



Fannin Musical Productions

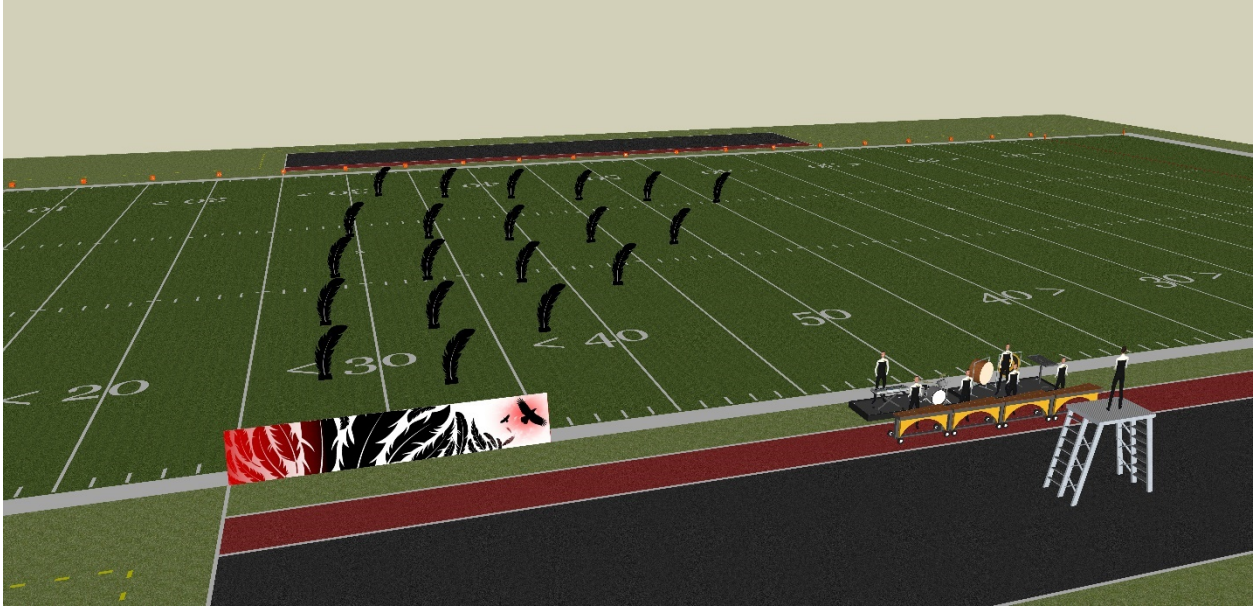
***Blackbird: Set Free***

Few melodies are more beautiful or instantly recognizable than the Beatle's beloved, "Blackbird" ... but how do broken wings learn to fly? In *Blackbird Set Free*, Fannin Musical Productions has interwoven the Beatle's timeless melody with the work of Bach, Sia, and Stravinsky to answer that question, depicting the inspirational moment when the bird arises like a phoenix from the ashes. Featuring a fun musical book filled with opportunities to highlight your best players and an elegant, impactful visual design *Blackbird Set Free* will move students, audiences, and judges alike.

*Blackbird Set Free* was commissioned by the award winning 2022 Brookland High School Band from Brookland, Arkansas!

