

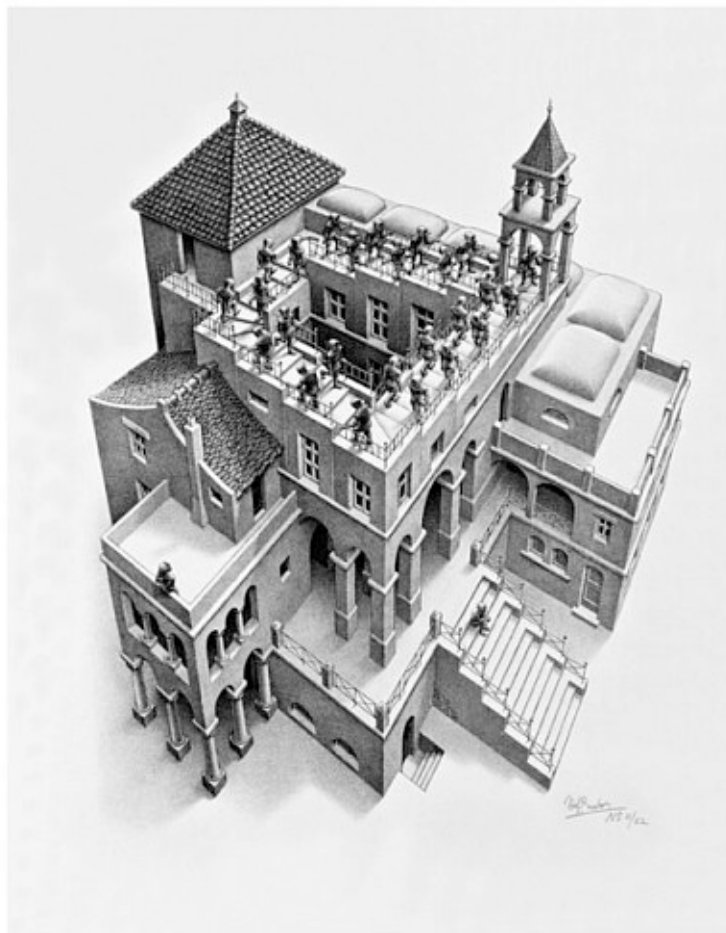
*Commissioned by Upsilon Phi chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and  
Epsilon Phi chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, for the  
Truman State University Wind Symphony, Dan Peterson, Conductor*

# **The Steps in Escher's Castle**

a piece for concert band

by

**Paul Richards**



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Epsilon Phi chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota, for the  
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**Instrumentation:**

Piccolo

Flutes 1, 2

Oboes 1, 2

Bassoons 1, 2

Contra-bassoon

Clarinet in Eb

Clarinets in Bb 1, 2, 3

Bass Clarinet

Contrabass Clarinet

Alto Saxophones 1, 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Horns in F 1, 2, 3, 4

Trumpets in Bb 1, 2, 3

Trombones 1, 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani

4 Percussion

1 Xylophone, Tam-tam

2 Vibraphone

3 2 Suspended Cymbals, Snare Drum

4 Bass Drum

Contrabass

**Program note:**

On the steps at the top of the castle in M.C. Escher's "Ascending and Descending", half of the monks appear to be climbing perpetually upwards, while half are climbing perpetually down. Their walk is purposeful and steady. That they will never reach a destination does not seem to bother them, or, perhaps, they have reached their destination already on this eternal flight of stairs.

The stepwise bass motion in this piece does the same thing: it is nearly always steadily rising, yet it never gets very high. The same melody repeats several times, always over different supporting harmonies, frequently accompanied by ascending or descending lines.

