

Aftershock

{06~12~16}

for reed quintet

(Oboe, B \flat Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax., Bassoon)

Aaron S. Ricucci-Hill

(12/08/2016)

Written for the victims of the Pulse Nightclub Shooting, Orlando, FL.

Duration: ~5.5 minutes

Program Notes

This piece was really tough on me to set to paper. The subject matter is really personal to me. On June, 12th, 2016, a mass shooting occurred at the Pulse Night Club, a gay club, in Orlando Florida. 49 victims, excluding the gunman who shot himself, were killed and many more were injured. It lasted three hours.

I heard about this while at my parents house and I was shocked. I felt a strange stirring of emotions. I wasn't personally involved in the tragedy, but yet I felt personally affected. It reminded me that despite feeling safe for a long time, that I was comfortable, that the world is really a dangerous place for people who are out publicly in the LGBT community. I, being an out and proud gay man, especially after the 2016 election, was reminded that the world is not particularly safe for me and that we need to continue to work harder to fight discrimination and against violence.

So when I was in La Bolline, France for the Zodiac Music Festival in July 2016, I started to officially put down my own raw emotions and how I was processing it. I chose reed quintet because a friend of mine, Rob Kincade, offered the chance for me to write a reed quintet and I thought it would be interesting to explore unknown musical territory with a piece that very much was about me processing new and complex emotions of my own. This piece was written to show the typical process by how we process news of tragedy.

The beginning is supposed to be the listener processing the news of tragedy, trying to be sure that it is really true. The next is going about day to day life, screaming inside, but trying to appear collected and calm, with many emotions swimming underneath the surface. Finally, in a moment of privacy, you let all of your pent up emotions burst forth, finally allowing yourself to proceed with life as normal, but not quite because you will forever be changed. The last few measures emblematic of walking, tentatively, toward an unknown future.

I end these program notes with a quote by Leonard Bernstein at a concert honoring JFK after the shooting, *"We musicians, like everyone else, are numb with sorrow at this murder, and with rage at the senselessness of the crime. But this sorrow and rage will not inflame us to seek retribution; rather they will inflame our art. Our music will never again be quite the same. This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."*

To all 49 Victims of the Pulse Night Club massacre,
their families, friends, and the survivors.

Aftershock

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Larghetto ♩ = 49*Shell shocked, trying to process the news.*

Oboe

Clarinet in B \flat

Bass Clarinet

Alto Sax

Bassoon

This block contains the first five measures of the musical score. The instruments are Oboe, Clarinet in B \flat , Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, and Bassoon. The time signature is 3/4. The Oboe and Clarinet in B \flat parts feature a triplet of eighth notes in measure 3. The Bass Clarinet and Alto Sax parts have long, sweeping lines. The Bassoon part is in the bass clef. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

This block contains measures 6-9 of the musical score. The instruments are Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in B \flat (B \flat Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Sax (A. Sx.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The time signature changes to 2/4 in measure 8. The Oboe and Bass Clarinet parts feature a triplet of eighth notes in measure 7. The Clarinet in B \flat and Bassoon parts have long, sweeping lines. The Alto Sax part has a long, sweeping line. The Bass Clarinet part has a long, sweeping line. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *fp* (fortissimo).

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Aftershock

10

Ob. *p* *tr* *pp*

B \flat Cl. *pp*

B. Cl. *pp*

A. Sx. *mp* *p*

Bsn. *pp*

14

Ob. *f* *p*

B \flat Cl. *f* *p* *f* *p*

B. Cl. *f* *p* *f* *p*

A. Sx. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Bsn. *f* *f* *p*

7

*Trying to stay strong and
collected, but letting it slip
every now and then.
più mosso*

18

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sax.

Bsn.

A *collected, but letting it slip
every now and then.
più mosso*

sfz

sfz

ppp

ppp

p

This musical score is for measures 23 through 26 of a piece from 'The Marriage of Figaro'. It features five staves: Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'più mosso' at the beginning of measure 24. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings like *sfz*, *mf*, *fp*, and *f*. The Oboe and Bass Clarinet parts have a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Bass Clarinet part has a triplet in measure 23. The Alto Saxophone and Bassoon parts have a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Bassoon part has a triplet in measure 23.