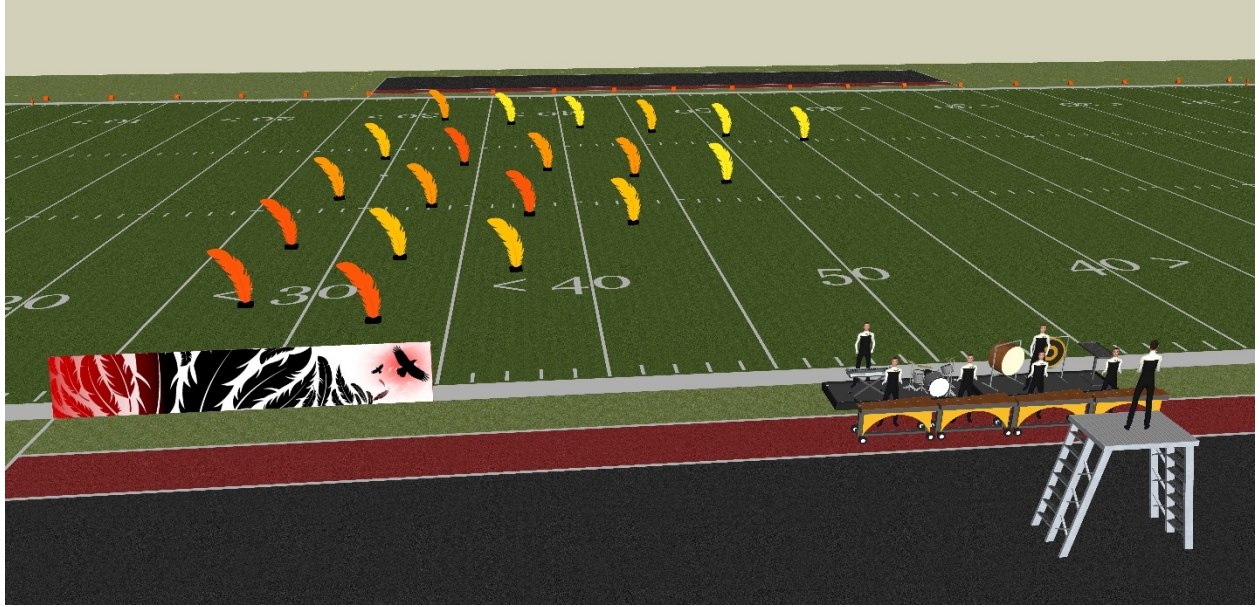
*Blackbird Set Free* is part of the Complete Concept Series, which includes a detailed storyboard and optional sound design. Copyright permission is required for this show.

