

The Starship-for orchestra  
*by Erin Graham*

This piece is about a team of astronauts going on an expedition to another galaxy. In this piece, there are many short, diverse sections describing the astronauts' adventures on different planets. There is a short, mysterious introduction that quickly leads to a lively rhythmic section that represents the astronauts entering space. The first of these is a kind of twisted, Latin/Caribbean style. The marimba has the melody, and is backed up by a repeated rhythm in the low brass and syncopated beats from various percussion instruments. Eventually, it turns into a new section that sounds Asian. I used harp, flute, chimes, and bells in this section. While the astronauts are on this Asian-type planet, evil aliens suddenly invade! Then the piece describes a short, dramatic chase between the aliens and the astronauts. Finally, the astronauts find a way to defeat the aliens and return to the Milky Way. A joyful brass movement that is answered by a hopeful section with lots of woodwinds describes this event. Following this is a kind of echo of the very beginning, which signifies the astronauts splashing down. Finally, the piece builds suspense and leads to the big ending. I am very proud of this piece and I hope you enjoy it!