

A Little Poem for Concert Band

Duration: about 5 minutes 30 seconds
Theme from 2004; composed March 9-31, 2015

In 1990 I wrote several works for my friend Fred Robinson who was the composer/arranger at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Among these was a work for jazz band, *The Popular Music of Planet X* in three "Books". The idea was the rather whimsical one that somewhere among the myriad planets there could be a civilization where the prime incentive for the music industry was *not mercenary*. Clearly such a planet must be far far away. The Air Force didn't seem to appreciate the effort, and the score and parts were returned. (When you bomb with the Air Force....you *REALLY BOMB!*)

Come summer of 2004 and I once again was writing music, and turned my attention to the old *PMPX*. I made many major alterations and had a brand new version. However, this work remained unperformed, difficult to play, and of no interest to jazz bands. Thus in 2015 I decided to try again; the piece is now for concert band, which is much better suited to the idiom. The only surviving movement from the old version is much of *Bump and Grind*, which is the last part of *PMPX*. The opening theme of *A Little Poem* dates from the 2004 jazz band *PMPX*, and otherwise is newly composed in 2015.

I am offering *A Little Poem* as a separate work, since the larger *PMPX* might be too long to fit on many programs, or to submit to composition contests. It is of the same orchestration as the other movements of *PMPX*, except that there are two instead of three trumpets. The second alto saxophone has only a few measures of music, and in a pinch his part can be played by clarinets.

Performance Notes

The String Bass part is intended for an acoustic bass. An electric bass may not be used in its stead. If an electronic keyboard is used instead of an acoustic piano, it should have a concert grand piano sound. However, the preference is strongly in favor of a real piano. Accidentals hold through the measure and not beyond. This is a C score with the usual transpositions in the parts. If a conductor requires a transposed score, I will provide one, with considerable grumbling.

Cover; Neem Karoli Baba with two devotees.

Bill Robinson

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Largo (♩ = 44)

The score is for a full orchestra and piano. It is in 4/4 time and marked **Largo** with a tempo of ♩ = 44. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The score is divided into systems for different instrument groups:

- Woodwinds:** Piccolo, Flute (1 & 2), Oboe (1 & 2), Clarinet in Bb (1, 2, 3), Bass Clarinet in Bb, 2 Eb Alto Saxophones, Bb Tenor Saxophone, Eb Baritone Saxophone.
- Brass:** Horn in F (1, 2, 3, 4), 2 Trumpets in Bb, Trombone (1, 2), 2 Trombones, BTbn., Euphonium, 2 Tubas.
- Other:** Timpani, Piano, String Bass.

Key performance markings include *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *lunga* (long). The piano part features a *solo* section. The score includes various articulations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

A Little Poem

This page of the musical score, titled "A Little Poem", covers measures 10 through 16. The score is arranged for a large symphony orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Picc.** (Piccolo): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Fl. 1** (Flute 1): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Ob.** (Oboe): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- 2 Bn.** (Bassoon): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Cl. 1** (Clarinet 1): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Cl. 2** (Clarinet 2): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- BCL.** (Bass Clarinet): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Alto 1 Sax.** (Alto Saxophone 1): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Ten. Sax.** (Tenor Saxophone): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Bari. Sax.** (Baritone Saxophone): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Hn. 1** (Horn 1): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Hn. 2** (Horn 2): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Hn. 3** (Horn 3): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Hn. 4** (Horn 4): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Tpt. 1** (Trumpet 1): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- 2 Tbn.** (Tenor Trombone): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Euph.** (Euphonium): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Tuba 1** (Tuba 1): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Tuba 2** (Tuba 2): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Timp.** (Timpani): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- Pno.** (Piano): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.
- SB** (String Bass): Measures 10-16, starting with a *p* dynamic.

The score features various musical notations including slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. The *p* (piano) dynamic is consistently used across most parts. The page number "16" is enclosed in a box at the top right.

Musical score for "A Little Poem" page 3, measures 17-24. The score includes parts for Piccolo, Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), Bassoons (1 and 2), Clarinets (1 and 3), Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophones (1 and 2), Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, Horns (1, 2, 3, 4), Trumpets (1 and 2), Trombones (1, Bass Trombone), Euphonium, Tuba 1, and Subcontrabass. Dynamics range from ppp to f.

A Little Poem

34 **35**

Bn. 1 *mf* *cresc.* *f*

Bn. 2 *mf+* *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2 *f*

Alto 1 Sax. *mf*

Ten. Sax. *mf*

4 Hn. *a 4* *mf* *cresc.* *f*

Tpt. 1 *f*

Tpt. 2 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f* *f dim.*

Tbn. 2 *f*

BTbn. *mp* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *f* *mf*

Euph. *f* *f dim.*

Tuba 1 *mp* *f dim.*

Tuba 2 *mp* *mf* *f dim.*

SB *mp* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *f dim.*

40 **42** *rit.* *a tempo*

Fl. 1 *pp* *cresc.*

Ob. 1 *pp* *cresc.*

Cl. 1 *p* *pp* *cresc.*

Alto 1 Sax. *mp*

Ten. Sax. *mp* *p* *pp* *cresc.*

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

Tbn. 1 *(mf)* *(mp)* *p* *pp*

Euph. *(mf)* *(mp)* *p*

Tuba 1 *(mf)* *mp*

SB *(mf)* *(mp)* *p*

A Little Poem

This page of the musical score, titled "A Little Poem", contains measures 46 through 50. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument family. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. The woodwind section includes Flutes (Fl.), Oboes (Ob.), Clarinets (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (BCL.), Tenor Saxophone (Ten. Sax.), and Baritone Saxophone (Bari. Sax.). The brass section includes Horns (Hn.), Trumpets (Tpt.), and Tubas. The string section includes Piano (Pno.) and Sub Bass (SB). Dynamics are indicated throughout, with woodwinds and strings starting at *p* or *mp* and moving to *mf* or *f*. The brass section enters at measure 49 with *f* dynamics. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand and a bass line with a *Rea* marking and an asterisk. The sub bass part has a *f* dynamic marking.

A Little Poem

52

rit.-----

51

Picc. *pp*

1 *pp*

2 *pp*

1 *pp* solo

2 *pp*

2 Bn. *a 2*

1 *pp*

Cl. 2 *pp*

3 *pp*

BCL. *f*

Alto 1 Sax. *f*

Ten. Sax. *f*

Bari. Sax. *f*

1 *f*

Hn. 3 *f*

4 *p* solo *pp*

1 *f*

2 *f*

2 Tbn. *f*

BTbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

2 Tubas *a 2 f* 1. *p* *pp*

51 *f*

Timp. *f*

51 *p* 8^{va}

Pno. *8^{va}*

51 *f* *p* *pp*

SB *f* *p* *pp*