

# hitchBOT jr.

Alex Tedrow



2023

PERUSAL SCORE

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*for band and audio track*

PERUSAL SCORE

*Original version commissioned by the Indiana University Young Winds program*

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(cover art designed by Austin Jones – used with permission)

## **Grade Level**

Grade 0.5/1

## **Duration**

1.5 minutes

## **Equipment**

- Laptop, tablet, phone, or other device capable of playing audio (email [alextedrowmusic@gmail.com](mailto:alextedrowmusic@gmail.com) for sound file)
- Adapter cable as appropriate for audio device
- Stereo speaker system
- Monitor for conductor
- (no click track or microphones required)

## Program Notes

hitchBOT, the late Canadian hitchhiking robot, was created by professors at McCaster University and Ryerson University in 2013. hitchBOT was a study in “roboethics” (the ethics of robot use) and set out to answer the essential question: “Can robots trust humans?”

The robot was released into the wild and traveled all over North America and Europe. Because hitchBOT couldn’t move on its own, it asked drivers to pick it up and transport it from location to location. hitchBOT eventually became a social media sensation with fans all over the world following its journey. In 2015 hitchBOT was brutally decapitated and vandalized during its first attempt to hitchhike across the United States, thus ending the study. *Sometimes bad things happen to good robots.*

I was inspired by hitchBOT’s tragic story to write this fun, quirky, dark techno-western influenced piece for band and electronics. The audio track is constructed to sound somewhat robotic in nature while the ensemble has room to add expressivity and human artistry to the mix, hinting at the underlying tension present by nature in the ethics of human interaction with technology.

While hitchBOT was not limited to only Western United States, when imagining the idea of hitchhiking robots I couldn’t help but picture robots hanging out by a campfire in the desert – harmonicas in hand. For this reason the piece has a bit of a country-western flavor hinting at music from some of my favorite classic films (too bad those films didn’t have robots).

Please enjoy!

## Performance Notes

- This piece uses an audio mp3 track that should be balanced and synced with the ensemble. Proper level adjustment should be done ahead of time to ensure the band balances appropriately with the audio.
- No click track is required for alignment. The conductor should make sure they can hear the audio clearly (preferably through a monitor or headphones) to stay in sync with the track. A click track is optionally available from the composer if desired.
- Timestamps are written in the score next to rehearsal marks. These can be used to rehearse specific sections of music with the audio. The conductor or audio engineer should start the track a few seconds before the listed timestamp to start a new section.
- This simplified version of the original *hitchBOT* is a “flex” score. There are 4 total wind parts. Each instrument may be assigned one of these 4 parts based on the available parts supplied. Individual parts have been transposed and octave displaced to accommodate ranges for young musicians. “Advanced” parts for some instruments are available and encouraged for use with strong players in the ensemble.
- The piece may be performed by any number of performing forces. Percussion parts may be omitted as necessary.

## Parts Available

### PART 1:

Flute  
Flute (advanced)  
Oboe (may double as Mallets 1)  
B $\flat$  Clarinet  
B $\flat$  Clarinet (advanced)  
E $\flat$  Alto Sax  
E $\flat$  Alto Sax (advanced)  
B $\flat$  Trumpet  
B $\flat$  Trumpet (advanced)  
F Horn

### PART 2:

Flute  
Oboe (may double as Mallets 2)  
B $\flat$  Clarinet  
B $\flat$  Clarinet (advanced)  
E $\flat$  Alto Sax  
E $\flat$  Alto Sax (advanced)  
B $\flat$  Tenor Sax  
B $\flat$  Trumpet  
B $\flat$  Trumpet (advanced)  
F Horn  
Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon

### PART 3:

B $\flat$  Clarinet  
B $\flat$  Bass Clarinet  
E $\flat$  Alto Sax  
B $\flat$  Tenor Sax  
E $\flat$  Baritone Sax  
B $\flat$  Trumpet  
F Horn  
Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon

### PART 4:

B $\flat$  Bass Clarinet  
B $\flat$  Tenor Sax  
E $\flat$  Baritone Sax  
F Horn  
Trombone/Euphonium/Bassoon  
Tuba

### PERCUSSION:

Timpani  
Percussion 1: Snare Drum  
Percussion 2: Bass Drum  
Percussion 3: Suspended Cymbal, 2 Woodblocks, Triangle, Low Tom  
- (may be performed by multiple players)  
Mallets 1, 2 (double Oboe Part 1 and Part 2)

Music typeset by the composer

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Tedrow, Alex (ASCAP)

- hitchBOT jr., band and electronics

# hitchBOT, Jr.

Alex Tedrow (b. 1999)

$\text{♩} = 116$  techno-western groove

5 (0:08)

The score is written for a 4/4 techno-western groove at 116 bpm. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system (measures 1-6) includes four string staves (1-4), Timpani (G, D), Percussion 1 (Snare Drum), Percussion 2 (Bass Drum), Percussion 3 (Suspended Cymbal), and an Audio Track. The second system (measures 7-11) includes the same four string staves, Timpani, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3 (2 Woodblocks), and a Track. Dynamics include *f*, *fp*, and *f*. Performance markings include accents and slurs. The Audio Track and Track are marked with (robotic beat and riser), (harmonica), (flute sound), and (electronic beat), (chirpy synth).

13 (0:25)

Musical score for measures 12-16. The score includes staves for strings (1-4), Timp., Perc. 1-3, and Track. Dynamics include *fp*, *f*, *p*, and *f*. Percussion parts include (on rim) and (wobble bass). Measure numbers 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated at the bottom.

21 (0:41)

Musical score for measures 17-22. The score includes staves for strings (1-4), Timp., Perc. 1-3, and Track. Dynamics include *p*, *f*, and *mf*. Percussion parts include Suspended Cymbal and (spacey synth sounds). Measure numbers 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 are indicated at the bottom.



23

1

2

3

4

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Track

23 24 25 26 27 28

29 (0:58)

1

2

3

4

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Track

29 30 31 32 33 34

37 (1:14)

35

1  
2  
3  
4  
Timp.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
Track

(harmonica) (electronic beat) (flute sound)

35 36 37 38 39

40

1  
2  
3  
4  
Timp.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
Track

2 Woodblocks Low Tom

(chirpy synth)

40 41 42 43 44

45

1 *ff* *fp* *ff*

2 *ff* *fp* *ff*

3 *ff* *fp* *ff*

4 *ff* *fp* *ff*

Timp. *ff* *fp* *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff* *fp* *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff* *fp* *ff*

Perc. 3 *ff* *fp* *ff*

Track (power down)

45 46 47 48 49 50

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