Props & Set Design

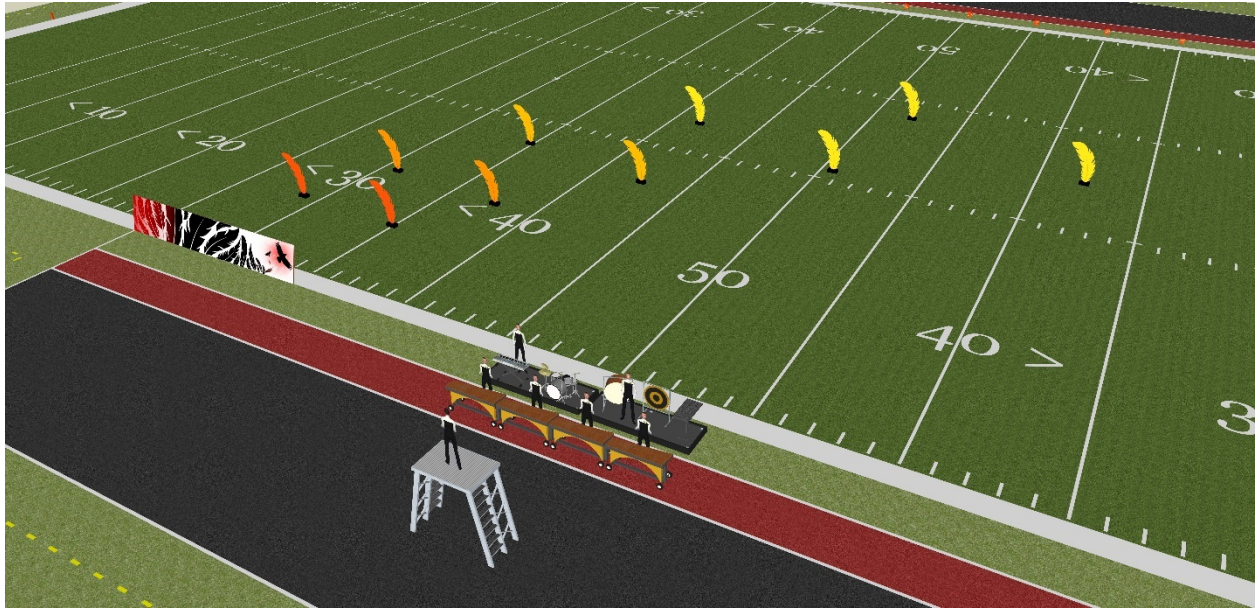


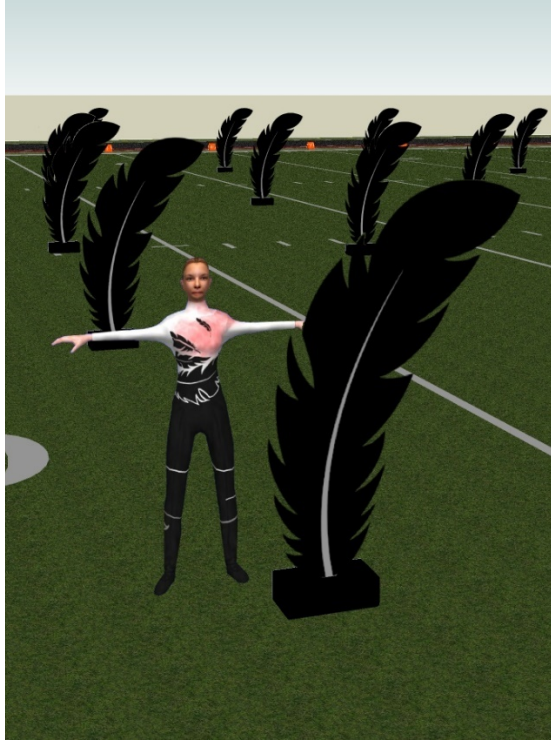
The set design for *Blackbird* is built around simple, but extremely effective prop elements, specifically a series of upright ‘feathers’ which artfully suggest the bird and, eventually, his transformation. Further, the feather props are infinitely adjustable to meet the needs and budget of your group. For larger groups, use a larger number of props, as seen above. On a tighter budget? Make use of a smaller number, as seen below.





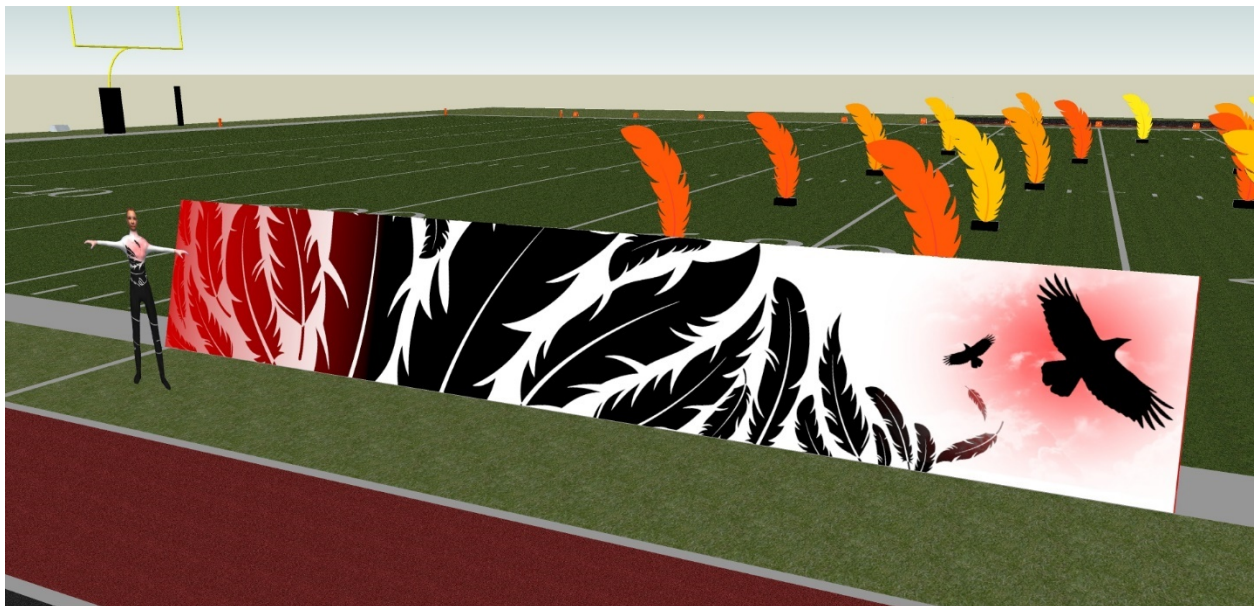
In the final movement of the show, as the blackbird is set free and Stravinsky's *Firebird* becomes the dominant musical motif, the feathers turn around to reveal bright, vibrant, fiery colors that completely transform the fieldscape. By limiting the color palette to stark black, white, and red until the Closer, we maximize the impact of this moment for a huge, final visual effect.





