

Cameron McArthur

Ashening

for orchestra

January 2024

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(2024)

Instrumentation

Piccolo

2 Flutes

2 Oboes

English Horn

2 Clarinets in Bb

Bass Clarinet in Bb

2 Bassoons

3 Horns in F

3 Trumpets in Bb

3 Trombones

Tuba

Timpani (+unmounted cymbal)

3 Percussion:

Percussion 1: Vibraphone, suspended cymbal

Percussion 2: Roto-toms [or 4 regular toms pitched high-low], Glockenspiel

Percussion 3: Triangle, Tam-tam, Bass Drum, Vibraphone [shared with perc. 1]

Harp

Strings (12.12.10.8.4)

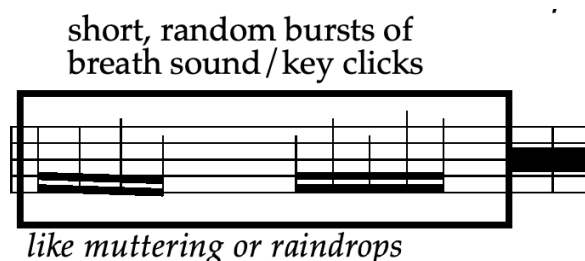
Score in C (Sounding Pitch)

Duration: 13 minutes

Performance Notes/Notation

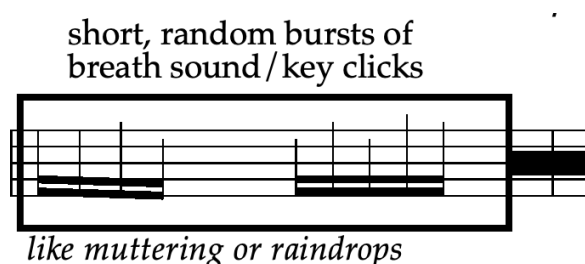
Woodwind

- Boxed notation: freely repeat contents of box, at your discretion, for duration of black line.



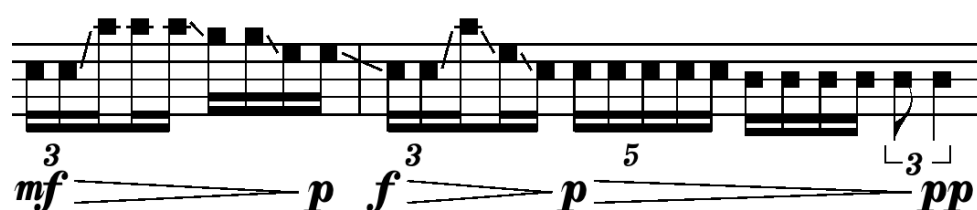
Brass

- Air sound: blow through instrument, but don't produce a pitch. Use valves/slide position to alter the sound. Notated with headless stems or cross (x) notehead.
- Boxed notation: freely repeat contents of box, at your discretion, for duration of black line.



Percussion

- Approximate pitch: notated with square notehead. Follow the pitch contour and get as close as possible to the notated pitch, but don't try and be exact.



Harp

Pedalling is at the performer's discretion, although suggestions have been made.

Strings

- Sul tasto: bow near the fingerboard
- Sul ponticello (sul pont.): bow near the bridge
- Downward triangle notehead: unpitched sound, produced by bowing parts of the instrument other than the strings (e.g. directly on the bridge or body). Produces a breath-like white noise/air sound
- Natural Harmonics: with very light pressure, place left hand finger on node (indicated by diamond notehead). The resulting sound is indicated by the normal notehead, with the circle above.
- 'Snap/Bartok' pizzicato: pull back the string enough that it hits the fingerboard on release, creating a 'snap' sound. Indicated by a circle and straight line above the pizzicato note.

Notes on the Music

This piece is built from three folk songs and hymn tunes. Some of these songs and tunes belong to the North East and North Yorkshire, and have been played and sung in the area for decades; others are characteristic of my experience playing and learning music on Teesside in the 2000s and early 2010s.

Each movement transforms one of these ‘source’ songs. Some transformations are relatively direct and perceptible; some are many layers deep, with the final sound-world being far removed from the source. Nonetheless, even if they are very hidden, traces of melody, harmony, and musical energy are carried through from the source songs, and these traces shape all aspects of the final work.