**Duration:** unlike Escher, I do let the piece end: in fact, it's only about 5 or 6 minutes long.

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# The Steps in Escher's Castle

Paul Richards

Adagio (♩ = 63) smooth, sustained, with slight rubato

Piccolo

Flute 1 2  
a2  
*p* *mp* *p*

Oboe 1 2

Bassoon 1 2  
*p*

Contrabassoon

Adagio (♩ = 63) smooth, sustained, with slight rubato

Clarinet in Eb

1  
*p* *mp*

Clarinet in Bb 2  
3

Bass Clarinet

Contrabass Clarinet

Adagio (♩ = 63) smooth, sustained, with slight rubato

Alto Saxophone 1 2  
*mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Tenor Saxophone  
*p*

Baritone Saxophone  
*p*

Adagio (♩ = 63) smooth, sustained, with slight rubato

Trumpet in Bb 1 2 3

Horn in F 1 2 3 4  
*p*

Adagio (♩ = 63) smooth, sustained, with slight rubato

Trombone 1 2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Adagio (♩ = 63) smooth, sustained, with slight rubato

Timpani

Xylophone

Vibraphone  
motor on medium  
medium cord mallets  
*pp* *p*

Cymbals

Bass Drum

Contrabass

10 with more motion

Pic.   
 Fl. 1/2   
 Ob. 1/2   
 Bsn. 1/2 *mp* *mf* *a2*   
 C. Bn. *mf* <

10 with more motion

E♭ Cl.   
 1 *p* *mf* < *p*   
 B♭ Cl. 2 *p* *mp* <   
 3 *mp*   
 B. Cl. *mp* < *mf*   
 Cb. Cl. *mf* <

10 with more motion

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

10 with more motion

1 *mf* <   
 2 *mf*   
 3 *mf*   
 F. Hn. *mp* *mf* *a2* *mp* *mf*   
 1/2 *mp* *mf* *a2* *mp* *mf*   
 3/4 *mp* *mf*

10 with more motion

Tbn. 1/2 *mf* *a2*   
 B. Tbn. *mf* <   
 Euph. *mf*   
 Tba. *mf* <

10 with more motion

Timp. *mp* < *hard mallets*   
 Xyl.   
 Vib.   
 Cym.   
 B. Dr.   
 Cb. *mf* <

19 majestic

Pic. *f*

Fl. 1/2 *f* *a2*

Ob. 1/2 *mp* *f* *a2*

Bsn. 1/2 *f* *p* *f* *a2*

C. Bn. *f* *p* *f*

19 majestic

E♭ Cl. *f*

1 *mp* *f*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

3 *mp* *f* *mp* *mf*

B. Cl. *f* *p* *f*

Cb. Cl. *f* *p* *f*

19 majestic

A. Sax. 1/2 *mp* *f* *a2* *mf*

T. Sax. *mf* *f* *f*

B. Sax. *f* *p* *f*

19 majestic

B♭ Tpt. 1 *p* *f* *p*

2/3 *p*

F. Hn. 1/2 *p* *f* *a2* *mp* *mf*

3/4 *mp* *mf* *a2*

19 majestic

Tbn. 1/2 *f* *mf* *p*

B. Tbn. *f* *mf* *p*

Euph. *f* *mf* *p*

Tba. *f* *mf* *p*

19 majestic

Timp. *mf* *p*

Xyl. *mf* *(to Tam-tam)*

Vib. *(to Snare Drum)*

Cym. *medium yarn mallets* *pp* *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *pp* *p*

*soft mallets*

B. Dr. *pp* *mf*

Cb. *f* *mf* *f* *pizz.*

*poco rit.* 32 *triumphant, slightly faster* (♩ = 72)

Pic. *mp* *ff*

Fl. 1/2 *mp* *ff*

Ob. 1/2 *mp* *ff*

Bsn. 1/2 *mp* *ff*

C. Bn. *mp* *ff*

E♭ Cl. *mp* *ff*

1 *mp* *ff*

B♭ Cl. 2 *p* *f*

3 *p* *f*

B. Cl. *mp* *ff*

Cb. Cl. *mp* *ff*

A. Sax. 1/2 *p* *f*

T. Sax. *mp* *ff*

B. Sax. *mp* *ff*

*poco rit.* 32 *triumphant, slightly faster* (♩ = 72)

1 *ff* *mf*

2 *ff*

3 *ff*

F Hn. 1/2 *p* *f* >

3/4 *p* *f* >

*poco rit.* 32 *triumphant, slightly faster* (♩ = 72)

Tbn. 1/2 *ff* *mf*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

*poco rit.* 32 *triumphant, slightly faster* (♩ = 72)

Timp. *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

hard mallets

T.T. *f* *mf*

l.v.