The feather props are a combination of a professionally printed, contour cut corrugated plastic ‘feather’ which arrives ready-made at your door, and a simple, DIY base which any volunteer booster can construct. High quality printing with fast turnaround times is available from our partners at Total Visual Design, along with simple, DIY blueprints.

Further, we have designed an optional sideline screen for *Blackbird*, a simple way to frame the stage and clean up the area used for color guard transitions. High quality printing with fast turnaround times is available from our partners at Total Visual Design.



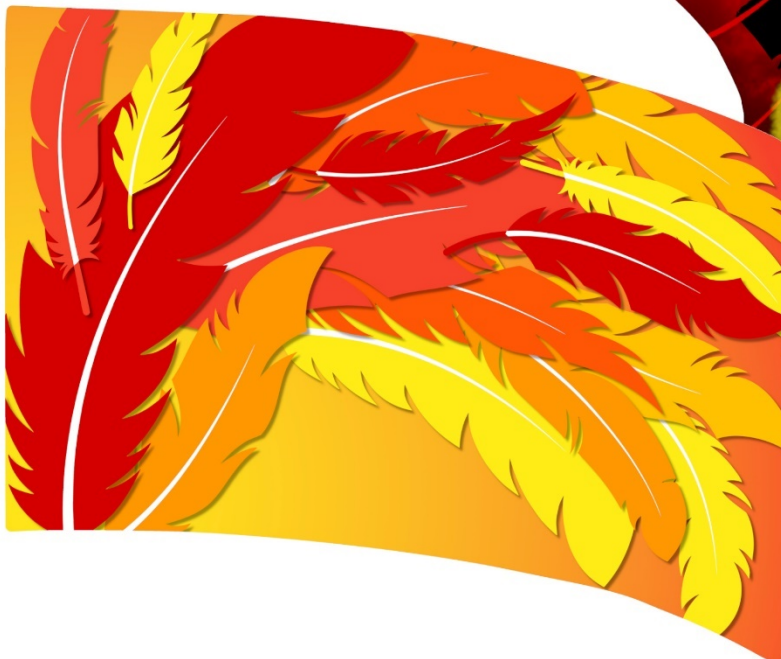
Flag & Costume Design





OPENER

BALLAD

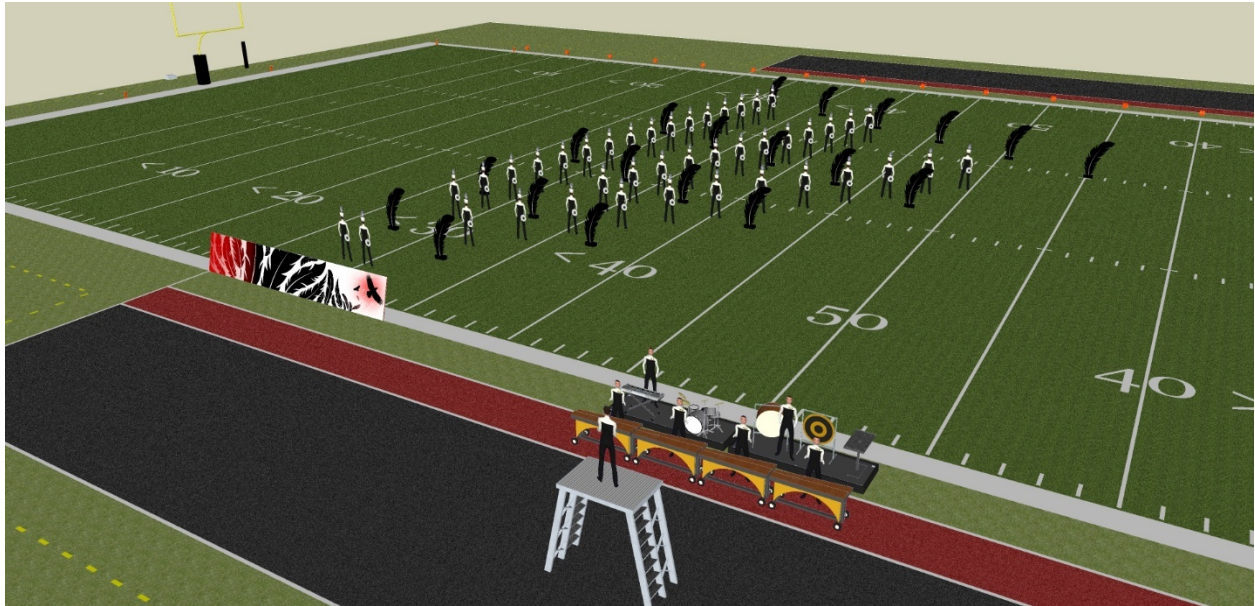


CLOSER

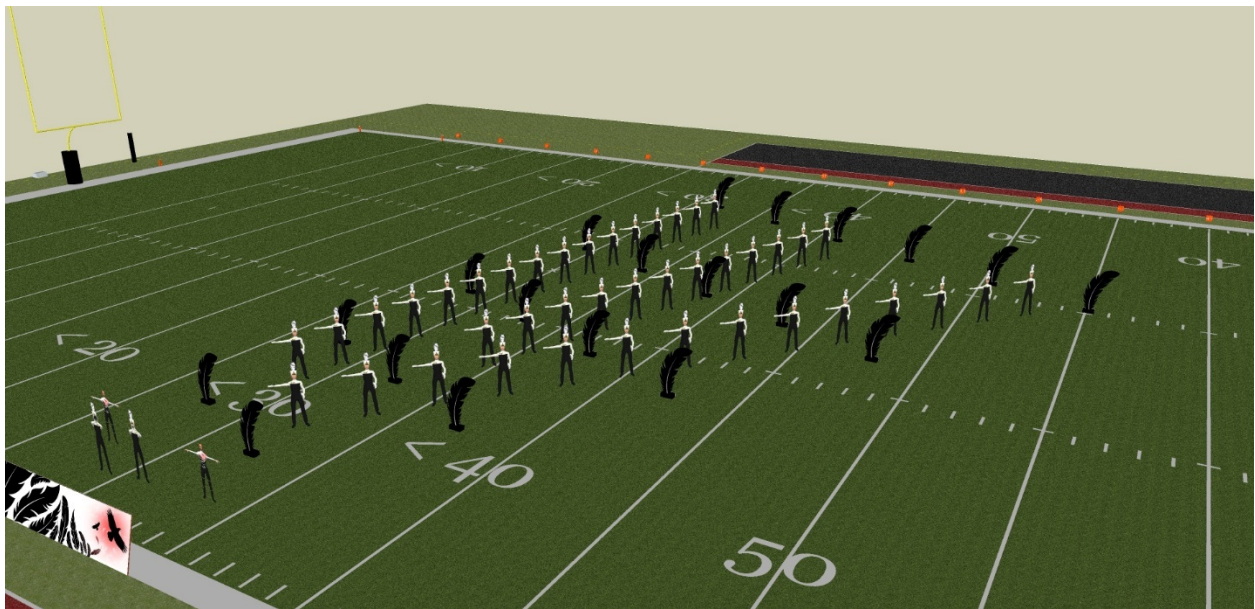


The color guard design for *Blackbird* is designed to mesh seamlessly with the set, highlighting the same progression from stark, black and white to bright, fiery color in the closer. What begins with only the slightest hint of red begins to predominate in the ballad silk along with hints of yellow. Finally, the rebirth of the bird is referenced in a silk that directly mirrors the transformation of the set.

