

AN APPROXIMATE MEASURE OF TWO YEARS
FOR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

By

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A THESIS

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in partial fulfillment of the requirements
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MASTER OF MUSIC

Music Composition

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ABSTRACT

By

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An Approximate Measure of Two Years begins with a brooding, slow section comprising stacked chords that become increasingly contrapuntal. After a climax, this section dies down before taking off into a fast, driving section. A predominant feature in the harmonic language of this piece is the use of split thirds. Throughout each section, the associated anchor pitch is accompanied by ambiguity in tonality. For example, the centricity of 'A' in the beginning of the fast section encourages neither major nor minor tendencies. In addition to these thirds, a spread of other intervals is sometimes used to fill out chords (see the piano in mm. 217-221).

Perhaps one of the most interesting components of this work is its title. It is the product of a growing trend in social media known as crowdsourcing, the idea of asking a community to vote on a number of submitted proposals — the winner being incorporated into the final realization. On November 11, 2010, I asked the online community to vote (through my website) on a number of submitted titles I had received from colleagues earlier in the week. David MacDonald's *An Approximate Measure of Two Years* won with more than half the votes (*PROOF, Permissum Mihi Obduco*, and *Dolphin Safe Tunage* were some of the other submissions). Naturally, "our" title is supposed to represent the work in terms of my compositional style and development after spending two years earning a master's degree in composition.

Instrumentation

(One per part)

Flute
Clarinet in B-flat
Alto Saxophone
Bassoon
Horn in F 1
Horn in F 2
Trombone
Piano

(Two per part)

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Bass

Score in C (Bass down 8va)

Approx. 9'15"

An Approximate Measure of Two Years

for Chamber Orchestra

Patrick Evan Gullo

Brooding $\text{♩} = 89$

Musical score for Chamber Orchestra. The score consists of eight staves, each with a different instrument: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax., Bassoon, Horn 1, Horn 2, Trombone, and Piano. The piano staff is grouped by a brace. The music is in common time (indicated by a '4'). The first six staves (Flute, Clarinet, Alto Sax., Bassoon, Horn 1, Horn 2) have treble clefs, while the Trombone and Piano staves have bass clefs. The piano staff has two systems of four measures each. The first system is mostly rests, followed by a measure with eighth-note patterns. The second system is mostly rests, followed by a measure with eighth-note patterns.

Brooding $\text{♩} = 89$

Musical score for Chamber Orchestra. The score consists of five staves: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Bass. The music is in common time (indicated by a '4'). The violins have treble clefs, while the viola, cello, and bass have bass clefs. The violins play eighth-note patterns with grace marks. The viola, cello, and bass play eighth-note patterns. Dynamics include pp , p , and crescendo markings. The bass staff has two systems of four measures each, starting with a dynamic of pp .

A

Brilliant*a tempo*

10 *rit.*

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

f

Brilliant
a tempo

f

rit.

f

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

B

Fl. *f*

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1 *mf*

Hn. 2 *mf*

Tbn.

Pno. { *mf*

Vln. 1 *long bow*

Vln. 2 *long bow*

Vla. *cantabile*

Vlc. *long bow*

Cb. *mf*

Fl. mf
 Cl. mp
 A. Sx. mp
 Bsn.

 Hn. 1 mf
 Hn. 2 mf
 Tbn.

 Pno.

 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vlc.
 Cb.

28

This page contains five systems of musical notation. The first system (measures 1-4) features Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, and Bassoon. The Flute has sixteenth-note patterns starting at measure 5 with dynamic *mf*. The Clarinet and Alto Saxophone play eighth-note patterns starting at measure 5 with dynamic *mp*. The Bassoon remains silent throughout. The second system (measures 1-4) features Horn 1, Horn 2, and Trombone. Horn 1 starts with eighth-note pairs at measure 5 with dynamic *mf*. Horn 2 starts with eighth-note pairs at measure 5 with dynamic *mf*. The Trombone remains silent throughout. The third system (measures 1-4) features Piano, which is silent throughout. The fourth system (measures 1-4) features Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. All strings play eighth-note patterns starting at measure 5. The Violins play mostly on the G string, the Viola on the D string, the Cello on the A string, and the Double Bass on the E string.

