

Shadow Pulses: A Fragment
for sinfonietta

David Vess
March 2023

Instrumentation:

flute / piccolo (no piccolo in this excerpt)

oboe

clarinet in Bb / bass clarinet in Bb

bassoon

trumpet in Bb

horn in F

tenor trombone (straight mute)

tuba

percussion 1:

tam-tam, 4 toms, 4 wood blocks, vibraphone

percussion 2:

bass drum, crotales, 2 brake drums, sus. cymbal

piano

strings

Program:

This is a fragment of a work for sinfonietta. *Shadow Pulses* get's its name from a collection of different inspirations. Taking the delicious dissonances from middle 20th century concert music, juxtaposed with asymmetrical grooves with a Metal-inspired flare we get *Shadow Pulses*.

This excerpt is from the 2nd movement, which sees the beginning of a slow build-up. Fragments of the groove are presented, with an episodic solo for the flute over the growing chaos. Mixed meter beat patterns enter the fray as the musical textures begin to swell. The bass clarinet gets a feature before the excerpt comes to a close.

About the composer:

The music of David Vess (b. 1991) has been described as everything from "ethereal and unique" to "a real barnurner". Originally from the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina, Vess' music draws inspiration from his eclectic career as a musician. From playing in a Johnny Cash cover band, to singing in the choir, playing in New Orleans style-brass bands, and conducting contemporary opera, all of these different worlds find a connection in David's music. He lives in Jacksonville, FL with his wife and cat.

For more information, please visit: davidvessmusic.com

Related works:

anima (2016) for sinfonietta

Rift (2015) for sinfonietta

Shadow Pulses: A Fragment

Score is in C

David Vess
Miami, FL
March 2023

4 with venom
4 ♩ = 72

Flute

Oboe

Bass Clarinet in B \flat
f

Bassoon
f

Trumpet in B \flat

Horn in F

Tenor Trombone

Tuba

Percussion I:
Tam-Tam, 4 Toms,
4 Wood Blocks,
Vibraphone
Tam-tam
Bowed *staggered
p

Percussion II:
Bass Drum, Crotales,
2 Brake Drums,
Sus. Cymbal
Sus. Cymbal
Bowed
p

Piano
f

4 with venom
4 ♩ = 72

Violin I

Violin II
sul pont.
pp
p
mf

Viola
sul pont.
pp
p
mf

Violoncello
sul pont.
pp
p
mf

Contrabass
f

2 3 4 5 6

15

Fl. *solo* *f* 6 5 6

Ob.

B. Cl. *ff* *f* *mp* *f*

Bsn. *ff* *f* *mp* *f*

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn. *fltr.* *gliss.* *f*

Tba.

Perc. I LV 4 Toms and 4 Woodblocks (X) *p* *mf*

Perc. II Sus. Cymbal Bowed *p* Bass drum *mp*

Pno. *f*

15

Vln. I *norm.* *p* *f*

Vln. II *norm.* *p* *f*

Vla. *norm.* *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *f* *gliss.* *f* *gliss.* *gliss.* *f* *mp* *f*

Cb. *ff* *f* *mp* *f*

12 13 14 15 16 17

15/16 21 (4+4+4+3)

Fl. *ff* 6 5 6 *fff* *ff* 6 5 6

Ob. *ff* 6 5 6 *ff* 6 5 6

B. Cl. *mp* *f* *mp.* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *f* *mp.* *f*

Tpt. *pp* *f*

Hn. *pp* *f*

Tbn. *pp* *f* remove mute

Tba. *pp* *f*

Perc. I *f* *mp* *f*

Perc. II *mf* *p*

Pno. *f* *f* *8th*

Vln. I *ff* 6 5 6 *p* *ff* *p* *f* *ff* 6 5 6

Vln. II *p* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Vla. *p* *ff* *p* *f* *ff*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp.* *p* *f* *ff*

Cb. *mp* *f* *mp.* *f*

15/16 21 (4+4+4+3)

Fl. *f* (3+3)

Ob. *f*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Tpt. *f*

Hn. *mf* *f*

Tbn. *mf* *f*

Tba. *mf* *f*

Perc. I *mp*

Perc. II *mf* *mf*

Pno.

Vln. I *p* *f* *ff* *mf* *gliss.*

Vln. II *p* *f* *ff* *mf* *gliss.*

Vla. *p* *f* *ff* *mf* *gliss.*

Vc. *p* *f* *ff* *mf* *gliss.*

Cb.

Fl. *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

Ob. *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

B. Cl. *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

Bsn. *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

Tpt. *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

Hn. *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

Tbn. *p* *gliss.* *mf* *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

Tba. *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

Perc. I *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

Perc. II Brake Drums *f*

Pno. *ff* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

8th

15
16 29

9
16

Vln. I *p* *f* *ff* *gliss.* *ff* *mf*

Vln. II *p* *f* *ff* *gliss.* *ff* *mf*

Vla. *p* *f* *ff* *gliss.* *ff* *mf*

Vc. *p* *f* *ff* *gliss.* *ff* *mf*

Cb. *f* 6 3 *ff* 6 3

29 30 31 32 33 34

Fl. $\frac{9(3+3+3)}{16}$ $\frac{15}{16}$ $\frac{36}{16}$ $\frac{14(4+4+3+3)}{16}$ $\frac{15}{16}$ $\frac{14}{16}$

Ob. mp

B. Cl. f

Bsn.

Tpt. p — ff

Hn. p — ff

Tbn. p — ff

Tba.

Perc. I **Vibraphone**
Medium vibrato
 p

Perc. II p

Pno. mf

Vln. I $\frac{9(3+3+3)}{16}$ $\frac{15}{16}$ $\frac{36}{16}$ $\frac{14(4+4+3+3)}{16}$ $\frac{15}{16}$ $\frac{14}{16}$

Vln. II pp pp

Vla.

Vc.

Cb. pp

35 36 37 38

10

14 15 14 4 aggressive
16 16 16 4 = 80

Fl.

Ob.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

p ————— ff

p ————— ff

p ————— ff

p ————— ff

Vib.

Perc. II

Pno.

mf

ff

14 15 14 aggressive
16 16 16 4 = 80

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

39 40 41 42 43