## Movement 1 Effects



A consistent part of *Blackbird Set Free* is its wide variety of opportunities to feature your best students, and this is evident from the very outset of the Opener. As the show begins, the drill form is integrated with the feather props, and body choreography ripples forward to draw the eye in that direction.



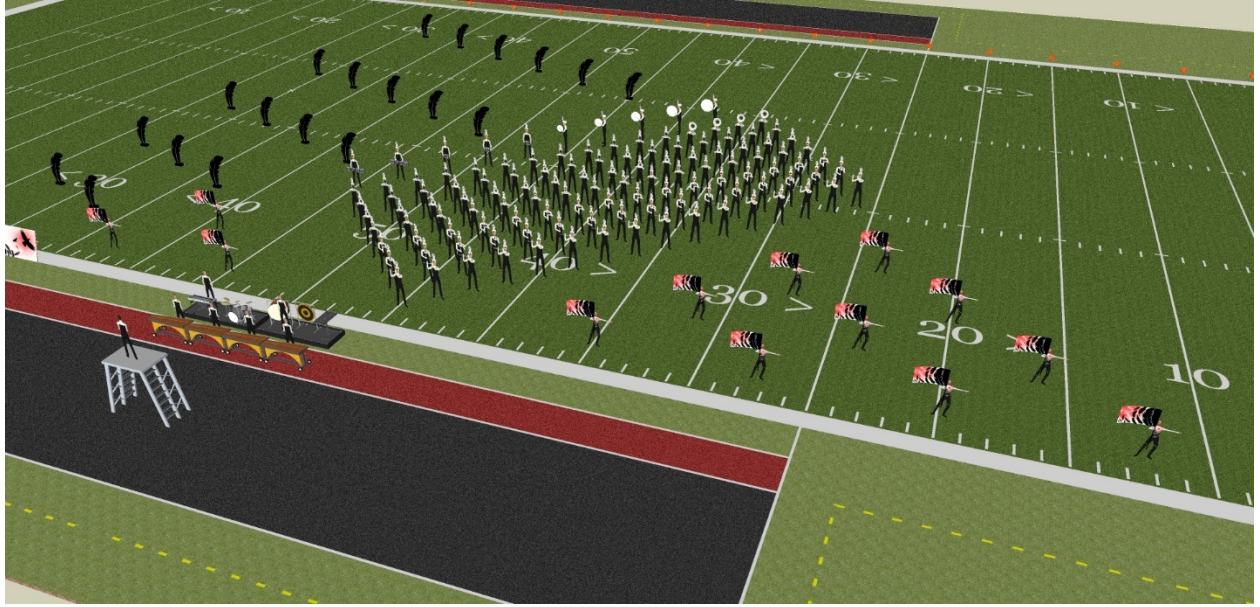




...where a duet introduces the Beatles' beloved, "Blackbird" as the show's most memorable motif. Sketched here as a baritone and trumpet, allow our arrangers to customize the show to feature your brightest stars.

Meanwhile, the color guard introduces our first flag silk in the same stark black and white as the set design, with the first hits of the red that will predominate later on.

