

РЕНКА КОВНЕВА

THE WOMAN ASTRONAUT





Sara Andon, *Flute Soloist*







Sara Andon, *Flute Soloist*



ABOUT THE MUSIC

Act I. Origins

1. **Earth** — A child sees the Earth for the first time on TV, and then experiences the excitement of first seeing a satellite in space.
2. **Starry Way** — Quest for adventure. A daydreaming adolescent is mesmerized by the notion that a journey towards a "goal" and achieving it will make one's life meaningful.
3. **Forest** — For me, forest is a sanctuary. It is simultaneously spooky and pastoral. I feel alone, at peace, connected with the universe, and nostalgic for my homeland.
4. **Land Of Burning Fields** — To round off the Chapter on the homeland that had to be left behind, #4 was inspired by the imagery of the *Witcher* franchise. Burning fields, war, fear, suspense, bleak sadness and a mournful cry of an arcane Eastern European fiddle.
5. **Looking Up** — Longing for something far out of reach as a sublimation of adolescent sexuality.

Act II. Flight School

6. **Training** — A piece about bullies and rookie hazing rituals, or being totally green in Hollywood. Loneliness, stress, but also ambition, perseverance and resilience.
7. **Broken** — The aftermath of Training.
8. **Taking Flight** — The protagonist has been kicked to the curb, then meanders and has to find her path again. The theme gradually comes into focus: first tentative, then more purposeful. In the middle section, our young pilot is flying through turbulence, leading to a triumphant ending.
9. **Alarm and Rescue** — The skills learned in training are put to the test in real life.

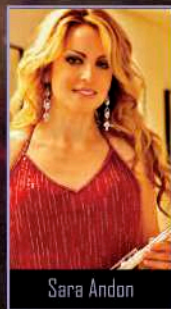
Act III. Space

10. **In Space** — It's about love, destiny and hope. About our ability to heal and emerge from life's black holes and deafening noise.
11. **Insomnia** — Descending from melancholy into darkness and anguish: the toll of ambition and careerism.
12. **Siren** — Obsessions. Letting go. Accepting destiny. Co-composed with Christopher Lord who designed the unique pulsing synths and ambient space sounds.
13. **Goodbyes in Zero Gravity** — An introspective prayer before the "final mission."
14. **Solar Flare** — The final mission for this astronaut. Gothic apocalyptic requiem.

All Original Music Composed, Orchestrated and Produced by

PENKA KOUNEVA

except *Training* co-composed with **Jeff Broadbent** and *Siren* co-composed with **Christopher Lord**
Executive Album Producer: **Robert Townson** • Music Producer: **Christopher Lord** • Music Director: **Victor Rodriguez**
Recorded, Mixed and Mastered by **John Radd** • Album Mixed and Mastered at Clearstory Sound
Performed by **Hollywood Studio Symphony** • Contractor: **Peter Rotter** • Orchestral Session Conductor: **Eimear Noone**
Featured Soloists: **Sara Andon**, Flute / Alto Flute (3, 8) • **Nathan Barr**, Bowed Guitar-Viol (10)
Andrew Duckles, Viola (4) • **Ayana Haviv**, Voice (10) • **Lili Haydn**, Violin (1, 11, 13)
Mike Lang, Piano (7, 11) • **Bonnie Lavine**, Voice (5, 13) • **Katia Popov**, Violin (5)
Choir Conductor: **Vesela Geleva** featuring **Gaudeamus Choir** (12) • Recorded in Plovdiv Institute for Music
Synth Programming: **Penka Kouneva** and **Christopher Lord**, **Jeff Broadbent** (6, 9), **Fred Emory Smith** (9)
Additional Synth Programming: **Alexandre Cote** (5, 10, 14), **Sam Hulick** (14), **Strezov Samples**, Storm Choir
Assistant to Composer: **Alexandre Cote** • Orchestrators: **Penka Kouneva** and **Larry Rench** • Copyist: **Junko Tamura**
Music Preparation: **Thanh Tran** and **Tina Tamura** • ProTools Ninja and Music Editor: **Dave Lawrence**
The Bridge Team: **Greg Curtis**, **Vicki Giordano**, **Andy Zisakis**, **Milton Gutierrez**.
The Bridge recording session took place on October 29, 2014
Additional recordings: **Dave Lang** at Music and Health Inc. Studio; **Tihomir Radev** at Plovdiv Music Academy
Album DDP assembly: **Diego Lopez** • Original album art: **Virgil Avery** • Video and Album Photographs: **David Rodwin**
Kickstarter Producer: **David Rodwin** • Album art direction and design: **Bill Pitzonka**





**AMERICA
IN SPACE:**
The Soundtrack
of Exploration





**1983
THE
FIRST
AMERICAN
WOMAN
IN
SPACE**





CELEBRATING THE FIRST 50



WOMEN ASTRONAUTS

