# **Teotihuacan**

## For Beginning Band - Grade 1.5 Composed By Craig Thomas Naylor

**Teotihuacan** is a massive Mesoamerican ruin northwest of Mexico City that flourished from 100 BC to approximately 750 AD. Known by the Aztecs as the "City of the Gods," Teotihuacan encompasses over 2600 major structures, including gigantic pyramids. At its peak around 600 AD it had a population around 75,000 - 125,000 people - making it one of the largest cities in the world at that time. Numerous cross-cultural influences with the Mayan and Zapotec cultures are found throughout the region.

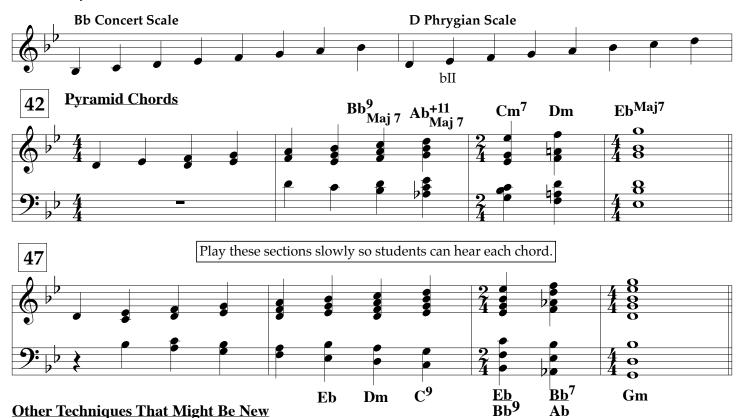
### **Teaching Suggestions**

If there is a lack of low instruments, use Trombone/Baritone part 2 (B. Cl/Baritone T. C. is part 2)

Use legato tonguing throughout. Playing a section using the standard "too" tonguing and then repeating the same section with a "doo" or "loo" type of tonguing can be a valuable exercise. Students should feel the different tongue placement for each and notice that the further back in the mouth the tonguing, the softer the attack.

#### **D Phrygian Scale**

Play the Bb Scale. Now play the same note set but start on D ("the third note of the Bb Scale"). Point out the minor quality with the flatted second step - something not encountered in the Natural Minor scale and a sound that may be unusual to your students.



Key/Valve Clicks - Finger the valves/keys rapidly for a fluttering and rumbling effect.

In Stand - Trumpets play with bell pointing into stand for a distant, muffled sound.

#### **Improvisation and Composition**

- 1. Have the band play a drone of D and A ("the first and fifth notes of the D Phrygian Scale") while one to three students improvise on the scale. Any note of the scale works for the improviser at any time. Rotate soloists until all have had a chance. Percussionists can play the rhythm in measure 13 and 14 or create a new one.
- 2. Have students compose their own melody using the phrygian scale.

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