Painted Upon A Grecian Urn
An Exploration of the Hillsic Scale
in Three Movements for Wind Ensemble

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Abstract

Painted Upon A Grecian Urn is a three-movement suite for modified wind ensemble of about fifteen minutes in length in which each movement represents a different legend from Greek mythology. The movements embody Athena, Orpheus, and Dionysus respectively and are titled as follows:

I: Wisdom, Purity, and Reason. [4’30”]
II: Noble Lyre. [6’30”]
III: Ecstatic Joy and Savage Brutality. [4’0”]

Each movement is united melodically, harmonically, and rhythmically by motives derived from the Hillsic scale, a variant of an all-interval pitch collection found in Nicolas Slonimsky’s Thesaurus of Scales and Melodic Patterns.

The compositional techniques utilized throughout include but are not limited to transpositions of scale patterns as well as inversion and symmetry.