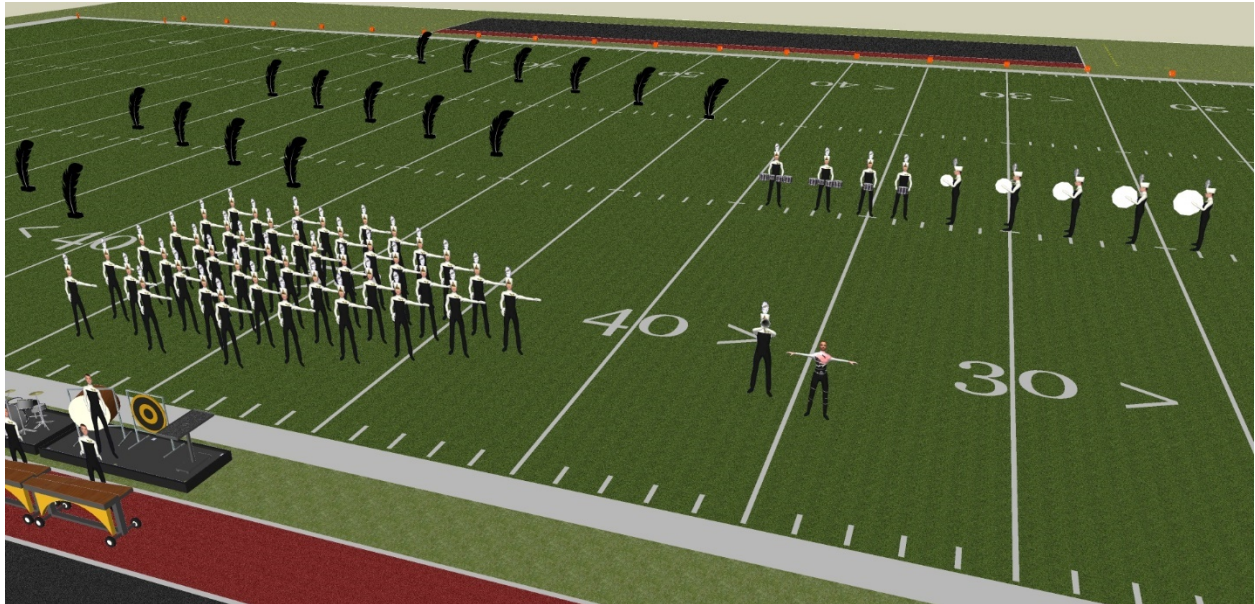




The full-ensemble then layers in, building to our first impact moment of the show, a haunting rendering of “Blackbird.” Then Opener explores that theme throughout, including small ensemble moments where different parts of your ensemble get to take center stage.



## Movement 2 Effects



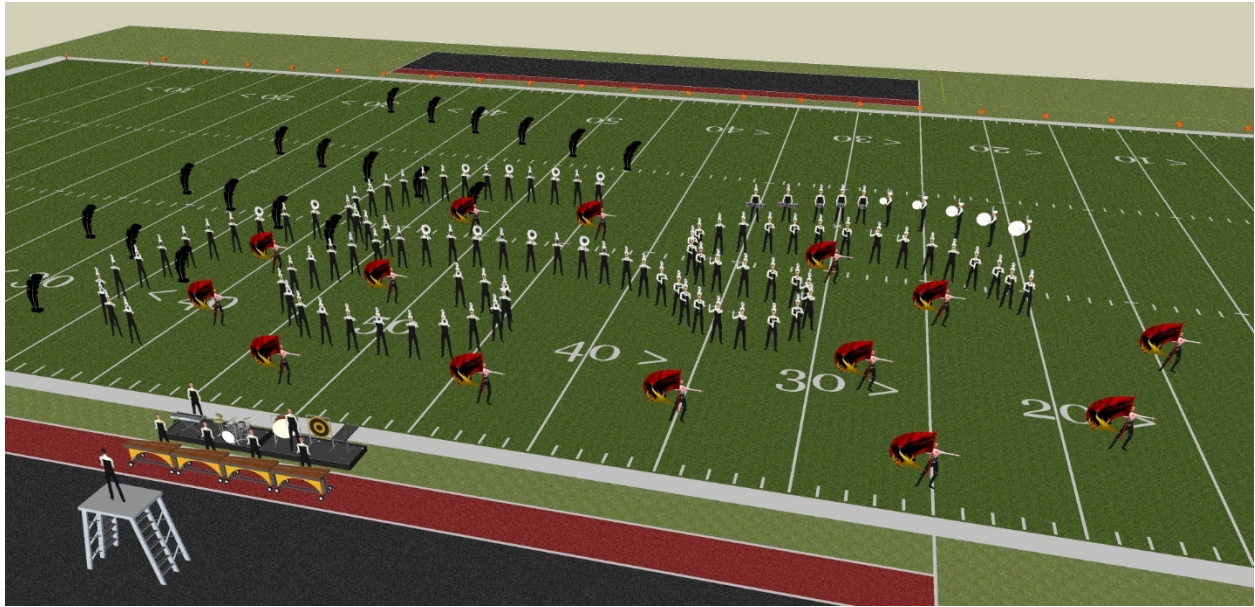
In the second movement, we begin to layer in themes from *The Firebird*, first in another opportunity for one of your best players via a lyric solo. And, as the musical evolution would suggest, the ‘fiery’ elements of the visual design are also introduced, including the stunning ballad swing flag depicting the bird’s descent into the flames before he can later be reborn.





