

# Threshold

(2019)

*Commissioned for the Brazos High School Band, Wallis, Texas  
Billy Me é, Director*

Drew Morris

*I am often surprised by where the inspiration for pieces come from.  
In this instance the inspiration came from an episode of Doctor Who... sort of.  
There is an episode where a space ship is traveling away from a black hole.  
The ship is so large that time is travelling at drastically different speeds from floor to floor.  
This is due to a concept called Gravitational Time Dilation, but I didn't know that at first, I had to do some research.  
I just knew that for some reason, time slows down as you approach a black hole.  
For whatever reason, that principle was bouncing around my head as I began work on this piece.  
In an effort to create musical equivalent to time dilation, the main theme of this piece is first stated in 4/4 time, but over the course of the piece it is presented in different configurations.  
At various times it is elongated into a 5/4 and 6/4 feel as well as a shorter 3/4 time signature.  
In addition to time signature manipulation, there are also times in the piece where the concept of time and meter loses its power over the rhythms. In these moments, musicians play through one of the themes of the piece at random speeds while other musicians are playing ominous swells of chords. These don't have significance to the concept of time dilation.  
They just sound a little scary, much like the concept of black holes.  
Once the piece gets started, there is a sense of pulse driving throughout.  
This is sometimes supplied by quarter notes in the percussion and sometimes by oscillating eighth notes in the winds. Even as the phrases become longer and shorter that pulse remains constant.  
This was my attempt to represent the view of an outside observer watching someone or something on its approach to the black hole. To them, the object would appear to be slowing down as it neared the black hole's event horizon, even though time in their region of space would still be ticking along at a steady tempo. However, from the viewpoint of the person nearing the black hole, time would be moving along normally in their region of space, while everything beyond the black hole's region would be zooming by.  
In this piece, we never really enter the black hole so time doesn't slow down all that drastically. It's more as if we were taking a joy ride in and out of the black hole's gravitational pull and experiencing the time dilation in short bursts while never really getting threatened by the physics-shattering reality that exists beyond the "threshold" of the event horizon*

*-Drew Morris  
March 15, 2019*

## **Instrumentation**

Flute (2)  
Oboe  
Bassoon  
Clarinet in B-flat (2)  
Bass Clarinet in B-flat  
Alto Saxophone (2)  
Tenor Saxophone  
Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet in B-flat (2)  
Horn in F  
Trombone (2)  
Euphonium  
Tuba

Percussion (6)  
Timpani  
Glockenspiel  
Snare Drum  
Bass Drum  
Suspended Cymbal (2)  
Shaker (egg or shekere)  
Crash Cymbals  
Floor Tom  
Tam-tam

As many assorted pitched metallic instruments as possible (G, A-flat, B-flat)

Transposed Score

# Threshold

Drew Morris  
(ASCAP)

$\text{♩} = 144$

Flute 1  
Flute 2  
Oboe  
Bassoon

Clarinet 1 in B $\flat$   
Clarinet 2 in B $\flat$   
Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$

Alto Saxophone 1  
Alto Saxophone 2  
Tenor Saxophone  
Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet 1 in B $\flat$   
Trumpet 2 in B $\flat$   
Horn in F  
Trombone 1  
Trombone 2  
Euphonium  
Tuba

Timpani  
Glockenspiel

Percussion 1  
Snare Drum  
Hi-hat  
Aleatoric Metal

Percussion 2  
Bass Drum  
Sus. Cym.  
Aleatoric Metal

Percussion 3  
Shaker (Egg Shaker or Shekere)  
Crash Cymbals  
Aleatoric Metal

Percussion 4  
Floor Tom  
Sus. Cym.  
Tam-tam  
Aleatoric Metal

*ppp*  
*f*  
*f*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*mf*

F-B $\flat$ -C-D $\flat$

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

12

FL 1 *mf*

FL 2 *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn.

CL 1 *mf*

CL 2 *mf*

B. CL *mf*

Alto Sax. 1 *mf*

Alto Sax. 2 *mf*

Ten. Sax. *pp* *mp*

Bari. Sax. *pp* *mp* *mf*

Tpt. 1 *pp* *mf*

Tpt. 2 *pp* *mf*

Hn. *mp* *mf*

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Tbn. 2 *pp* *mp*

Euph. *pp* *mp*

Tba. *pp* *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Glock. *mf*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4 *mf* *mf*

Sus. Cym  
Yarn Mallets

Triangle



28

37

Musical score for a full orchestra, including woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The score is divided into measures 27 through 38. The woodwind section includes Flute 1 and 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1 and 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1 and 2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpet 1 and 2, Horns, Trombone 1 and 2, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Glockenspiel, and four different Percussion parts (Perc. 1-4). Dynamics such as *f*, *mf*, *p*, and *pp* are indicated throughout the score. A large watermark is present diagonally across the page.

