Hymn to a Blue Hour

(2010)

John Mackey

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

Copyright © 2010 Osti Music, Inc.
WWW.OSTIMUSIC.COM

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

for Stephen Boelter

John Mackey

♩=60 circa, but extremely freely

Piccolo

Flute 1 — *molto espress.* *p*

Flute 2

Oboe 1

Oboe 2

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2 — *pp*

Contrabassoon

B♭ Clarinet 1 — *pp*

B♭ Clarinet 2 — *pp*

B♭ Clarinet 3 — *pp*

2 Bass Clarinets

B♭ Contrabass Clarinet

Alto Sax 1 — *pp*

Alto Sax 2 — *pp*

Tenor Sax

Baritone Sax

♩=60 circa, but extremely freely

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

Trumpet 3

Horn 1 — *pp*

Horn 2 — *pp*

Horn 3-4

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Tbn. 3, Bass Tbn.

Euphonium

Tuba

Double Bass

Bass Drum

Copyright © 2010 Osti Music, Inc.
WWW.OSTIMUSIC.COM

9

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

div.
espress.
solo
arco
pizz.
3.

17

𝅗𝅥.=30 (♩=90)
(in 2)

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

6/4 5/4 2/2 3/2 5/4 6/4

mp
pp
singing simply
arco
p
a 2

24

poco rit. a tempo

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

espress.

a 2

33

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

41 *rit.* (♩=72) 𝅗𝅥=42 (♩=84) *rit.*

Picc.
Fl. 1 — *p* *mf* *p* *p*
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Bsn. 1 — *p* *mf* *p* *pp*
Bsn. 2 — *p* *pp*
C. Bn. — *p* *pp*

3/2 3/2

Clar. 1 — *mf* *ppp* *stagger breathe*
Clar. 2 — *mp* *pp*
Clar. 3 — *mp* *pp* *stagger breathe* *ppp*
Bs. Cl. — *mp* *pp*
Cb. Cl. — *pp*

A. Sx. 1 — *p* *mf* *p* *pp*
A. Sx. 2 — *p* *mf* *p* *pp*
T. Sx. — *p* *mf* *p* *pp*
B. Sx. — *p* *pp*

3/2

rit. (♩=72) 𝅗𝅥=42 (♩=84) *rit.*

Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3

3/2

Horn 1
Horn 2
Horn 3-4

3/2

Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3-4
Euph.
Tuba

D.B. — *mp* *pp*

3/2

BD

48

𝅗𝅥=56 (♩=112)

with a little more motion

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

espress.

pizz.

a 2

57

poco 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.
poco 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.
arco
BD

63

𝅗𝅥=56 (♩=112, 𝅗𝅥.=38)

(in 3)

(in 2)

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 2

A. Sx. 1

A. Sx. 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

𝅗𝅥=56 (♩=112, 𝅗𝅥.=38)

(in 3)

(in 2)

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

69

poco 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.
poco 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

a 2

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
con sord. - straight
senza sord.
Horn 1
Horn 2
Horn 3-4
a 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3-4
Euph.
Tuba
D.B.
BD

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

79

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

(in 3) (in 2)

f ff fff mp

9/4 6/4 2/2 3/2 6/4

85

rit. (♩=84) 𝅗𝅥=50 (♩=100) rit. (𝅗𝅥=42, ♩=84) 𝅗𝅥=48 (♩=96)

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

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. 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

n.

solo molto espress.

102

𝅗𝅥.=30 (♩=90)
(in 2)

poco rit. *(3+2+2)*

with a little more motion

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

solo
espress.
pizz.
arco
n.

109

very freely

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

solo
tutti
(non. cresc.)

116 *slowing*

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

singing above the rest

solo

slowing

124 𝅗𝅥=48 (♩=96) *rit.* (𝅗𝅥=42, ♩=84)

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
C. Bn.
Clar. 1 — tutti
Clar. 2 — tutti
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 — 3.
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn. 3-4
Euph.
Tuba
D.B.
BD

𝅗𝅥=48 (♩=96) *rit.* (𝅗𝅥=42, ♩=84)

August 4, 2010
New York, NY