Vib. *mf*

Cym. *mf*

B. Dr. *mf*

hard mallets

Cb. *mp* *ff*

arco

40 gathering energy

Pic. *p*

Fl. 1/2 *p* *pp* *mp*

Ob. 1/2 *p* *mp*

Bsn. 1/2 *p*

C. Bn. *p*

40 gathering energy

E♭ Cl. *p* *mp*

1 *p* *mp* *pp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *p* *mp* *pp*

3 *p* *mp* *pp*

B. Cl. *p*

Cb. Cl. *p*

40 gathering energy

A. Sax. 1/2 *p* *mf*

T. Sax. *p* *p*

B. Sax. *p*

40 gathering energy

1 *mf* *p*

2 *mf* *p*

F. Hn. 1/2 *mf* *a2*

3/4 *mf* *a2* *p*

40 gathering energy

Tbn. 1/2 *a2* *p*

B. Tbn. *p*

Euph. *p*

Tba. *p* *mp* *f* *mp*

40 gathering energy

Temp. *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

T.T. *mp* *p* *l.v.* (to Xylophone)

Vib. *p* *motor on medium medium cord mallets (do not roll)*

Cym.

B. Dr. *pp*

Cb. *p*

poco rit.

47 a tempo, majestic

Pic. *mf*

Fl. 1/2 *ff* a2 3

Ob. 1/2 *ff* a2 3

Bsn. 1/2 *f* a2 *ff*

C. Bn. *ff*

poco rit.

47 a tempo, majestic

E♭ Cl. *ff* 3

1 *mp* *ff* 3

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp* *ff* 3

3 *mp* *ff* 3

B. Cl. *mf* *ff*

Cb. Cl. *ff*

poco rit.

47 a tempo, majestic

A. Sax. 1/2 *mp* a2 *ff* 3

T. Sax. *mf* *mp* *ff*

B. Sax. *ff*

poco rit.

47 a tempo, majestic

1 *mf* *ff*

2 *mf* *ff* a2

3 *ff* a2

F Hn. 1/2 *ff* a2

3/4 *ff* a2

poco rit.

47 a tempo, majestic

Tbn. 1/2 *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Euph. *mp* *ff*

Tba. *f* *mp* *ff*

poco rit.

47 a tempo, majestic

Temp. *f* *ff*

Xyl. *f* *ff* 3

Vib. *f*

S. Dr. *f* (snare on) hardwood sticks

B. Dr. *f* *ff* *mf* *pizz.*

Cb. *ff*



55 smooth, sustained

Pic. *mp*

Fl. 1/2 *mp* *mp <*

Ob. 1/2 *mp*

Bsn. 1/2 *mp* *p* *mp*

C. Bn. *mp*

55 smooth, sustained

E♭ Cl. *mp*

1 *mp*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp* *pp <* *p <*

3 *mp* *pp <* *p <*

B. Cl. *mp* *p* *mp*

Cb. Cl. *mp* *p*

55 smooth, sustained

A. Sax. 1/2 *mp* *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

B. Sax. *mp*

55 smooth, sustained

1 *straight mute* *f* *p <* *open*

2 *straight mute* *f* *p <*

F. Hn. 1/2 *mp* *pp <* *p <*

3/4 *mp* *pp <*

55 smooth, sustained

Tbn. 1/2 *mp*

B. Tbn. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

Tha. *mp*

55 smooth, sustained

Temp. *p* *pp*

Xyl. *p* (to Tam-tam)