To assist with rehearsal, three orchestrated arrangements of the source works are included as appendices. ***These appendices are not for performance*** –they are included to provide the orchestra members with deeper insight into the construction of the work. This should in turn allow the performers to better understand and fulfil their musical roles during performance.

Composer Bio

Cameron McArthur (b. 1997) is a composer and multi-instrumentalist from the North-East of England.

His work focuses upon the experience of momentum in music, as well as ideas around perception, implication, and expectation. He is currently exploring these topics as part of a PhD at the University of York, under the tutelage of Thomas Simaku and Martin Suckling.

Recent performances of his music have been hosted by Metz Arsenal, Convergence @ DMU, Twisted Spruce Foundation, Sound Thought Festival, and The Arc Project. Current and past collaborators include Psappha, Ensemble Intercontemporain, Diotima Quartet, Ligeti Quartet, Terra Invisus, and more.

Ashening

for TVYC

Cameron McArthur

Score in C (Sounding Pitch)

I

Atmospheric (♩=52)

Piccolo

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe 1
solo
mp
espress. con rubato
pp
tutti
p

Oboe 2

English Horn

Clarinet 1 in Bb
mp
imperioso
mf
p

Clarinet 2 in Bb
mp
imperioso
mf
p

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

Horn 1 in F

Horn 2 in F

Horn 3 in F

Trumpet 1 in Bb
mp
imperioso
mf
p

Trumpet 2 in Bb
mp
imperioso
mf
p

Trumpet 3 in Bb
mp
imperioso
mf
p

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Tuba

Timpani
wild and loose
(itches approximate)

Percussion 1
Vibraphone
with soft mallets
motor off
mp
p
To Sus. Cym.
Suspended cymbal
with soft mallets
p
Roto-toms
wild and loose
mf
p

Percussion 2

Percussion 3
Triangle
p
mf
p

Harp
EaF#G#A#
BbCbD#
mp
p
EaF#G#A#
BbCbD#
mf
f

Atmospheric (♩=52)

Violin I
div.
sul tasto
pp
p
pp
f
p
mf
norm.
p

Violin II
div.
sul tasto
pp
p
pp
f
p
mf
norm.
p

Viola
div.
sul tasto
pp
p
pp
f
p
mf
norm.
p

Violoncello
div.
sul tasto
pp
p
pp
f
p
p
sul E
p

Contrabass

[illegible]

24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33

Picc. *p* *p* *f* *mp* solo *mp* tutti

Fl. 1 *mf* *mp* *f* *pp* *mp*

Fl. 2 *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

Ob. 1 *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Ob. 2 *p* *mf* *p* *f*

Eng. Hn. *p* *mf* *f*

Cl. 1 *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

Cl. 2 *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

B. Cl. *mp* *f* *mp*

Bsn. 1 *mp* *f* *mp*

Bsn. 2 *mp* *f*

Hn. 1 *mp* *mf* *pp*

Hn. 2 *mp* *mf* *pp*

Hn. 3 *mp* *mf* *pp*

Tpt. 1 *mf* *pp*

Tpt. 2 *mf* *pp*

Tpt. 3 *mf* *pp*

Tbn. 1 *mp* *mf*

Tbn. 2 *mp* *mf*

Tbn. 3 *mp* *mf*

Perc. 1 *pp* *f* *p* *mf*

Perc. 2 *mp*

Perc. 3

Hp. *p* *mp* *mp* *E♭ F♯ G♯ A♯ B♭ C♯ D♯* *E♭ F♯ G♯ A♯ B♭ C♯ D♯* *E♭ A♯ E♭ D♯*

Vln. I *pp* *f* *p*

Vln. II *pp* *f* *p*

Vla. *pp* *f* *p*

Vc. *pp* *f* *p*

[illegible]

49 50 51 52

Picc. *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Fl. 1 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Fl. 2 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Ob. 1 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Ob. 2 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Eng. Hn. *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Cl. 1 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Cl. 2 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

B. Cl. *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Bsn. 1 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Bsn. 2 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Hn. 1 *fff* *con fuoco*

