

Euph. *>mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

Tba. *mp* *pp*

"How many more?  
What will it take?"

Narr.

Timp. *p* *mp* *pp*

W.Ch.

Vib. *f* *tr* *mp*

B. D. *p* *pp*

Cym. *mf*

T.-t. *ppp*

Chim.

4/4 101

3/4

6/4

4/4

FL. 1 (tr)

FL. 2 (tr)

Ob.

Bsn. *mp* *mf* > *p*

Cl. 1 *p* < *mp* < *n* *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Cl. 2 *p* < *mp* < *n* *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Cl. 3 *p* < *mp* < *n* *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

B. Cl. *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

C. A. Cl. *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

A. Sax. 1 *p* < *mp* < *n* *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

A. Sax. 2 *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

T. Sax. *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Bari. Sax. *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

4/4 101

3/4

6/4

4/4

Tpt. 1 *mp* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Tpt. 2 *mp* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Tpt. 3 *mp* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Hn. 1 *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Hn. 2 *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Tbn. 1 *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Tbn. 2 *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Tbn. 3 *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Euph. *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

Tba. *mp* < *mf* > *p* *mp* < *p* *mp* < *mf* > *p*

"Is god even real? Why would he let this happen? To children?"

"Stuff like this keeps happening but to changes is being made. Its gonna happen somewhere else and it will be a never-ending cycle until someone takes us seriously. We're the ones are risk. We're the ones dying."

"I never chose this. No one should know what this feels like."

"I hope that I can move past it."

"I hope justice will be served for them. For the four. For us I hope."

Narr.

Timp.

W.Ch.

Vib. (tr)

B. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Chim.

112

poco accel. . . . . poco rall. . . . .

120

FL. 1 *pp* *mf* *f*

FL. 2 *pp* *mf* *f*

Ob.

Bsn. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf* *> p* *mf* *f*

Cl. 2 *mf* *> p* *mf* *f*

Cl. 3 *mp* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *mf* *f*

C. A. Cl. *mf* *f*

A. Sax. 1 *mp* *mf*

A. Sax. 2 *mp* *mf*

T. Sax. *mp* *mf*

Bari. Sax. *mp* *mf*

112

120

Tpt. 1 *mf* *> p* *mf* *f* *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mf* *f* *mf*

Tpt. 3 *mf* *f* *mf*

Hn. 1 *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Hn. 2 *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Tbn. 1 *f* *mf*

Tbn. 2 *f* *mf*

Tbn. 3 *f* *mf*

Euph. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Tba. *f*

Narr.

Timp. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

Glock. *mp* *mf* *mf*

Vib. *mf*

B. D. *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Tri. *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

T.-t. *mp* *mp*

Chim. *mp* *mf* *mf*

112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122

♩ = 72      ♩ = 48

Full Score

128

poco accel.      molto rall.      poco accel.      poco rall.  $\frac{5}{4}$  a tempo  $\frac{4}{4}$

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

C. A. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

128

$\frac{5}{4}$  a tempo  $\frac{4}{4}$

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Euph.

Tba.

Narr.

Timp.

Glock.

Vib.

B. D.

Tri.

T.-t.

Chim.

123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138

mf

pp

Div.

Wind Chimes

Cymbals

