

Hymn to a Blue Hour

(2010)

John Mackey

Commissioned by Mesa State College
Calvin Hofer, Director of Wind Studies

Instrumentation

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon (optional but preferred)

3 Clarinets in Bb
2 Bass Clarinets in Bb
Contrabass Clarinet in Bb

2 Alto Saxes
Tenor Sax
Baritone Sax

3 Trumpets in Bb
4 French Horns
3 Tenor Trombones
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

Double Bass

Bass Drum

Performance notes: The tempo should be very fluid throughout. Ritardandos at the ends of phrases should slow to a tempo below the "arrival" tempo of the next bar. (An example of this is explicitly notated in measure 42 into 43.) Although tempos are indicated with great precision, try to avoid thinking (or showing) strong beats. The music needs to gently flow throughout. The end of sustained notes should taper as if sung by a large choir. Although the climax is notated fortissimo, the result needs to be "strong and powerful" rather than "blasted," always played with a full, non-harsh tone. (Think of the dynamic markings as indicating strength and energy even more than volume.) Finally, the beginning and ending of the piece should be played one-player-per-part wherever possible.

The "blue hour" refers to the period of twilight each evening when there is neither full daylight nor complete darkness. "Hymn to a Blue Hour" was commissioned by Mesa State College, and premiered by their wind ensemble, with Calvin Hofer conducting, on December 3, 2010.

Hymn to a Blue Hour

John Mackey

♩=60 circa, but extremely freely

for Stephen Boelter

The image shows a page of a musical score, likely for a large orchestra. The score is written for measures 1 through 8. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. The percussion part includes a Bass Drum. The score is written for a full orchestra with multiple parts for woodwinds, brass, and percussion.

Woodwinds:

- Piccolo
- Flute I
- Flute 2
- Oboe I
- Oboe 2
- Bassoon I
- Bassoon 2
- Contrabassoon
- B $\flat$ Clarinet I
- B $\flat$ Clarinet 2
- B $\flat$ Clarinet 3
- 2 Bass Clarinets
- B $\flat$ Contrabass Clarinet

Brass:

- Alto Sax I
- Alto Sax 2
- Tenor Sax
- Baritone Sax
- Trumpet I
- Trumpet 2
- Trumpet 3
- Horn I
- Horn 2
- Horn 3-4
- Trombone I
- Trombone 2
- Tbn. 3, Bass Tbn.
- Euphonium
- Tuba

Percussion:

- Bass Drum

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., *p*, *molto espress.*, *pp*). The time signature changes are indicated by the numbers 3, 4, and 3 above the staff lines.

This page of the musical score is for a large orchestra, featuring 24 staves. The instruments are arranged as follows:

- Woodwinds:** Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe 1, Oboe 2, Bassoon 1, Bassoon 2, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet, Contrabass Clarinet.
- Strings:** Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass.
- Brass:** Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trumpet 3, Horn 1, Horn 2, Horn 3-4, Trombone 1, Trombone 2, Trombone 3-4, Euphonium, Tuba.
- Percussion:** Bass Drum.

The score is written in 2/4, 5/4, 3/2, 2/2, 3/2, 4/2, and 6/4 time signatures. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (pp, p, mp, espress., div.), articulation (accents), and performance instructions (solo, arco, pizz.).

17 $\text{♩.}=30$ ($\text{♩.}=90$)
(in 2)

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. 2

Ob. I

Ob. 2

Bsn. I

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. I

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx. I

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

$\text{♩.}=30$ ($\text{♩.}=90$)
(in 2)

Tpt. I

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn I

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. I

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD

33

This page of a musical score is for a large orchestra. It features staves for the following instruments: Piccolo, Flute I, Flute II, Oboe I, Oboe II, Bassoon I, Bassoon II, Contrabassoon, Clarinet I, Clarinet II, Clarinet III, Bass Clarinet, Contrabass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone I, Alto Saxophone II, Tenor Saxophone, Baritone Saxophone, Trumpet I, Trumpet II, Trumpet III, Horn I, Horn II, Horns 3-4, Trombone I, Trombone II, Trombones 3-4, Euphonium, Tuba, Double Bass, and Bass Drum.

The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *pp* (pianissimo). It also features time signature changes from 3/2 to 2/2. The notation includes various musical symbols like notes, rests, slurs, and crescendo/decrescendo hairpins.

[illegible]

48 ♩=56 (♩=112) with a little more motion

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. 2

Ob. I

Ob. 2

Bsn. I

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. I

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx. I

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. I

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn I

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. I

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD

57

57

This page contains the musical notation for measures 57 through 60 of a symphony. The score is written for a large orchestra, including woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature changes from 3/2 to 9/4 between measures 58 and 59. Measure numbers 57, 58, 59, and 60 are printed at the bottom of each system. Dynamics such as mp, mf, f, and poco rit. are indicated throughout the score.

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. 2

Ob. I

Ob. 2

Bsn. I

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. I

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx. I

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. I

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn I

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. I

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD

poco rit.

mp

mf

f

arco

f

3/2

2/2

3/2

9/4

57

58

59

60

63

♩=56 (♪=112, ♩.=38)
(in 3) (in 2)

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. 2

Ob. I

Ob. 2

Bsn. I

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. I

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx. I

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. I

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn I

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. I

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD

69

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. 1

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn 1

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD

poco rit.

poco rit.

pizz.

arco

75 *a tempo* *rit.*

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. 1

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

a tempo *rit.*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn 1

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD

(in 3)

(in 2)

79

(in 3) (in 2)

Picc. *f*

Fl. I *ff*

Fl. 2 *ff*

Ob. 1 *ff*

Ob. 2 *ff*

Bsn. 1 *ff*

Bsn. 2 *ff*

C. Bn. *ff*

Clar. 1 *f* *ff*

Clar. 2 *ff*

Clar. 3 *ff*

Bs. Cl. *ff*

Cb. Cl. *ff*

A. Sx. 1 *ff*

A. Sx. 2 *ff*

T. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. *ff*

a tempo, but even more freely, stretching the end of phrases

(in 3) (in 2)

Tpt. 1 *ff*

Tpt. 2 *ff*

Tpt. 3 *ff*

Horn 1 *ff*

Horn 2 *ff*

Horn 3-4 *ff*

Tbn. 1 *ff*

Tbn. 2 *ff*

Tbn. 3-4 *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

D.B. *ff*

BD *f*

mp

92 rit. (♩=72) ♩=40 (♩=80) (♩=30) ♩=36 (♩=72) (2+3)

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. 1

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn 1

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD

102

$\text{♩} = 30$ ($\text{♩} = 90$)
(in 2)

poco rit. (3+2+2)

with a little more motion

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. 2

Ob. I

Ob. 2

Bsn. I

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. I

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx. I

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. I

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn I

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. I

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD

[illegible]

124 (♩=48, ♩=96) rit. (♩=42, ♩=84)

Picc.

Fl. I

Fl. 2

Ob. I

Ob. 2

Bsn. I

Bsn. 2

C. Bn.

Clar. I

Clar. 2

Clar. 3

Bs. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

A. Sx. I

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Tpt. I

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Horn I

Horn 2

Horn 3-4

Tbn. I

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3-4

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

BD