C

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Reo

mf — *mp*

D

Driving ♩ = 172

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

meltingly

Driving ♩ = 172

Fl. 52
 Cl. *mf*
 A. Sx.
 Bsn. *mf*
 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno. 52
 Vln. 1 *f*
 Vln. 2 *f*
 Vla. *f*
 Vlc. *f*
 Cb. *f*

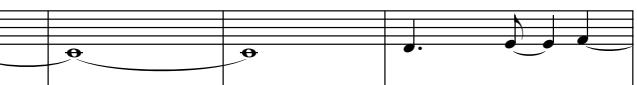
Fl. 

 Cl. 

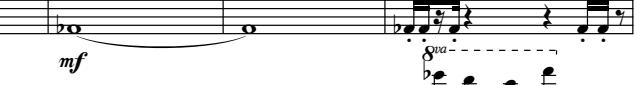
 A. Sx. 

 Bsn. 

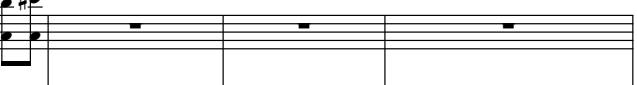
 Hn. 1 

 Hn. 2 

 Tbn. 

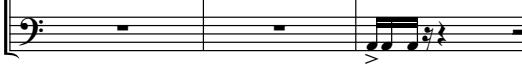
 Pno. 

 Vln. 1 

 Vln. 2 

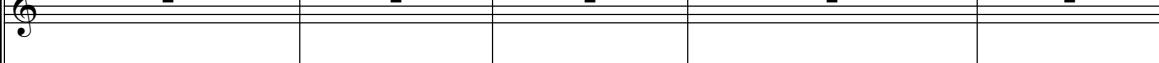
 Vla. 

 Vlc. 

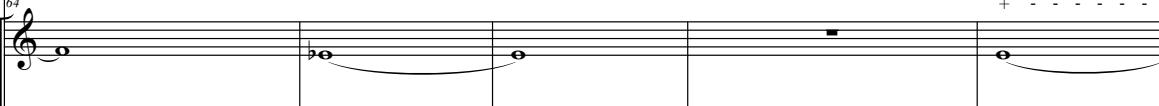
 Cb. 

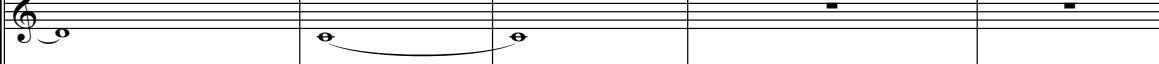
Fl. 

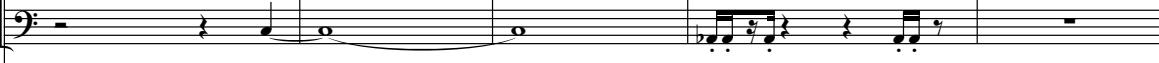
 Cl. 

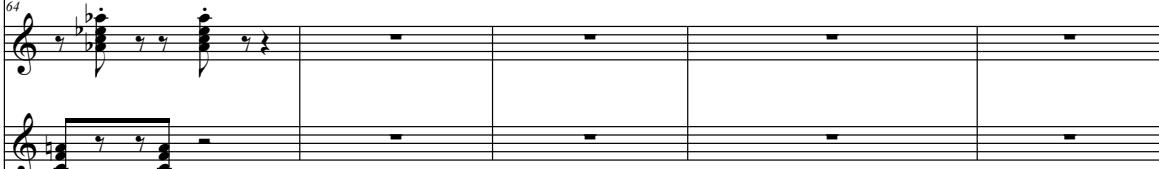
 A. Sx. 

 Bsn. 

 Hn. 1 

 Hn. 2 

 Tbn. 

 Pno. 

 Vln. 1 

 Vln. 2 

 Vla. 

 Vlc. 

 Cb. 

mp

mf

69

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

E

Musical score page 73. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn 1 (Hn. 1), Horn 2 (Hn. 2), Trombone (Tbn.), Piano (Pno.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Cello (Cv.), Double Bass (Cb.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The piano part is bracketed under "Pno.". The score features dynamic markings such as ***ff***, ***f***, ***mf***, ***mp***, and ***A***. Measures 73-74 are shown, with measure 73 ending on a forte dynamic and measure 74 beginning with a piano dynamic.

