

Alex van den Broek

Declare Gently

For Orchestra

2014

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Approx Duration: 5mins

Instrumentation:

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
Cor Angalis
2 Bb Clarinets
Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F
3 C Trumpets
2 Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba

Timpani
Crotales
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

Notes about the piece

Having an orchestra at my disposal was a chance for me to explore a significant personal musical interest, 'classifications of musical time'. This idea is explored in great depth in Jonathan Kramer's work 'The Time of Music'¹. This book was recommended to me in 2014 by a fellow composer and was interesting and engaging for me, as this concept had been something that I stumbled on early in my career. Over the last 15 years it has become my musical ideal, a method by which I believe music can transcend the trivial mediocrity of everyday life and take humankind to a higher plane.

Before discovering Kramer's classifications of time in music, I had two personal classifications:

1. Eternal time – time that is never ending, unmeasurable.
2. Man-made time – a day, an hour, a minute; measured time.

The piece isn't meant to 'begin' or 'end', rather it is as though the audience are merely hearing a segment of an eternal piece of music.

The musical themes - including the brass melody, the held chords in the strings, and the wind counter melody - represent the two different aspects of time, and facets and gradations of those concepts. These themes will often clash or fuse into one another. While the themes appear static there are delicate and gradual evolutions within each.

Writing a work with no restraints or commissions attached to it, and having a professional orchestra play it in a reading setting, allowed me to explore these musical ideas in an expansive way, with a broader colour palette.

Alex van den Broek (2014)

¹ *The Time of Music: New Meanings, New Temporalities, New Listening Strategies*. New York: Schirmer, 1988. Print.

Declare Gently

♩ = 78

Piccolo

Flutes 2
3

Oboes 1
2

Cor Anglais

B♭ Clarinets 1
2

Bass Clarinet
in B♭

Bassoons 1
2

Contrabassoon

Horn in F 1
2

Horn in F 3
4

C Trumpet 1

C Trumpet 2

C Trumpet 3

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Crotales

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

f sustained and powerful

f sustained and powerful

f sustained and powerful

mp

p

p

mf

l.v. throughout

♩ = 78

9

Fl. 2. **A** 1. **B**

Ob. 2. 1. *mp* 1. *mp*

C. A. *p*

Cl. 1. 2. *p* 1. 3. *p* 1.

Bsn. *p* 3.

Tpt.1 non dim.

Tpt.2 non dim.

Tpt.3 non dim.

Tbn.1 *f* sustained and powerful

Tbn.2 *f* sustained and powerful

B. Tbn. *f* sustained and powerful

Timp.

Crot. **A** 3. **B** *fpp*

18

Fl. 1. 3. *mp*

Ob. 1. *p* *p*

C. A. *p*

Cl. 1. *p*

Tbn.1 3. 3. 3. 3. *f*

Tbn.2 3. 3. 3. 3.