This page contains a musical score for page 49, which is part of a larger document (page 5). The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with staves for various instruments. The woodwind section includes Flutes 1 and 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinets 1 and 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophones 1 and 2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpets 1 and 2, Horns, Trombones 1 and 2, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Glockenspiel, and four general Percussion parts. The score features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Dynamic markings such as *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *f*, and *n* are used throughout to indicate volume and articulation. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "Visit [www.drewmorrismusic.com](http://www.drewmorrismusic.com) for purchase information" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

FL 1

FL 2

Ob.

Bsn.

CL 1

CL 2

B. CL

Alto Sax. 1

Alto Sax. 2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

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This musical score page features 20 staves for various instruments. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob., Bsn., Cl. 1, Cl. 2, B. Cl., Alto Sax. 1, Alto Sax. 2, Ten. Sax., Bari. Sax., Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Euph., Tba., Timp., Glock., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, and Perc. 4. The score includes dynamic markings such as *f*, *pp*, and *p*. A large yellow watermark is oriented diagonally across the page, reading "For personal purposes only. Visit [drewmorrismusic.com](http://drewmorrismusic.com) for purchase information."

Musical score for measures 74-80. The score includes parts for Flute 1 & 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1 & 2, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet 1 & 2, Horn, Trombone 1 & 2, Euphonium, Tuba, Timpani, Glockenspiel, and Percussion 1-4. Measure groupings are indicated by large numbers 3, 4, and 5. Dynamic markings include *pp*, *mf*, *f*, *subito mp*, and *f*. A 'Rim Click' instruction is present for Perc. 1. A watermark 'For personal purposes only visit drewmorrismusic.com' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

This musical score page includes the following parts and markings:

- Woodwinds:** Flute 1 & 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1 & 2, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone.
- Brass:** Trumpet 1 & 2, Horn, Trombone 1 & 2, Euphonium, Tuba.
- Percussion:** Timpani, Glockenspiel, Percussion 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- Dynamic Markings:** *ff* (fortissimo), *fp* (fortissimo piano), *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte).
- Measure Markers:** Large numbers 3 and 4 are placed above the staves to indicate measure counts or rehearsal points.
- Watermark:** A large diagonal watermark reads "For purposes only visit www.morishmusic.com for purchase information".

90

FL 1

FL 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1

Alto Sax. 2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

fp

f

p

ff

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90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99

Sus. Cym.  
Yarn Mallets

100

FL 1  
FL 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
Cl. 1  
Cl. 2  
B. Cl.  
Alto Sax. 1  
Alto Sax. 2  
Ten. Sax.  
Bari. Sax.  
Tpt. 1  
Tpt. 2  
Hn.  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Euph.  
Tba.  
Timp.  
Glock.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
Perc. 4

**3**  
**4**  
**3**  
**4**  
**3**  
**4**  
**3**  
**4**

*mf*  
*n*  
*mf*  
*p*  
*n*  
*mf*  
*p*  
*mf*  
*n*  
*mf*  
*p*  
*mf*  
*n*  
*mf*  
*p*  
*n*  
*f*  
*n*  
*f*  
*mp*  
*mp*  
*pp*  
*mf*  
*mp*  
*mf*  
*mp*  
*ff*

*Cl. 1*  
*Cl. 2*  
*Play*  
*Play*  
*muted*  
*muted*

*Sus. Cym.*  
*Snare Stick*  
*Hi-hat*  
*Aleatoric Metallic Keyboard Instrument*  
*Aleatoric Metallic Keyboard Instrument*

Play this sequence of notes randomly, out of time.  
Between half and whole note speeds.

100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110

FL 1

FL 2

Ob.

Bsn.

CL 1

CL 2

B. CL.

Alto Sax. 1

Alto Sax. 2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Vibraphone

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FL 1  
FL 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
CL 1  
CL 2  
B. CL  
Alto Sax. 1  
Alto Sax. 2  
Ten. Sax.  
Bari. Sax.  
Tpt. 1  
Tpt. 2  
Hn.  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Euph.  
Tba.  
Timp.  
Glock.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
Perc. 4

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122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134

FL 1

FL 2

Ob.

Bsn.

CL 1

CL 2

B. CL.

Alto Sax 1

Alto Sax 2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Hn.

Tbn 1

Tbn 2

Euph.

Tba.

