

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

Joe Hills

Dr. W. Thomas McKenney, Thesis Advisor

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.