Hn. 2 *fff* *con fuoco*

Hn. 3 *fff* *con fuoco*

Tpt. 1 *fff* *con fuoco*

Tpt. 2 *fff* *con fuoco*

Tpt. 3 *fff* *con fuoco*

Tbn. 1 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Tbn. 2 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Tbn. 3 *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Tba. *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Timp. *f* *p* *fff* *con fuoco* *mf* *p* *ff* *mf*

Perc. 1 *f* *p* *fff* *con fuoco* *p* *ff*

Perc. 2 *p* *fff* *con fuoco* *mf* *p* *ff* *mf*

Perc. 3 *f* *p* *fff* *con fuoco* *p* *ff*

Hp. *fff* *con fuoco*

Vln. I *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Vln. II *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Vla. *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Vc. *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

Cb. *mp* *fff* *con fuoco*

53 54 55 56 57

Picc. *mp* *p*

Fl. 1 *mp* *p*

Fl. 2 *mp*

Ob. 1 *pp*

Ob. 2 *pp*

Eng. Hn. *pp*

Cl. 1 *mp* *p*

Cl. 2 *mp*

B. Cl. *pp*

Bsn. 1 *pp*

Bsn. 2 *pp*

Hn. 1 *mp* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *p*

Hn. 2 *mp* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *p*

Hn. 3 *mp* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *p*

Tpt. 1 *mp* *pp*

Tpt. 2 *mp* *pp*

Tpt. 3 *mp* *pp*

Tbn. 1 *mp* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *p*

Tbn. 2 *mp* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *p*

Tbn. 3 *mp* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *p*

Tba. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Timp. (precise pitch) *mp* *mf* *pp* *pp*

Perc. 1 *pp* *mf* *mp* To Vib.

Perc. 2 *mp* *mf* *pp* *pp*

Perc. 3 *pp* *mp* *p* *pp*

Vln. I *p* *mf* *pp*

Vln. II *p* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *p* *mf* *pp*

Cb. *p* *mf* *pp*

attacca

D Darker; l'istesso tempo (♩=52)

[illegible]

98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109

Picc. *poco accel.* *f*

Fl. 1 *mf* *pp* *mp* *f*

Fl. 2 *pp* *mp* *f*

Ob. 1 *f*

Ob. 2 *f*

Eng. Hn. *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. 1 *f*

Bsn. 2 *f*

Hn. 1 *f*

Hn. 2 *f*

Hn. 3 *f*

Tpt. 1 *mp* *heavy* *(st. mute)* *f*

Tpt. 2 *mp* *heavy* *(st. mute)* *f*

Tpt. 3 *mp* *heavy* *(st. mute)* *f*

Timp. *pp* *ff*

Perc. 1 *f* *To Sus. Cym.* *p* *mf* *[Suspended cymbal (regular)]*

Perc. 2 *f* *To Sus. Cym.* *f* *[Suspended cymbal (dark)]* *mf*

Perc. 3 *pp* *ff* *To B. D.*

Hp. *F#* *F#* *f*

Vln. I *pp* *mp* *f* *norm.* *f* *p* *ff* *p* *Lively (♩=120)*

Vln. II *pp* *mp* *f* *norm.* *f* *p* *ff* *p*

Vla. *pp* *p* *f* *norm.* *f* *p* *ff* *p*

Vc. *p* *f* *norm.* *f* *p* *ff* *p*

Cb. *p* *f* *norm.* *f* *p* *ff* *p*

This musical score page contains measures 110 through 118. The instrumentation includes Piccolo, Flute 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Horn 1 and 2, Timpani, three types of Percussion (1, 2, and 3), Violin 1 and 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat major or D minor). Measures 110-115 are mostly rests for the woodwinds and brass, with some activity in the percussion and strings. Measures 116-118 feature more active woodwind and brass parts, including melodic lines and sustained notes. The strings provide a rhythmic foundation with various patterns and dynamics. The percussion parts include specific melodic and rhythmic motifs. The overall texture is dense and orchestral.

119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126

Picc. *f mp*

Fl. 1 *f mp*

Fl. 2 *f mp*

Ob. 1 *mf*

Ob. 2 *mf*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 *mp*

Bsn. 2 *mp*

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn. 1 *mf*

Tbn. 2 *mf*

Temp.

