

Brass Quintet

*completed for Akshat Jain
and Origin Brass*

David Vess
(2012/2018)

Instrumentation

2 trumpets in C

horn in F

trombone

tuba

Duration: 18-20 mins

Program

My Brass Quintet is my very first piece, which I started writing while I was a student at UNCSA during my sophomore year. It took me over a year to just write what would become the second movement: *Flight*. I started working after having the amazing fortune to meet American composer David Maslanka. He was an incredible inspiration for me and meeting him in many ways convinced me that I had to try writing. Originally I had plans for two extra movements, but because of more pressing projects, I had to shelve it for 5 years. That was when I met tubist Akshat Jain at the Fresh Inc Festival held in Wisconsin in 2017. We became friends and interested in working together. I mentioned that I had a 'waltz' movement waiting to be completed and he asked me to finish it for his quintet. It was certainly a strange experience working with material that was five years old, and some of the first music that I had ever written. I spent most of the summer of 2018 stitching together this quilt of movement, which much of it is comprised of fragments of other projects, including several unused and unfinished quintets and an early string quartet. The first movement is more complex than the sunny optimistic second. It weaves its way through banal waltz figures to crunchy dissonances, finding its identity in contradiction and contrast. The second movement *Flight* is probably a little too fast. It functions in sort-of-rondo form with the main fanfare theme recurring at pivotal moments of transition. The quiet section with the muted running trumpets was written on a flight from Quebec to Raleigh, which gave me inspiration for the title.

-David Vess

about the composer

David Vess is a New England based composer, conductor and musician. His music has been characterized by a sensitivity to sonority, unrelenting energy and evocative narratives. The Brockton Enterprise described the premiere of his work *Ignite* as "a real barnburner." He was awarded the 2016 Roger Sessions Memorial Composition Award at the Boston Conservatory. Vess' music has been commissioned and performed in the US, Canada, Italy and Japan by ensembles and soloists such as the Brockton Symphony Orchestra, violinist Sharan Leventhal, cellist Kevin MacFarland, ShikiDuo, Boston Musica Viva, and the International Contemporary Ensemble. Originally from Asheville, North Carolina, David holds degrees from the Boston Conservatory and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. David currently teaches tuba and composition at Bridgewater State University. He is also on staff at the Boston Conservatory at Berklee and Boston Philharmonic Youth Orchestra. He lives in Foxborough, MA. -2019

For more information, please visit davidvessmusic.com.

other works for brass

Helvetica (2013 arr. 2017) for brass quintet
scatter/spark (2015) for brass quintet and piano
Thoughts from the Back Row (2013) for solo tuba
winter citrus shrine (2018) for trombone, guitar and double bass
Ignite (2017) for brass ensemble
Sunrise Fanfare (2017) for youth brass ensemble

Brass Quintet

I. Waltz

Score is Transposed

David Vess
Foxborough, MA
(2012/September 2018)

Warm ♩ = 90

Trumpet I in C
Trumpet II in C
Horn in F
Trombone
Tuba

mp *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

w straight mute

p *mf* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

17

mp *p* *f* *sub. f* *tr*
mp *p* *f* *sub. f* *tr*
mf *mf* *f* *sub. f*
mf *mf* *f* *pp*
mp *pp*

w straight mute

25

mp *f* *open* *ff*

f *mp* *ff*

f *mp* *ff*

f *p* *ff*

31

pp *pp* *f*

pp *pp* *f*

pp *pp* *f*

pp *pp* *f*

pp *mp* *f*

40

Light
molto rall. ♩ = 50

mf *ff* *f*

f *ff* *mf*

fp *fp* *ff* *mf*

fp *fp* *ff* *mf*

fp *mf* *f*

81

Musical score for measures 81-88. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom two staves are bass clefs. The music features various dynamics including *mf*, *f*, and *mp*. There are slurs and accents throughout the piece.

89

open

Musical score for measures 89-96. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom two staves are bass clefs. The music features various dynamics including *mp*, *f*, *mf*, and *p*. There are slurs and accents throughout the piece. The word "open" is written above the first staff in measure 95.

97

Musical score for measures 97-104. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom two staves are bass clefs. The music features various dynamics including *f*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *mf*, and *mf*. There are slurs and accents throughout the piece.

Musical score for measures 105-111. The score consists of five staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last three are in bass clef. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, *ff*, and *f*. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature.

112 **accel.**

Musical score for measures 112-118. The score consists of five staves. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *mp*. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. There are accents and dynamic markings like *p* < *mf* > *mf* > *p*. The section is marked **accel.**

Building
♩ = 100

123 **w harmon mute fltr.**

Musical score for measures 123-129. The score consists of five staves. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *mp*. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. There are triplets and dynamic markings like *p* < *f* > *p* < *f* > *mf*. The section is marked **Building** with a tempo of ♩ = 100 and includes instructions **w harmon mute fltr.** and **w cup mute**.