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Aftershock

27

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

mp

fp

mp

fp

mp

mp

30

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

fp

mf

mp

fp

mf

mp

fp

fp

mf

mp

fp

fp

mf

mp

Ob. *ff* 6 6 6 6 6

B \flat Cl. *ff* 6 6 6 6 6

B. Cl. *ff* 3 3 3

A. Sx. *ff* 6 6 6 6 6

Bsn. *ff* 6

Ob. *mp* 6 *sf* 6 6 6 6

B \flat Cl. *mp* 6 *sf* 6 6 6 6

B. Cl. *mp* *f* 3 *mp* 3

A. Sx. *mp* 6 *sf* *f* 3 *mp* 3

Bsn. *f* 3 *mp* 6 6

10 *Frustrated, anguished outbursts* Aftershock

36

Ob. *sfz fp* *sfz* *sfz* *6 sfz*

B♭ Cl. *sfz* *3* *slow trill at first get faster* *ff*

B. Cl. *3* *slow trill at first get faster* *sfz* *3*

A. Sx. *sfz* *ff* *fp*

Bsn. *fp*

C

39

Ob. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *f* *p*

B♭ Cl. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *pp* *6*

B. Cl. *sfz* *sfz* *f* *p*

A. Sx. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *f* *p*

Bsn. *f* *fp* *f* *subito p* *3*

42

Ob. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p* *mp*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf*

A. Sx. *pp* *mp*

Bsn. *pp* *p*

46

Ob. *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *molto allarg.*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *mf*

B. Cl. *f* *f* *mf*

A. Sx. *mf* *mf*

Bsn. *mf* *mf*

12 (♩=♩) *Frustration!*
D **Modertato Agitato** (♩.=76)

Aftershock

Ob. 
B♭ Cl. 
B. Cl. 
A. Sx. 
Bsn. 

Ob. 
B♭ Cl. 
B. Cl. 
A. Sx. 
Bsn. 

55

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

fz *fz*

mp

mf *p*

57

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

sfz *f*

8va *sfz* *f*

fz *fz*

Aftershock

15

64

Ob. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp*

B. Cl. *f* *Strident*

A. Sx.

Bsn. *mp*

66

Ob. *ff*

B♭ Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff* *p* *ff*

A. Sx. *ff* *f*

Bsn. *ff* *ff*

16

Aftershock

69 *molto allarg.* **F** *a tempo*

Ob. *sfz* *p*

B \flat Cl. *sfz* *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *sfz* *mp* *p*

A. Sx. *sfz* *p*

Bsn. *sfz* *mp* *p*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 69 and 70. Measure 69 is marked 'molto allarg.' and measure 70 is marked 'a tempo'. The score includes parts for Oboe (Ob.), B-flat Clarinet (B \flat Cl.), B. Clarinet (B. Cl.), A. Saxophone (A. Sx.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). Dynamics include *sfz*, *mf*, *mp*, and *p*. A box with the letter 'F' is positioned above the Oboe staff in measure 70. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs.

71

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn. *f*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 71 and 72. Measure 71 is marked 'f'. The score includes parts for Oboe (Ob.), B-flat Clarinet (B \flat Cl.), B. Clarinet (B. Cl.), A. Saxophone (A. Sx.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). Dynamics include *sfz*, *mp*, *p*, and *f*. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs.

73

Ob. *mp* *f* *f*

B \flat Cl. *mp* *f* *f*

B. Cl. *mp* *f*

A. Sx. *mp* *f* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *f*

(♩=♩) (♩=♩)

76

Ob. *ff*

B \flat Cl. *ff*

B. Cl.

A. Sx. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

18
79 (♩=♩)

G

Aftershock

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

mp

pp

pp

pp

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

mf

mp

mf

mf

f

f

f

Aftershock
accel. (*accel. to about 100-120*)

19

84

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

ff

*It's time to move on, but
you'll never be quite the
same again.*

87

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

Bsn.

p

p

H **Larghetto** ♩ = 49

20
91

Aftershock

Ob. *p* *mf* 3 3

B \flat Cl. *p* 3 *p*

B. Cl. *p* *mp* 6 *pp*

A. Sx. *p* *p*

Bsn. *p* *mp*

Ob. 95

B \flat Cl. *mf*

B. Cl. *mp*

A. Sx. *mf* 3 3 3 *mp*

Bsn.

Screechy, noisy, not pretty.