Timp. *G → B♭*

Glock.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Floor Tom

Crash Cymbals

*ff*

*f*

*ff*

*f*



FL 1

FL 2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1

Alto Sax. 2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

Glock.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Sus. Cym. Yarn Mallets

*p* *ff*

3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4 3 4

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FL 1  
FL 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
CL 1  
CL 2  
B. CL.  
Alto Sax. 1  
Alto Sax. 2  
Ten. Sax.  
Bari. Sax.  
Tpt. 1  
Tpt. 2  
Hn.  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Euph.  
Tba.  
Timp.  
Glock.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3 (Shaker)  
Perc. 4

*mf*, *f*, *pp*, *mp*, *ff*

3  
4  
3  
4

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The musical score is for a concert band and includes the following parts:

- Flutes (FL 1, FL 2)
- Oboe (Ob.)
- Bassoon (Bsn.)
- Clarinets (CL 1, CL 2)
- Bass Clarinet (B. CL.)
- Alto Saxophones (Alto Sax. 1, 2)
- Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.)
- Bari. Saxophone (Bari. Sax.)
- Trumpets (Tpt. 1, 2)
- Horn (Hn.)
- Trombones (Tbn. 1, 2)
- Euphonium (Euph.)
- Tuba (Tba.)
- Timpani (Timp.)
- Glockenspiel (Glock.)
- Percussion (Perc. 1, 2, 3, 4)

Key features of the score include:

- Dynamic markings: *ff*, *f*, *mp*, and *Lv.*
- Large time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4.
- A watermark: "For purchase information only visit drewmorrismusic.com"
- A rehearsal mark '171' in a box.
- A 'Rim Shot' marking for Perc. 1.
- Performance instructions for Perc. 4: "Sus. Cym. Yarn Mallets" and "Lv."

\* If your glockenspiel doesn't have the low F, play the F marked in parenthesis.

This is a page of a musical score for a concert band or orchestra. The page is numbered 176 at the top center. The score is arranged in a vertical stack of staves. The instruments listed on the left side of the staves are: FL. 1 and FL. 2 (Flutes), Ob. (Oboe), Bsn. (Bassoon), CL. 1 and CL. 2 (Clarinets), B. Cl. (Bass Clarinet), Alto Sax. 1 and Alto Sax. 2 (Alto Saxophones), Ten. Sax. (Tenor Saxophone), Bari. Sax. (Baritone Saxophone), Tpt. 1 and Tpt. 2 (Trumpets), Hn. (Horn), Tbn. 1 and Tbn. 2 (Trombones), Euph. (Euphonium), Tba. (Tuba), Timp. (Timpani), Glock. (Glockenspiel), Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Perc. 3, and Perc. 4 (Percussion). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo), with the instruction *ff subito f* appearing in several places. A large, diagonal watermark in yellow text reads "For personal purposes only Visit [drewmorrismusic.com](http://drewmorrismusic.com) for purchase information". Additionally, large black numbers 2, 3, 4, and 4 are placed over the percussion staves, indicating specific measures or counts. The page number 176 is also printed at the bottom of the page, centered under each of the 12 staves.

188 8 vb. if necessary, but upper octave preferred.

Musical score for orchestral instruments, including Flutes (Fl. 1, 2), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinets (Cl. 1, 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophones (1, 2), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.), Trumpets (1, 2), Horns (Hn.), Trombones (1, 2), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Glockenspiel (Glock.), and Percussion (Perc. 1-4). The score is marked with dynamics such as *mf* and *ff*. A large watermark reading "Visit for purchase information" is overlaid diagonally across the score. The piece is in 4/4 time, with a 3-measure rest in measures 188, 189, and 190. The instruments are arranged in a standard orchestral layout.

The drive of this ending is somewhat dependent upon utilizing some other musicians to participate in the aleatory so we can keep a few percussionists on bass drum and floor tom. I recommend taking any other musicians that you trust and give them as many metallic instruments pitched in G, A-flat, and B-flat as you can get your hands on. It is up to you whether you would want to keep them on stage, or perhaps move them out into and around the audience.

Musical score for measures 195-202. The score includes parts for Flute 1 & 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1 & 2, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet 1 & 2, Horn, Trombone 1 & 2, Euphonium, Tuba, Timpani, Glockenspiel, and Percussion 1-4. A large yellow watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score, reading "For Perusal purposes only visit drewmorrismusic.com for purchase information".

Measures 195-202. The score includes parts for Flute 1 & 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1 & 2, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet 1 & 2, Horn, Trombone 1 & 2, Euphonium, Tuba, Timpani, Glockenspiel, and Percussion 1-4. A large yellow watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score, reading "For Perusal purposes only visit drewmorrismusic.com for purchase information".

Measures 195-202. The score includes parts for Flute 1 & 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone 1 & 2, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet 1 & 2, Horn, Trombone 1 & 2, Euphonium, Tuba, Timpani, Glockenspiel, and Percussion 1-4. A large yellow watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score, reading "For Perusal purposes only visit drewmorrismusic.com for purchase information".

FL 1  
FL 2  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
Cl. 1  
Cl. 2  
B. Cl.  
Alto Sax. 1  
Alto Sax. 2  
Ten. Sax.  
Bari. Sax.  
Tpt. 1  
Tpt. 2  
Hn.  
Tbn. 1  
Tbn. 2  
Euph.  
Tba.  
Timp.  
Glock.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2  
Perc. 3  
Perc. 4

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n  
mf  
fff

Optional 8vb to end

Stop!

Stop!

fff

Stop!

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff