

# Helvetica

Brass Quintet No. 2

**David Vess**  
Foxborough, MA, USA  
July 2021

### Instrumentation

trumpet in Bb  
flugelhorn (or 2nd trumpet in Bb)  
horn in F  
tenor trombone  
tuba

Duration: 5' approx.

### Program:

I had been inspired by the idea of reaching for clarity, the idea of *trying* to find it, not necessarily the actual state, but the search. We spend so much time gearing ourselves towards performance, creation, and to ideas, to finding that \_\_\_\_, that clarity of an idea shining through. I often get lost in the motion, and forget the big picture, forgetting to step back and see it all, and instead, I often chose to focus on just a small corner. I intended this piece to be a small, clear, spacious place to inhabit. A place of focus. A simple font on white canvas.

This piece was originally written for clarinet, bassoon and viola.

**David Vess**

Malden, MA -USA  
October 2013

## 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 also produces a Podcast about doing creative work called: *The Sand Dollar*.

He lives in Foxborough, MA. with his wife, Sophie Kass.

-2021

For more information, please visit [davidvessmusic.com](http://davidvessmusic.com).

## other works for brass quintet

*Brass Quintet No. 1 'Flight'* (2012/2018)  
*scatter/spark* (2015) for brass quintet and piano  
*Brass Quintet No. 3 'Dusk'* (2020)

# Brass Quintet No. 2 'Helvetica'

David Vess  
Foxborough, MA, USA  
July 2021  
(original version written in October 2013)

Score is Transposed

flowing ♩ = 88  
legato

Trumpet I in B $\flat$

Flugelhorn (Trpt. II) in B $\flat$

Horn in F

Tenor Trombone

Tuba

8 10

Tpt.

Flug. (Tpt. II)

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

16 20

Tpt.

Flug. (Tpt. II)

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

22

Musical score for measures 22-28. The score is for five instruments: Tpt., Flug. (Tpt. II), Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The time signature is 2/4. The dynamics are marked as *p* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some measures containing rests.

29 **30** rit. . . . . light and joyful ♩ = 120

Musical score for measures 29-36. The score is for five instruments: Tpt., Flug. (Tpt. II), Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked "light and joyful ♩ = 120". The dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *mp* (mezzo-piano). The music includes a ritardando (rit.) marking and features a variety of note values and rests.

37 **40** molto rit. . . . . calm, tranquil ♩ = 60

Musical score for measures 37-44. The score is for five instruments: Tpt., Flug. (Tpt. II), Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The time signature is 3/4. The tempo is marked "calm, tranquil ♩ = 60". The dynamics range from *f* (forte) to *pp* (pianissimo). The music includes a molto ritardando (molto rit.) marking and features a variety of note values and rests.

46 50 *tr*

Musical score for measures 46-50. The score is for five instruments: Tpt., Flug. (Tpt. II), Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Measure 46: Tpt. is silent; Flug. (Tpt. II) plays a half note G4 (p); Hn. plays a half note G4 (mf); Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2). Measure 47: Flug. (Tpt. II) plays a quarter note A4 (mp); Hn. plays a half note G4 (mf); Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2). Measure 48: Flug. (Tpt. II) plays a quarter note B4 (mf); Hn. plays a half note G4 (mf); Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2). Measure 49: Flug. (Tpt. II) plays a quarter note C5 (f), then a quarter note B4 (p), then a quarter note A4 (mf); Hn. plays a half note G4 (mf); Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2). Measure 50: Flug. (Tpt. II) plays a quarter note G4 (mf); Hn. plays a half note G4 (pp); Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2).

54 60 moderate, flowing ♩ = 88

Musical score for measures 54-60. The score is for five instruments: Tpt., Flug. (Tpt. II), Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Measure 54: Flug. (Tpt. II) plays a quarter note G4 (mp), then a quarter note A4 (p); Hn. plays a half note G4 (pp); Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (pp). Measure 55: Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (pp). Measure 56: Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (pp). Measure 57: Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (p). Measure 58: Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (pp). Measure 59: Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (p). Measure 60: Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (p).

62

Musical score for measures 62-66. The score is for five instruments: Tpt., Flug. (Tpt. II), Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. Measure 62: Tpt. plays a half note G4 (pp); Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (pp). Measure 63: Tpt. is silent; Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (pp). Measure 64: Tpt. is silent; Flug. (Tpt. II) is silent; Hn. is silent; Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (pp). Measure 65: Tpt. is silent; Flug. (Tpt. II) plays a quarter note A4 (f), then a quarter note B4 (mf); Hn. plays a quarter note A4 (f), then a quarter note B4 (mf); Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (f). Measure 66: Tpt. is silent; Flug. (Tpt. II) plays a quarter note C5 (mf); Hn. plays a quarter note C5 (mf); Tbn. and Tba. play a half note G3 (b2) (mf).

To purchase the score and parts to this work, or to request a perusal score, please contact me at:

[www.davidvessmusic.com/contact](http://www.davidvessmusic.com/contact)

Many thanks for your interest in my work. I look forward to hearing from you.

-DV

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