Vib. *pp <* (to Cymbals) *p <*

S. Dr. *mp* *pp*

B. Dr. *p* *pp*

Cb. *mp*

*ritard*

Pic. *mf* *f* *p*

Fl. 1/2 *mf* *f* *p*

Ob. 1/2 *mf* *f* *p*

Bsn. 1/2 *mf > p* *mp* *mf*

C. Bn. *mf*

*ritard*

E♭ Cl. *mp* *mf* *f* *p*

1 *pp* *mf* *f* *p*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mp* *pp*

3 *pp*

B. Cl. *mf > p* *mf*

Cb. Cl. *mf*

*ritard*

A. Sax. 1/2 *pp* *p* *mp*

T. Sax. *p* *p* *p* *p* *mp*

B. Sax. *p* *p* *p*

*ritard*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *mf* *mf <* *mute off*

2 *mf <* *a2 mute off*

3 *mf <*

F Hn. 1/2 *p* *p* *p* *mp*

3/4

*ritard*

Tbn. 1/2 *mf <*

B. Tbn. *mf <*

Euph. *mp* *mf*

Tba. *mp* *mf*

*ritard*

Temp. *mp <* *hard mallets*

Xyl. *ppp* *hard mallets*

Vib. *ppp* *hard mallets*

Cym. *soft yarn mallets* *ppp* *hard mallets*

B. Dr. *pp*

Cb. *mp* *mf*

67 *a tempo, majestic*

73 *rit. poco a poco*

Pic. *ff*

Fl. 1/2 *ff*

Ob. 1/2 *ff*

Bsn. 1/2 *ff*

C. Bn. *ff*

67 *a tempo, majestic*

73 *rit. poco a poco*

E♭ Cl. *ff*

1 *ff*

B♭ Cl. 2 *f*

3 *f*

B. Cl. *ff*

Cb. Cl. *ff*

67 *a tempo, majestic*

73 *rit. poco a poco*

A. Sax. 1/2 *f*

T. Sax. *ff*

B. Sax. *ff*

67 *a tempo, majestic*

73 *rit. poco a poco*

1 *ff*

2 *ff*

3 *mf*

F Hn. 1/2 *f*

3/4 *f*

67 *a tempo, majestic*

73 *rit. poco a poco*

Tbn. 1/2 *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

67 *a tempo, majestic*

73 *rit. poco a poco*

Temp. *f*

T.T. *f*

Vib. *f*

Cym. *f*

B. Dr. *mf*

Cb. *ff*

(♩ = 63) rit. poco a poco al fine

Pic.  
Fl. 1/2  
Ob. 1/2  
Bsn. 1/2  
C. Bn.

*mf* < *mp* < *pp*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

(♩ = 63) rit. poco a poco al fine

E♭ Cl.  
1  
B♭ Cl. 2  
3  
B. Cl.  
Cb. Cl.

*p* *mp* < *p* *pp*

*mp* < *p* *pp*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *pp* *mp* *p* *f* *p*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

(♩ = 63) rit. poco a poco al fine

A. Sax. 1/2  
T. Sax.  
B. Sax.

*f* < *mp* < *pp*

*p* *mp* < *pp*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *pp*

(♩ = 63) rit. poco a poco al fine

B♭ Tpt.  
1  
2  
3  
F Hn.  
1  
2  
3  
4

*mf* < *mp* < *mf* *pp*

*mf* < *mp* < *mf* *pp*

*f* < *mf* < *mp* *f* *p*

*mp* < *p* *pp*

(♩ = 63) rit. poco a poco al fine

Tbn. 1/2  
B. Tbn.  
Euph.  
Tba.

*mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*

(♩ = 63) rit. poco a poco al fine

Timp.  
T. T.  
Vib.  
Cym.  
B. Dr.  
Cb.

*mp* < *p* < *mp* *p* *p* *mf* *pp*

*p* *soft mallets* *L.v.* *p*

*pp* *L.v.* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

*p* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *mp*

*mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *p*