130

Musical score for measures 130-135. The score consists of five staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last three are in bass clef. The music features triplets and dynamic markings including *f*, *ff*, *mp*, and *f*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

136

Musical score for measures 136-142. The score consists of five staves. Measure 136 includes a 'wah-wah' effect over a triplet. Dynamic markings include *p*, *f*, *mp*, and *f*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

Explosive

$\text{♩} = 80$

143

Musical score for measures 143-148. The score consists of five staves. The music is marked 'Explosive' with a tempo of 80. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *mf*, *fp*, *ff*, and *mf*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

150

mf < fp ff mp n
 mf < fp ff mp
 mf < fp ff mp
 sfz mp
 mf < fp ff mp

157

f mp f f mp

163

Open
 f soar
 p f espressivo
 f
 f

168

Musical score for measures 168-171. The score consists of five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Dynamics include 'f' (forte) and 'ff' (fortissimo). There are various melodic lines and accompaniment patterns.

172

Musical score for measures 172-176. The score consists of five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Dynamics include 'ff' (fortissimo) and 'f' (forte). There are triplets and a 'rit.' (ritardando) marking at the end.

177

Musical score for measures 177-181. The score consists of five staves: two treble clefs and three bass clefs. The music is in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It includes a 'Waltz' section with a tempo of quarter note = 80. Dynamics include 'molto rall.' (molto rallentando), 'ff' (fortissimo), and 'mp' (mezzo-piano). There are triplets and an 'accel.' (accelerando) marking.

Musical score for measures 185-193. The score consists of five staves. The first four staves are in treble clef, and the fifth is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *fp*, *f*, and *pp*. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some triplet markings in the lower staves.

Musical score for measures 194-198. The score consists of five staves. The first four staves are in treble clef, and the fifth is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *pp*, *ff*, and *p*. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with several triplet markings in the lower staves.

rit.

Return, relaxed

♩=80

Musical score for measures 200-204. The score consists of five staves. The first four staves are in treble clef, and the fifth is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include *ff*, *p*, *fff*, and *mp*. The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with triplet markings in the lower staves. The tempo is marked as *Return, relaxed* with a metronome marking of $\text{♩} = 80$.

207

Musical score for measures 207-216. The score consists of five staves: a vocal line and four piano accompaniment staves. The vocal line begins with a whole note G4, followed by a half rest, then a half note G4, and continues with a melodic line. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. A dynamic marking of *mf* is present in the second staff. The instruction "w cup mute" is written above the first staff.

217

Musical score for measures 217-225. The score consists of five staves. The vocal line continues with a melodic line, ending with a half note G4. The piano accompaniment continues with the same rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings include *mp* in the second staff, *mp* in the third staff, and *pp* in the fourth staff. A plus sign (+) is placed above the vocal line in measure 225.

226

Musical score for measures 226-235. The score consists of five staves. The vocal line begins with a half rest, followed by a half note G4, and continues with a melodic line. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the right hand and quarter notes in the left hand. Dynamic markings include *p* in the second staff, *mf* in the third staff, and *mf* in the fourth staff. The instruction "w cup mute" is written above the first staff.

open

mf *p* *f*

mf *f*

mp *mf* *f*

p *p* *f*

p *p* *f*

II. Flight

David Vess
Winston-Salem, NC
(February 2012)

Very lively

252

$\text{♩} = 172$

ff p sub. *f* *p* *mp*

ff p sub. *f* *p* *mp*

ff p sub. *f* *p*

ff *sf* *p*

ff *sf* *p*

259

mf *p* *mf* *f*

mf *p* *f*

f *ff fp* *ff fp* *mf* *f*

ff fp *ff fp* *mf* *f*

ff fp *ff fp* *f*

265

ff *mp* *f*
p sub.
ff *f* *p*
ff *f* *p*
ff *mp* *mf*

272

p *sfz* *f* *p*
f *p*
mf *sfz* *f* *p*
f *mp*
f *pp* *f* *p*

280

sfz *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *ff*
f *mf* *f* *ff* *ff*
sfz *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *ff*
ff *f* *3* *mf*
f *sfz* *f*

16
284

Smooth
♩ = 144
w harmon mute
stem out

291

Molto Ritard. Slow

Quickly
♩ = 166

298

304

Musical score for measures 304-310. The score consists of five staves. The first staff has a dynamic marking of *pp* and a performance instruction "with Cup mute". The second staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *pp*. The third staff has dynamic markings of *f*, *mp*, and *pp*. The fourth staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. The fifth staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *pp*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

315

Musical score for measures 310-316. The score consists of five staves. The first staff has dynamic markings of *mf* and *f*, and a performance instruction "open". The second staff has dynamic markings of *mf* and *ff*. The third staff has dynamic markings of *mf* and *ff*. The fourth staff has dynamic markings of *p sub.* and *ff*. The fifth staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *mf*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

316

Musical score for measures 316-322. The score consists of five staves. The first staff has dynamic markings of *mp* and *f*. The second staff has dynamic markings of *fp* and *f*. The third staff has dynamic markings of *fp* and *mf*. The fourth staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *f*. The fifth staff has dynamic markings of *f* and *f*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

342

345

Musical score for measures 342-345. The score is in 4/4 time and features five staves. The first three staves are treble clef, and the last two are bass clef. The key signature has two flats. Measure 342 is marked *sub. pp*. Measure 343 is marked *mp*. Measure 344 is marked *ff*. Measure 345 is marked *f* and *mp*. The music includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings.