The ballad then transitions back into a full, lyrical, gorgeous iteration of Blackbird, a star feature for two of your best players who will shine throughout the piece. Sketched here as a clarinet and saxophone, let our arrangers customize the piece to suit your best students.

At the peak of the movement, the duet is joined by the full ensemble and the guard fills the field with deep, moody red.





Finally, the duet takes charge again, ending on a leading phrase that transitions directly into...

### Movement 3 Effects



The Firebird aggressively take over in the beginning of the Closer with a rousing statement from the low brass accompanied by the brightest silk yet in the guard. The soaring, uplifting theme is passed from first one soloist...





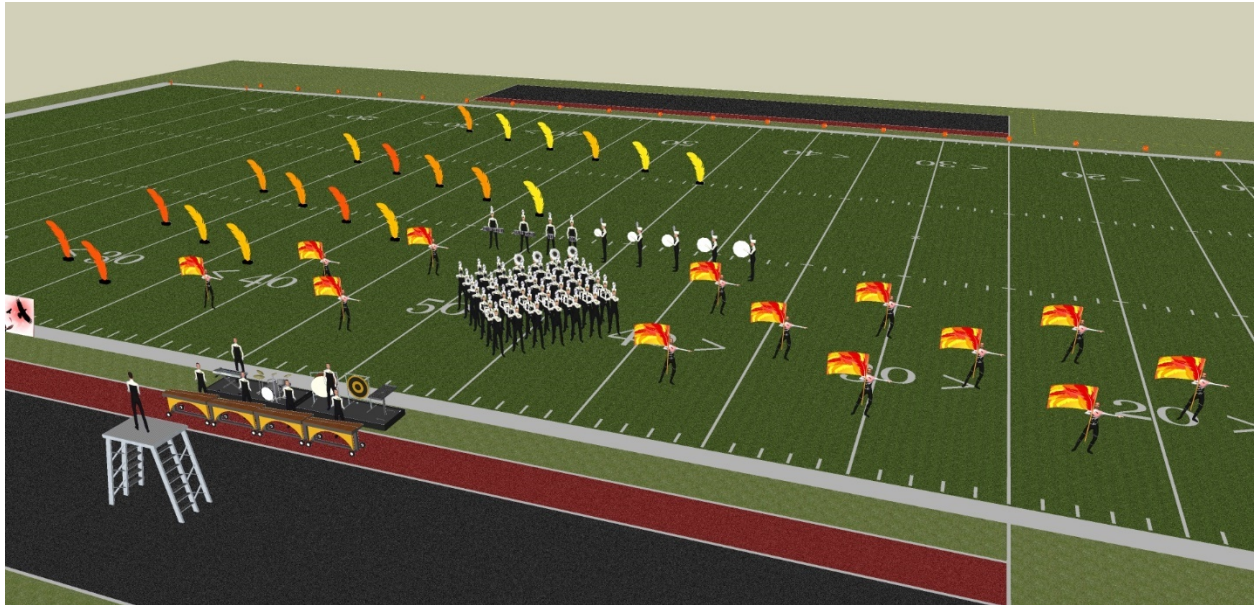
...to another, leading us musically and visually towards the biggest visual moment of the program.

While the front ensemble leads takes over musically for a phrase, visual choreography in the hornline comes together with a prop transformation for an awe-inspiring moment: the blackbird feathers ripple turn to become firebird feathers, symbolizing the phoenix-like rebirth and immediately changing the entire look of the set.





In a fieldscape now filled with bright, vibrant colors, the show pushes towards its final impact, with the final, glorious interweaving of Stravinsky and the Beatles.







...and after a brief applause break, we return to where we began: a trio of your best musicians gently playing the “Blackbird” motif, symbolizing the ongoing cycle of life, death, and rebirth.

*Fin.*

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