

Tintinnambulance

Perusal score

Not for performance

AJ Harbison

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Tintinnambulance

for mixed quartet (clarinet, trombone, vibraphone,
and violin)

AJ Harbison

Program Notes

Tinnambulance is a juxtaposition of the two ideas that make up the wordplay of its title: Arvo Pärt's *tinnabuli* composition style (consisting of repeated chords in inversions, combined with diatonic stepwise motion) and the discord and sound of an ambulance siren. It is a reflection on the tension between our desire for meditation and peace on one hand, and the noise and chaos of the world around us on the other.

Duration

1 minute

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C Score

AJ Harbison (2015)

Frantic and peaceful ♩ = 60

add unpredictable accents for chaotic effect

The score consists of four staves. The Clarinet in Bb staff (top) features a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked with dynamics *p* and *f*. The Trombone staff (second) has a long, sustained note with a slur and the instruction "out of time; like an approaching siren". The Vibraphone staff (third) is marked "medium soft vibraphone mallets", "motor off", and "l.v. sempre" with a dynamic of *pp*. The Violin staff (bottom) is marked "scordatura = F C G D*" and "I" and "II" positions, with dynamics *pp* and *p*. A large watermark "PERUSAL SCORE ONLY" is overlaid across the middle of the score. A second system of staves begins with a measure number "3" and continues the musical notation.

* The score is notated as it sounds; the violin part is notated as it is to be played.

Musical score for measures 5-6. The score consists of four staves: Treble Clef (top), Bass Clef (second), Treble Clef (third), and Bass Clef (bottom). Measure 5 starts with a treble clef staff containing a melodic line with accents and slurs, marked *mf*. The bass clef staff has a long note with a slur and a circled '9'. The third staff has a treble clef with a *mp* dynamic. The bottom staff has a bass clef with a long note and a slur.

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Musical score for measures 7-8. The score consists of four staves: Treble Clef (top), Bass Clef (second), Treble Clef (third), and Bass Clef (bottom). Measure 7 starts with a treble clef staff containing a melodic line with accents and slurs, marked *mp*. Above the staff, the text "begin decreasing frequency of added accents" is written. The bass clef staff has a long note with a slur and a circled '9'. The third staff has a treble clef with a *mf* dynamic. The bottom staff has a bass clef with a long note and a slur, marked *mf*.

9

in time

out of time; like a retreating siren

f

f

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11

stop adding accents – play as written

p

ff

f

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13

7 7 7 3

pp *ppp*

n.

fff

ff *pp*

*

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Kansas City, 2015