Perc. 1 *p mf*

Perc. 2 *p mf*

Perc. 3 *mf*

Vln. I *mp f mf*

Vln. II *mp f mf*

Vla. *mp f mf*

Vc. *mp f mf*

Cb. *f p pizz. arco mp f mf*

127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139

Picc. *f* *mp*

Fl. 1 *f* *mp*

Fl. 2 *f* *mp*

Ob. 1 *f* *p* *mf*

Ob. 2 *f* *p* *mf*

Eng. Hrn. *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *f* *p* *f* *pp* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Bsn. 1 *f* *p* *f* *pp* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Bsn. 2 *f* *p* *f* *pp* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Hn. 1 *mp*

Hn. 2 *mp*

Hn. 3 *mp*

Tpt. 1 *mf* *open*

Tpt. 2 *mf* *open*

Tpt. 3 *mf* *open*

Tbn. 1 *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Tbn. 2 *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Tbn. 3 *mf* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Timp. *f* *p* *f* *f*

Perc. 1 *mf* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Perc. 2 *mf* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Perc. 3 *f* *p* *f* *f*

Vln. I *ff* *p* *f* *mp*

Vln. II *ff* *p* *f* *mp*

Vla. *ff* *p* *f* *f* *pizz.*

Vc. *ff* *p* *f* *f* *pizz.*

Cb. *ff* *p* *f* *f* *pizz.*

G

140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Eng. Hn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

This page contains the musical notation for measures 149 through 155. The instrumentation includes:

- Picc.
- Fl. 1
- Fl. 2
- Ob. 1
- Ob. 2
- Eng. Hn.
- Cl. 1
- Cl. 2
- B. Cl.
- Bsn. 1
- Bsn. 2
- Hn. 1
- Hn. 2
- Hn. 3
- Tpt. 1
- Tpt. 2
- Tpt. 3
- Tbn. 1
- Tbn. 2
- Tbn. 3
- Tba.
- Timp.
- Perc. 1
- Perc. 2
- Perc. 3
- Vln. I
- Vln. II
- Vla.
- Vc.
- Cb.

The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes, and dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *p*, and *mp*. The percussion section includes specific instructions like "To Glock." and "To T-t."

156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 17

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

rall.

Resolute (♩=102)

poco rall.

p

mf

ff

To Vib.

Tam-tam

18 . Tenderly, with pride (♩=68)
III poco rit..
Tender, proud, very fragile (♩=46)

170 solo H 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 I 186 187 188 189

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Hp.

IV Tenderly, with pride (♩=68)

poco rit..

Tender, proud, very fragile (♩=46)

Annotations:

- H Horn 1 solo
- I Horn 1 first ending
- a2 Horn 1 second ending
- Triangle Percussion 3
- Vibraphone (share with perc 3) Percussion 1
- Clockenspiel Percussion 2
- Vibraphone (share with perc 1) Percussion 3
- BFGA♯B♭G♯D♯ Harp

This musical score page covers measures 190 through 199. The instrumentation includes Flute 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Horn 1 and 2, Trumpet 1 and 2, Percussion 1, 2, and 3, Harp, Violin I and II, Viola, and Violoncello. The score is written in 2/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The woodwinds and brass sections feature melodic lines with dynamic markings such as *p*, *mf*, and *mp*. The percussion section provides a rhythmic foundation with various patterns. The string section consists of sustained chords and moving lines, with the Viola part including a performance instruction: *pp* soft, but clear and well-projected. The Harp part features arpeggiated figures. The overall texture is rich and orchestral, typical of a late 20th-century symphonic work.

200 201 202 203 204 poco rall. 205 206 207 208

Fl. 1 *mf*

Fl. 2 *mf*

Cl. 1 *p*

Cl. 2 *p*

Hn. 1 *mf* *p calando* *pp*

Hn. 2 *mf* *p calando* *pp*

Tpt. 1 *mf* *p calando* *pp*

Tpt. 2 *mf* *p calando* *pp*

Perc. 1 *f* *mp calando* *pp*

Perc. 2 *f* *mp calando* *pp*

Perc. 3 *f* *mp calando* *pp*

Hp. *f*

Vln. I *ff molto passionato* *ppp*

Vln. II *ff molto passionato* *ppp*

Vla. *ff molto passionato* *ppp*

Vc. *molto passionato* *ff* *ppp*

molto passionato *ff* *ppp*

Duration: approx. 13'