B. Tbn. 3. 3. 3. 3. *f*

Timp. div. *mf* *mf* *fpp* *pp* *mp*

Vln. I *p* *cresc.*

Vln. II *p* *cresc.*

Vla. *p* *cresc.*

Vc. *p* *cresc.*

27 **C**

B. Cl. *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mf* *f* *p*

Cbsn. *mp* *mf* *f*

Hn. *mf* 1. *f*

Hn. *mf* 3. 3. *f*

Tpt.3 *w/cup mute* *mp* *f*

Tbn.1 *mf* *f*

Tbn.2 *mf* *f*

B. Tbn. *mf* *f*

Tba. *mf* *f*

Timp. *pp* *mp* *pp*

C

Vln. I *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *p*

Cb. *mp* *cresc.* *f* *p*

36 **D**

Picc. *mp* *f*

Fl. *mp* *f*

C. A. *f*

Cl. *mp* *f*

B. Cl. *pp*

Cbsn. *pp*

Hn. *pp*

Hn. *pp*

Tpt.1 *f* open

Tpt.2 *f* open

Tpt.3 *pp*

Tbn.1 *pp*

Tbn.2 *pp*

B. Tbn. *pp*

Tba. *pp*

Crot. *pp* *f*

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

This musical score page, numbered 5, features 13 staves for various instruments. The Piccolo, Flute, Clarinet, and Saxophone parts (C.A.) are marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and include triplet markings. The Horn part (Hn.) is marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and includes a 4-measure rest. The Trumpet (Tpt.1, Tpt.2) and Trombone (Tbn.2) parts are also marked with *mp*. The Crotales (Crot.) part is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.) parts are marked with a non-diminuendo (*non dim.*) dynamic. The score includes a key signature change from 3/4 to 4/4 time and a section marked with a boxed 'E'.

63 **F** w/clarinet

Picc. *mf* *f* 3

Fl. *mf* *f* 3

Ob. *f*

C. A. *f*

Cl. *mf* *f* a2 3

Tpt.1 open *f*

Tpt.2 open *f*

Tpt.3 open *f*

Timp. *mf* *fpp* *mp* *mf*

Crot. **F** *f*

Vln. I *f* *mf*

Vln. II *f* *mf*

Vla. *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf*

Cb. *f* *mf*

72

Picc. *f* *f* 3

Fl. *f* *f* 3

Ob. 3

C. A. 3

Cl. *f* *f* 3

Tpt. 1 3

Tpt. 2 3

Tpt. 3 3

Crot.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 72, features ten staves. The top five staves are for woodwinds: Piccolo (Picc.), Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in A (C. A.), and Clarinet in C (Cl.). The next three staves are for trumpets: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, and Tpt. 3. The bottom two staves are for strings: Crotchet (Crot.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score is written in 2/4 time and includes various musical notations such as dynamics (*f*, *f*), articulation (<), and triplets (3). The woodwind parts are more active, with many notes and slurs, while the string parts are more sustained, often using long notes and slurs.

80

Picc. *mf* *f* *3* *3* *p*

Fl. *mf* 1. 2.

Ob. 2. *mf* 2. *mp* 1. *3*

C. A. *mp* *mp*

Cl. *mf* *f* *3* *3* *p*

B. Cl. *mp* *p*

Bsn. *p* 1. 2.

Hn. *mp* 1. 2.

Hn. *mp* *3*

Tpt. 1 *mp* w/cup mute

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Crot. *mp* **G**

Vln. I non dim.

Vln. II non dim.

Vla. non dim.

Vc. non dim.

Cb. non dim.

89

Picc. *mf* *f* 3

Ob. 1. *p*

C. A. *mp*

Cl. *mf* *f* 3

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. 3 *p* 1. *p* 2. 3

Hn. 2. *p*

Hn. 4. *mp* 3. *p* 3

Tpt.1

Tpt.2 w/cup mute *mp*

Crot. 3

93

H

Picc. *p*

Fl. a2 *mp* *p*

Cl. *p*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *mp* *mp* *p*

Cbsn. *p*

Hn. 1. *p* *mp* *p*

Hn.

Tbn.1 *p*

Tbn.2 *p*

B. Tbn. *p*

Tba. *p*

H

Crot. *p* dampen note

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 93, features a woodwind and brass section. The instruments are arranged in staves from top to bottom: Piccolo (Picc.), Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Contrabassoon (Cbsn.), Horns (Hn.), Trombones (Tbn.1, Tbn.2, B. Tbn.), and Cymbals (Crot.). The Piccolo part begins with a melodic line marked with a box containing the letter 'H'. The Flute part includes a fingering 'a2' and dynamic markings of *mp* and *p*. The Clarinet and Bass Clarinet parts also feature melodic lines with a box containing 'H' and a dynamic marking of *p*. The Bassoon part has dynamic markings of *mp* and *p*. The Contrabassoon part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The Horns part has dynamic markings of *p*, *mp*, and *p*. The Trombone parts (Tbn.1, Tbn.2, B. Tbn.) and the Tuba part (Tba.) all have dynamic markings of *p*. The Cymbals part has a dynamic marking of *p* and the instruction 'dampen note'. A box containing the letter 'H' is also present at the bottom of the page.