

Threshold

for concert band

(2019)

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

Drew Morris

*I am often surprised by where the inspiration for pieces comes from.
In this instance, the inspiration came from an episode of Doctor Who... sort of.*

There is an episode where a spaceship is traveling away from a black hole.

The ship is so large that time is traveling 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 a 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 the 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 clicking 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 reach 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)

$\text{♩} = 144$

The score is arranged in systems for various instruments. The woodwinds (Flute 1 & 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinets, Bass Clarinet, Saxophones) are mostly silent. The brass section (Trumpets, Horns, Trombones, Euphonium, Tuba) has melodic and harmonic parts. The percussion section includes Snare Drum, Bass Drum, and Shaker. The Glockenspiel plays a rhythmic pattern. The score is marked with dynamics like *ppp*, *f*, and *mf*. A large red watermark 'For perusal purposes only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

12

This musical score is for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The score is written for measures 10 through 16. 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, Horn, Trombone 1 and 2, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Glockenspiel, and four different Percussion parts (Perc. 1-4). The score features various dynamics such as *mf*, *pp*, and *mp*. A large red watermark reading "For perusal purposes only" is overlaid diagonally across the score. Measure numbers 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

28

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

f

mf

n

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

pp p mp

pp p

pp

pp

p p

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

p f

This page of a musical score, numbered 49, contains the following instruments and parts:

- FL 1 & FL 2:** Flute parts with dynamics *f* and *n*.
- Ob.:** Oboe part, currently silent.
- Bsn.:** Bassoon part with dynamics *f* and *pp*.
- CL 1 & CL 2:** Clarinet parts with dynamics *f* and *n*.
- B. CL.:** Bass Clarinet part with dynamics *f* and *pp*.
- Alto Sax. 1 & 2:** Alto Saxophone parts with dynamics *f* and *n*.
- Ten. Sax.:** Tenor Saxophone part with dynamics *f* and *pp*.
- Bari. Sax.:** Baritone Saxophone part with dynamics *f* and *pp*.
- Tpt. 1 & 2:** Trumpet parts with dynamics *f* and *n*.
- Hn.:** Horn part with dynamics *f* and *mp*.
- Tbn. 1 & 2:** Trombone parts with dynamics *f* and *mp*.
- Euph.:** Euphonium part with dynamics *f* and *mp*.
- Tba.:** Tuba part with dynamics *f* and *mp*.
- Timp.:** Timpani part with dynamic *pp*.
- Glock.:** Glockenspiel part with dynamic *mp*.
- Perc. 1, 2, 3, 4:** Four percussion parts, currently silent.

A large red watermark reading "Sample Score Only" is overlaid diagonally across the page. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

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

mp

f

For perusal purposes only

FL 1 *ff*

FL 2 *ff*

Ob. *fp* *ff*

Bsn. *ff* *fp*

Cl. 1 *fp* *ff*

Cl. 2 *fp* *ff*

B. Cl. *fp* *ff*

Alto Sax. 1 *fp* *ff* *fp*

Alto Sax. 2 *ff* *fp*

Ten. Sax. *ff* *fp*

Bari. Sax. *fp* *ff* *fp*

Tpt. 1 *fp* *ff* *fp*

Tpt. 2 *fp* *ff* *fp*

Hn. *ff* *fp*

Tbn. 1 *ff* *fp*

Tbn. 2 *ff* *fp*

Euph. *ff* *fp*

Tba. *ff* *fp*

Timp. *ff* *fp*

Glock. *ff* *fp*

Perc. 1 *mf* *ff* *fp*

Perc. 2 *ff* *ff*

Perc. 3 *ff* *ff*

Perc. 4 *ff* *ff*

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

For perusal purposes only

mp

ff Sus Cym
Yarn Mallets

92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

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

For perusal purposes only

n *mf* *p* *n* *n* *mf* *p*

n *mf* *p* *n* *n* *mf* *p*

n *mf* *p* *n* *n* *mf* *p*

n *mf* *p* *n* *n* *mf* *p*

n *mf* *p* *n* *n* *mf* *p*

n *mf* *p* *n* *n* *mf* *p*

Play

muted *n* *f*
muted *n* *f*

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

Hi-hat
mp *pp* *mf*
Sus. Cym.
Snare Stick

mp *mf* *mp*

Aleatoric Metallic
Keyboard Instrument

Aleatoric Metallic
Keyboard Instrument

The musical score is arranged in systems for various instruments. The woodwind section includes Flutes 1 & 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinets 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophones 1 & 2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpets 1 & 2, Horns (muted), Trombones 1 & 2, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Glockenspiel, and four other Percussion parts (Perc. 1-4). Dynamics such as *mf*, *p*, *n*, and *f* are indicated throughout. A large red watermark 'For perusal purposes only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Play the sequence of notes beginning at 120 randomly, out of time. Start between half and quarter note speed and slowly increase speed and intensity until measure 131

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

Chimes

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

For Sample Score Purposes Only

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

For perusal purposes only

G -> Bb

ff

Floor Tom

142

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

Crash Cymbals

f

B \flat -> B \natural

This musical score page, numbered 153, features a large red watermark that reads "For Sample Score purposes only" diagonally across the center. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts and staves from top to bottom:

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

The percussion section includes specific instrumentations: Perc. 1 (snare drum), Perc. 2 (tom-toms), Perc. 3 (shaker), and Perc. 4 (Sus. Cym / Yarn Mallets). The score includes various dynamic markings such as *p* (piano), *ff* (fortissimo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Large numbers 4 and 3 are placed above the percussion staves, likely indicating measure counts or rehearsal marks. The page number 153 is located at the top center, and the page number 17 is in the top right corner.

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

f

ff

mf

pp

ppp

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

Rim Shot

171

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

For Sample Score Purposes Only

Sus Cym
Yarn Mallets
mp
Lv.
f

176

FL. 1 *ff subito f*

FL. 2 *ff subito f*

Ob.

Bsn. *f*

CL. 1 *ff subito f*

CL. 2 *ff subito f*

B. CL.

Alto Sax. 1 *f* *ff* *mf*

Alto Sax. 2 *ff* *mf*

Ten. Sax. *f*

Bari. Sax. *f*

Tpt. 1 *f*

Tpt. 2 *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

Euph.

Tba.

Timp. *ff*

Glock. *f* *ff* *mf*

Perc. 1 *f* *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Perc. 3 *f*

Perc. 4

For perusal purposes only

Musical score for page 188, featuring woodwinds, brass, and percussion. 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. The score is marked with *ff* (fortissimo) and includes dynamic markings. A large red watermark "For perusal purposes only" is overlaid on the score. The page number 188 is in the top left, and 21 is in the top right. The score is divided into measures 185 through 193.

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.

The score includes staves for the following instruments:

- 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. (with *D → Eb* marking)
- Glock.
- Perc. 1
- Perc. 2
- Perc. 3
- Perc. 4 (Floor Tom)

Measure 194 begins with a *ff* dynamic. Measure 195 contains a specific instruction for the Glockenspiel and Percussion 1:

ff Play this sequence of notes rapidly in random rhythms. Play with INTENSITY right up to the end of measure 211

The score concludes at measure 203.

204

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

n

mf

fff

Optional 8vb to end

Stop!

Stop!

Stop!