78

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

creep into each node

f

mf

f

f

f

f

f

f

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

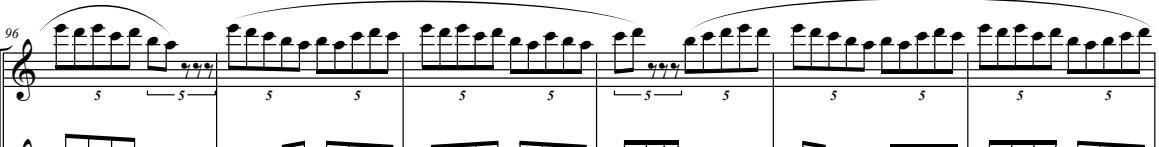
Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

F

Fl. 

 Cl. 

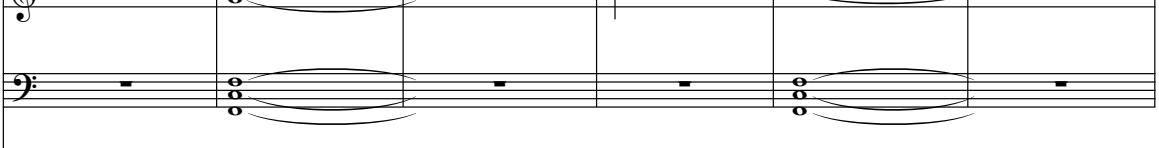
 A. Sx. 

 Bsn. 

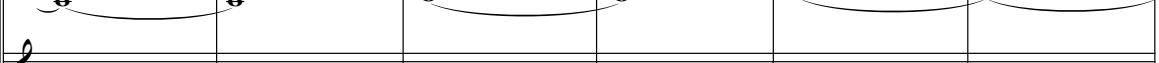
 Hn. 1 

 Hn. 2 

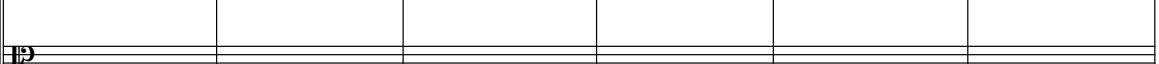
 Tbn. 

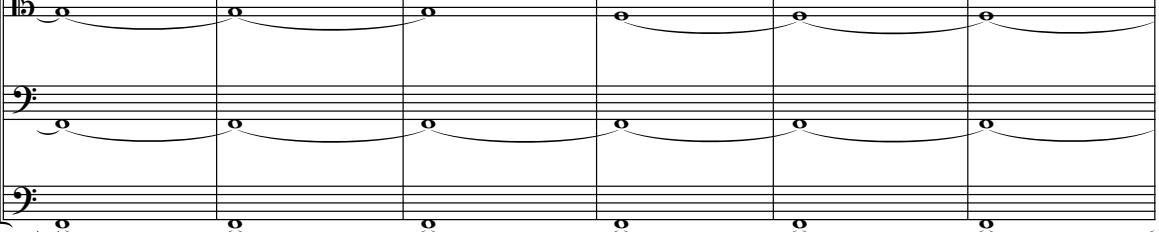
 Pno. 

 Vln. 1 

 Vln. 2 

 Vla. 

 Vlc. 

 Cb. 

Fl. 102
 Cl.
 A. Sx.
 Bsn.
 Hn. 1 102
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno. 102
 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vlc.
 Cb.

This page contains two systems of musical notation, separated by a vertical bar line. The top system begins with woodwind entries: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, and Bassoon. The flute has a melodic line with grace notes and slurs. The clarinet and alto saxophone provide harmonic support with eighth-note patterns. The bassoon adds depth with sustained notes. This is followed by brass entries: Horn 1, Horn 2, and Trombone, also featuring eighth-note patterns. The section concludes with a piano part, indicated by a brace, where the piano plays sustained notes across both staves. The bottom system begins with strings: Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Cello. They play sustained notes, creating a harmonic foundation. The notation includes various dynamics like forte and piano, and performance markings like slurs and grace notes.

ff

Fl. 107

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1 107

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno. 107

Vln. 1 107

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Fl. *ff*
 Cl.
 A. Sx.
 Bsn.
 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno. *ff*
 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vlc.
 Cb.

The musical score consists of ten staves of music. The top staff is for Flute (Fl.), followed by Clarinet (Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and two Horns (Hn. 1 and Hn. 2). Below them is Trombone (Tbn.) and Piano (Pno.). The bottom five staves are for Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Cello (Vla.), Double Bass (Vlc.), and Bassoon (Cb.). The piano part is divided into two staves: treble and bass. The music is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp. The dynamics range from fortissimo (ff) to pianissimo (p). Rhythmic patterns include eighth-note chords, sixteenth-note patterns, and sustained notes. Articulation marks like dots and dashes are present on some notes.

G

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

119

mf

119

mf

119

8va

This musical score page contains six systems of music, each with five staves. The instruments are: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn 1 (Hn. 1), Horn 2 (Hn. 2), Trombone (Tbn.), Piano (Pno.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Cello (Cv.), and Double Bass (Vlc.). The page is numbered 21 at the bottom center. Measure 119 starts with the woodwinds (Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Bassoon) playing eighth-note patterns. Horn 1 enters in measure 120. Measures 119 and 120 have a dynamic marking 'mf'. Measure 121 begins with the piano (Pno.) playing eighth-note patterns in 8va (octave up). The woodwind entries continue in measure 121. Measure 122 concludes the section.

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

124

(8va)

mf

f

mf

mf

mf

22

Fl. 128
 Cl.
 A. Sx.
 Bsn.

 Hn. 1 128
mf *ff* *f*
 Hn. 2 128
ff *f*
 Tbn.

 Pno. 128

 Vln. 1 128
mf
 Vln. 2 128
mf
 Vla. 128
mf
 Vlc.
 Cb.

Fl. *mf*
 Cl. *mf*
 A. Sx. *mf*
 Bsn.
 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno. *f*
 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vlc.
 Cb. *f*

H

Fl. *mf*

Cl.

A. Sx. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno. *mf*

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

8va --

142

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

(8va)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

This musical score page contains ten staves of music. The top five staves are woodwind instruments: Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Bassoon, and Horn 1. The bottom five staves are brass and percussion: Trombone, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, and Double Bass. The piano part is particularly active, featuring a melodic line with grace notes and dynamic markings like forte and piano. The strings provide harmonic support with sustained notes. The page is numbered 26 at the bottom center.

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mp*

A. Sx. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. 1 *mf* *ff* *mf*

Hn. 2 *mf* *ff* *mf*

Tbn.

Pno. *mf* *f*

Vln. 1 *p* *mf* *f*

Vln. 2 *p* *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *mp*

Vlc. *mf* *mp*

Cb. *mf* *mp*

I

153

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

mf

mf

mf

ff

pp

ff

pp

ff

ff

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

160

160

160

J

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p*

A. Sx. *p*

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn. *mp*

Pno.

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vlc. *mf*

Cb.

This musical score page contains two systems of music for an orchestra and piano. The top system (measures 167-170) includes parts for Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Bassoon, and Horn 1. The bottom system (measures 171-174) includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Piano. The score uses standard musical notation with stems, beams, and dynamics like 'p' and 'mf'. Measure numbers 167, 170, and 171 are visible above the staves.

Fl. 174
 Cl. *mf*
 A. Sx.
 Bsn.

 Hn. 1 174
 Hn. 2 *mp*
 Tbn. *mp*

 Pno. 174

 Vln. 1 174
 Vln. 2 ≥ ≥
 Vla. > >
 Vlc. *f* *fp*
 Cb. *f* *fp*

K

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 32, section K.

The score consists of two systems of music. The top system includes Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Bassoon, Horn 1, Horn 2, Trombone, and Piano. The bottom system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Cello, Double Bass, and Viola. The piano part is bracketed under "Pno.".

Measure 181:

- Flute:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Clarinet:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Alto Saxophone:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Bassoon:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Horn 1:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Horn 2:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Trombone:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Piano:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Violin 1:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Violin 2:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Cello:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Double Bass:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Viola:** Playing eighth-note patterns.

Measure 182:

- Flute:** Rest.
- Clarinet:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Alto Saxophone:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Bassoon:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Horn 1:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Horn 2:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Trombone:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Piano:** Rest.
- Violin 1:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Violin 2:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Cello:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Double Bass:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Viola:** Playing eighth-note patterns.

188

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx. *p*

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *mf*

Vlc.

Cb.

Fl. 194
 Cl.
 A. Sx.
 Bsn.
mf
 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno. 194
mf
 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vlc.
mf
 Cb.

This musical score page contains six systems of music. The first system features Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Bassoon, Horn 1, Horn 2, Bassoon, and Piano. The second system features Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. Measure numbers 194 are indicated above the first three systems. Dynamic markings include *mf* and *mf* above the piano part. Performance instructions like 'A' are present above the Bassoon and Cello parts.

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno. (8va)

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

199

mf

mp

3

mf

L

205

Fl.

Cl. *mp*

A. Sx.

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. 1

Hn. 2 *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc. *f*

Cb.

This musical score page contains six systems of music, each with multiple staves. The instruments listed are Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn 1 (Hn. 1), Horn 2 (Hn. 2), Trombone (Tbn.), Piano (Pno.), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Cello (Vla.), Double Bass (Cb.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). Measure 205 begins with a rest for Flute, followed by entries from Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, and Bassoon. Measure 206 continues with entries from Clarinet and Bassoon. Measure 207 starts with a rest for all instruments, followed by entries from Horn 1, Horn 2, Trombone, and Piano. Measure 208 concludes with entries from Trombone and Double Bass. Dynamics such as *mp*, *mf*, and *f* are indicated throughout the score.

209

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

f

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

209

Pno.

ff

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

port.

f

Fl. mf
 Cl. mf
 A. Sx. mf
 Bsn.

 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.

 Pno.

 Vln. 1 port.
 Vln. 2 port.
 Vla. port.
 Vlc. port.
 Cb.

214

This musical score page contains ten staves of music for various instruments. The top section includes Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, and Bassoon. The middle section includes Horn 1, Horn 2, and Bassoon. The bottom section includes Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Cello, Double Bass, and Bassoon. Measure number 214 is indicated at the beginning of each staff. Dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *port.* (portato) are present. The piano staff has a brace under it. Measures 214-215 are shown, with measure 215 continuing on the next page.

M

219

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

This musical score page contains ten staves of music for an orchestra and a piano. The instrumentation listed on the left is Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Bassoon, Horn 1, Horn 2, Trombone, Piano (two staves), Violin 1, Violin 2, Cello, and Double Bass. Measure 219 begins with the Flute, Clarinet, and Alto Saxophone playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The Bassoon, Trombone, and Double Bass provide harmonic support with sustained notes. The Violins play eighth-note patterns, and the Cello and Double Bass provide bassline support. The piano part features eighth-note chords on the treble staff and sixteenth-note patterns on the bass staff. Measure 219 concludes with a repeat of the woodwind and brass patterns.

Fl. A
 Cl.
 A. Sx.
 Bsn.
 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno.
 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vlc.
 Cb.

225 *f*
 225 *f*
 225 *ff*
ff
ff
ff
ff

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

23/1

f

23/1

f

23/1

23/1

23/1

41

N

 $\text{♪} = \text{♪}$

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

238

239

240

f

mf

mf

mf

$*f$

ff

ff

Fl. 245
 Cl.
 A. Sx.
 Bsn.
 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno.
 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vlc.
 Cb.

8va -

Fl. *f*
 Cl. *f*
 A. Sx. *f*
 Bsn.
 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno.
 Vln. 1 port.
 Vln. 2 port.
 Vla.
 Vlc.
 Cb.

Fl. tr.
 Cl.
 A. Sx.
 Bsn.
 Hn. 1
 Hn. 2
 Tbn.
 Pno.
 Vln. 1
 Vln. 2
 Vla.
 Vlc.
 Cb.

O

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

262

262

262

262

262

262

262

262

262

262

262

262

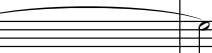
262

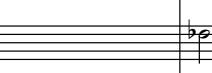
262

ff

fff

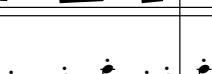
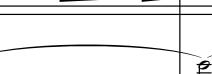
fff

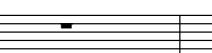
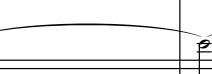
Fl. 
 Cl. 
 A. Sx. 
 Bsn. 

 Hn. 1 
 Hn. 2 
 Tbn. 

 Pno. 




 Vln. 1 
 Vln. 2 
 Vla. 
 Vlc. 
 Cb. 

* *Rédo.*

* *Rédo.*

P

274

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

mp

dim. poco a poco

dim. poco a poco

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

288

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

This musical score page contains five systems of staves, each starting at measure 288. The first system includes Flute, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, and Bassoon, all with mostly rests. The second system includes Horn 1, Horn 2, and Bass Trombone, also with mostly rests. The third system includes Piano, which has a bracket over its two staves. The fourth system includes Violin 1, Violin 2, Cello, Double Bass, and Bassoon. Measures 288 are mostly rests. Measures 289 begin with eighth-note patterns in the lower strings and bassoon, while the upper strings play sixteenth-note patterns.

296

Fl.

Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

51