349

350

Musical score for measures 349-350. The score is in 4/4 time and features five staves. The first three staves are treble clef, and the last two are bass clef. The key signature has two flats. Measure 349 is marked *p*. Measure 350 is marked *f*, *mp*, and *f*. The music includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings.

358

364

Musical score for measures 358-364. The score is in 3/4 time and features five staves. The first three staves are treble clef, and the last two are bass clef. The key signature has two flats. Measure 358 is marked *mp*. Measure 359 is marked *f* and *mp*. Measure 360 is marked *f* and *mp*. Measure 361 is marked *f*. Measure 362 is marked *f*. Measure 363 is marked *f*. Measure 364 is marked *f*. The music includes various rhythmic patterns and dynamic markings.

366

rit.

Slowing

$\text{♩} = 120$

Calm and tranquil

$\text{♩} = 80$

w Straight mute

Molto Ritard.

381

w Straight mute

pp legato

mf

mf

pp

mf

p

mf

p

385

Musical score for measures 385-390. The score is in 2/4 time and features five staves. The first staff (treble clef) begins with a *pp* dynamic and contains a continuous sixteenth-note pattern. The second staff (treble clef) has a *p* dynamic and contains a similar sixteenth-note pattern. The third and fourth staves (treble and bass clefs) feature a *f* dynamic with sustained notes and a *mf* dynamic with a walking bass line. The fifth staff (bass clef) continues the walking bass line.

391

open

389

Musical score for measures 389-393. The score is in 2/4 time and features five staves. Measure 389 is marked "open". The first staff (treble clef) has a *mf* dynamic. The second staff (treble clef) has a *mp* dynamic. The third and fourth staves (treble and bass clefs) have a *f* dynamic. The fifth staff (bass clef) has a *mf* dynamic. The score includes various dynamics such as *p*, *pp*, and *mp* across the staves.

398

394

Musical score for measures 394-398. The score is in 2/4 time and features five staves. The first staff (treble clef) has a *f* dynamic. The second staff (treble clef) has a *f* dynamic. The third and fourth staves (treble and bass clefs) have a *f* dynamic. The fifth staff (bass clef) has a *f* dynamic. The score includes various dynamics such as *ff*, *p*, and *mf* across the staves.

Musical score for measures 399-405. The score consists of five staves. Dynamics include *p*, *ff*, *mf*, *mp*, *f*, and *ff*. Articulations include *p legato* and *f < ff*. The music is in a key with one flat and a 4/4 time signature.

w straight mute

Musical score for measures 406-410. The score consists of five staves. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, *mp*, *f*, and *pp*. The music is in a key with one flat and a 4/4 time signature. A straight mute is indicated for the first staff.

Building

$\text{♩} = 120$

Musical score for measures 410-414. The score consists of five staves. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *mp*. The music is in a key with one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The section is titled "Building" with a tempo of 120. The final two measures are in 3/4 time and feature triplets.

419

415

open

3 *f*

open

3 *f* *mf* *f*

3 *f* *mf* *f*

3 *f* *mf* *f*

3 *mf* *f*

Ascending
♩ = 152

424 rit.

ff *ff* *ff* *ff*

p *mf* *mf*

p *mf* *mf*

p *mf* *mf*

ff *p*

431

mf *p* *p* *mf* *p*

mp *p*

437

f *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *f*

mf *f* *mp* *f* *f*

444

f *ffp* *ffp* *ffp* *f*

452

455 **Accel.**

pp *f* *mf* *f*

pp *f* *ff* *mf*

pp *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

pp *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

p *ff* *cresc.* *v* *v* *v*

468

Fast ♩ = 182

462

Musical score for measures 462-467. The score is in G major and consists of five staves. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. Dynamics include *ff*, *p*, and *mp*. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many accents.

470

Musical score for measures 470-476. The score is in G major and consists of five staves. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 4/4. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *mf*, *f*, and *ff fp*. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many accents.

477

Musical score for measures 477-482. The score is in G major and consists of five staves. The time signature is 4/4. Dynamics include *ff* and *f*. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many accents.

481

The musical score consists of five staves. The first two staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The last three staves are in bass clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The score is divided into three measures. Measure 481 features a melodic line in the first staff with a forte (*ff*) dynamic and a slur over the notes. Measure 482 shows a piano (*p*) dynamic in the first two staves. Measure 483 is marked with fortissimo (*fff*) in all five staves. The notation includes various note values, rests, and articulation marks such as accents and slurs.