

Echoes of Darkness - FMP-SK 2024



This fresh and playable show uses classical favorites in an epic “rock” style reminiscent of Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Mannheim Steamroller and Orchestra Cinematique’. Familiar themes are “echoed” throughout the show creating a haunting aura abundant with visual imagery. “Echoes” in the title also refers to the reverberating sounds one might hear while being alone on empty streets late at night in a historic city. The overall intent of the show is to create a sense of intrigue, drama and the fear of the unknown. Repertoire includes *Mozart’s Symphony No 40 G. Minor*, *Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata*, and *Mussorsky’s Night on Bald Mountain* arranged by Shawn Pityk and Josh Howell.

Helpful Elements for Bringing the Show to Life

- What the audience sees AND hears creates the appropriate “feel” on a theater stage or on film. The same applies to the football field so it is important to have elements of darkness and mystery visually. This is done through body, staging and equipment. Coordinating costumes, flags designs, props and soundscape will all further the dark, mysterious action essential to this show’s intent.
- The show’s narrative can be broad and simple, portraying a more epic and traditional mood in Part 1. Then moving to a calm and reflective ambiance in the *Moonlight Sonata* based Part 2. Part 3 is more contemporary sounding and reminiscent of the excitement that can accompany the sights and sounds of a big city late at night.
- Feel free to create your own mystery or crime story narrative incorporating characters; perhaps featuring the colorguard, drum majors, or any talented performers you choose. Anything is possible!

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The Set (Props)

The use of props in marching bands is NOT mandatory. Props are intended to “further the action” at that particular time in performing arts. When integrated thoughtfully, they can be tremendously effective. However, they can also make a production look clumsy and confusing. Where, when and how field props are used must be thoughtfully considered. Often, transitioning them on and off as well as moving performers to and from them distract from the main focus at that time.

For this show, digitally printed vinyl panels could be used as a stand alone backdrop to frame and possibly close in the field environment for smaller bands. They could remain stationary and spread out until they are pushed together from performers behind them to form the panoramic view near the end of the show. Performers can go behind them to change equipment, costuming or simply exit the field to place focus on those performers remaining on stage.



The above is the complete image for the use of five (5) 8' x 4" panel props and could be arranged similarly to the field screenshot below.



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Below shows another size/configuration option to create a grander look using three (3) 10' x 10' panel props.

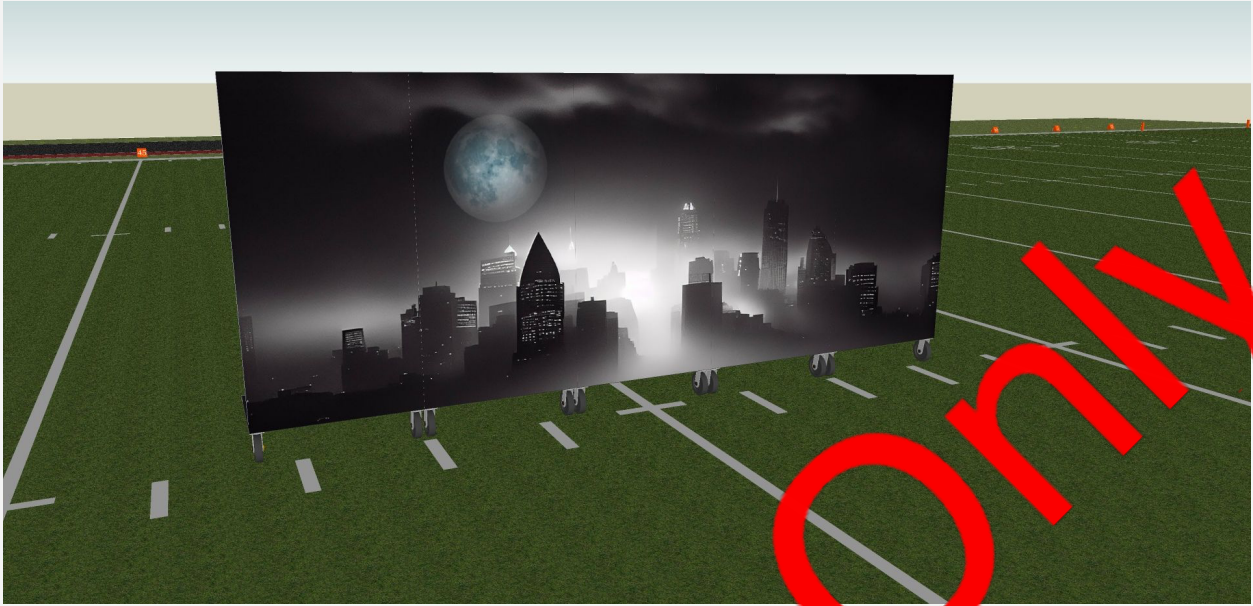


Those three 10' x 10' panels could be arranged similarly to the field screenshot below for most of the show. They could also serve as a place to exchange guard equipment and costuming.



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End of Show Cityscape Look



[Corps Design](#) custom media frames are adjustable, well constructed and affordable. They work well with either of the scenarios above. Incorporate your own ideas too.

[8 x 4 Panel Frame](#)



[10 x 10 Media Monster Panel Frame](#)

* - Images for individual panels are located in the shared folder Fannin Music provided when you purchased this show.

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Overall Show Imagery

- Mysterious and suspenseful
- Dark and muted with a "Film Noir" feel
- Dramatic and intense
- Duality Design Elements
 - Written tempos vs feet puls
 - Single vs. half-time marching
 - Moving feet in faster "three" vs. slower in "one"
 - Moods and tempos
 - Classic musical themes vs. contemporary musical approach
 - Dark vs. light
 - Big and powerful vs. small and intimate
- Costumes, equipment and fabric used to conceal
 - Hiding behind props, fabric, other performers,
 - turning away from the audience, going to the ground
- Echo motif can be exaggerated visually and sonically
- Moon visual motif opportunities in drill forms
- Incorporation of flashlights and handheld lights
- Colorguard or featured performers serve as characters to convey a crime story
- Segmental opportunities to portray technique and excellence

Visual Staging Ideas for Key Phrases

Part 1

M 1-5 - Focus on single guard soloist or small group with stationary, subtle choreography with hood up but no equipment. Their flags could be grounded to be picked up for the first impact at Letter B. Perhaps they actually enter the field from behind a panel coming out into open space? The rest of the band halted, posed randomly facing backfield toward the city panels

M 6-10 - All musicians playing backfield here; not everyone needs to move at once, perhaps some sort of aid on the band intrigue. More guard could be entering the field but still no flag color showing.

M 11-14 - More unified movement here, building intrigue, still facing back but getting closer to the audience. Guard more unison choreography with the flag still stripped.

M 15-17 - Musicians halt facing back, add easy choreography added at m 16? All musicians turn front towards the audience slowly at m 16. Guard could continue to move to where their flags are grounded