

# The Challenger Seven

Honoring the seven American astronauts who died aboard the Challenger shuttle on January 28, 1986,  
with excerpts from President Ronald Reagan's speech to the nation that evening

John Wesley Gibson

Tempo markings: **Slowly** ♩ = 60, **rit.**, **a tempo**, **rit.**, **a tempo**

Flute 1, 2

Oboe 1, 2

Clarinet in B♭ 1

Clarinet in B♭ 2

Bassoon 1, 2

Horn in F 1

Horn in F 2

Trumpet in C 1

Trumpet in C 2

Trombone 1, 2

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Harp

Narrator

Timpani

Percussion

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Contrabass

Ladies and gentlemen.  
Today is a day for mourning  
and remembering.

A

rit.

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn.

A

rit.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Hp.

Timp.

Perc.

A

rit.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

a tempo **B** rit. a tempo rit. a tempo

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bb Cl. 1 *mp*

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn. *mp*

a tempo **B** rit. a tempo rit. a tempo

Hn. 1 *mp*

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1 *mp*

C Tpt. 2 *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

B. Tbn. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Hp.

Narr. Nineteen years ago we lost three astronauts in a terrible accident on the ground.  
 But we've never lost an astronaut in flight. We've never had a tragedy like this.  
 Perhaps we've forgotten the courage it took for the crew of the shuttle.  
 But they, the Challenger Seven, were aware of the dangers, overcame them and did their jobs brilliantly.

Timp.

Perc.

a tempo **B** rit. a tempo rit. a tempo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

Fl. *p* *f*

Ob. *p* *f*

Bb Cl. 1 *mf* *f*

Bb Cl. 2 *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mf* *f*

Hn. 1 *f*

Hn. 2 *f*

C Tpt. 1 *f*

C Tpt. 2 *f*

Tbn. *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Tuba *f*

Hp. *mf* *f*

Narr. We mourn seven heroes.  
We mourn their loss as a nation together.

Timp. *p* *f*  
susp. cymbal

Perc. *pp* *f*

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn.

**D**

*p*

*p*

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tuba

**D**

Hp.

Narr. For the families of the seven, we cannot bear, as you do, the full impact of this tragedy.

Timp.

Perc.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

**D**

**E** rit.

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn.

**E** rit.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Hp.

Narr.      Your loved ones were daring and brave,  
and they had that special grace,  
that special spirit that says, "Give me a  
challenge and I'll meet it with joy."

They had a hunger to explore  
the universe and discover its  
truths. They wished to serve,  
and they did. They served us all.

Timp.

Perc.

**E** rit.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

**F** a tempo

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn.

**F** a tempo

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Hp.

Narr. I want to say something to the schoolchildren of America who were watching the shuttle's takeoff. I know it is hard to understand, but sometimes painful things like this happen. It's all part of taking a chance and expanding man's horizons.

The future doesn't belong to the fainthearted; it belongs to the brave. The Challenger crew was pulling us into the future, and we'll continue to follow them.

Timp.

Perc.

**F** a tempo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

**G** Marcato ♩ = 128

Fl.

Ob.

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2

Bsn.

**G** Marcato ♩ = 128

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

B. Tbn.

Tuba

Hp.

Narr. We've grown used to the idea of space, and perhaps we forget that we've only just begun. We're still pioneers. They, the members of the Challenger crew, were pioneers

Timp.

Perc.

S.D.

pp

**G** Marcato ♩ = 128

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pizz.

p

pizz.

p