

Chroma the Great

for orchestra



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Instrumentation

piccolo

flute

oboe

english horn in F

clarinet in Bb

bass clarinet in Bb

bassoon

contrabassoon

4 horns in F

2 trumpets in Bb

2 tenor trombones

bass trombone

tuba

percussion 1: crotales, bass drum, triangle

percussion 2: vibraphone, tam-tam

harp

strings

Score is transposed

Duration: 8 mins

Program Note

I have always loved Norton Juster's children's novel, *The Phantom Tollbooth*, for its incredible allegories and fun with the English language. Having re-read the story recently, I was struck by a chapter in the middle of the middle of the book, in which the main character, Milo, comes across an orchestra in the woods. Its conductor, Chroma the Great, directs the orchestra in creating color for their world. Certain instruments create certain shades of blue or green. The sunset and the sunrise are both pieces that are performed every day.

I loved this idea of conducting the sunrise, of playing the color of the sky, clouds and dayscapes. I based my tone poem on what I imagined the sound of Chroma the Great and his orchestra would be. From sunrise to the full height of day, to clouds and storm, and finally from sunset to nightfall, where Juster's words put it best: "The last colors slowly faded from the western sky, and, as they did, one by one the instruments stopped, until only the bass fiddles, in their somber slow movement, were left to play the night and a single set of silver bells, brightened the constellations. The conductor let his arms fall simply at his sides and stood quite still as darkness claimed the forest."

-David Vess

October 2014
Brighton, MA

7

Picc. *p* *mf* *p*

Fl.

Ob.

E.H. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *pp*

B. Cl. *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *pp*

Bsn. *mp* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *pp*

Cbsn. *mp* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf* *pp*

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Tpt. 1,2 with Straight mutes *p* *f* *p* *f*
solo with Harmon mute, stem in

Tbn. 1,2 *p* *f* *p* *f*

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

B. Drum *mp* *pp*

Vib. *mp* *f* *mp*
Led. * Led.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *mf* *f* *ord.* *ff* *f* *mp* *p*

Vc. *f* *mp*

Cb.

13

Picc. -

Fl. - *pp*

Ob. -

E.H. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

B. Cl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Bsn. *mp* *pp* Solo espressivo *mf*

Cbsn. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Hn. 1,2 -

Hn. 3,4 -

Tpt. 1,2 -

Tbn. 1,2 *ppp* *mf* *p* (Wah) *gliss.* *gliss.*

B. Tbn. -

Tba. -

Timp. -

B. Drum Triangle *p*

Vib. *f*

Hp. -

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II -

Vla. -

Vc. Ord. *p* *ppp* *mf*

Cb. -

19

Picc. *f* *mf*

Fl. *f* *mf*

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

B. Cl.

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

Cbsn. *p* *f*

Hn. 1.2 *p* *f* *p*

Hn. 3.4 *p* *f* *p*

Tpt. 1.2

Tbn. 1.2 *vo*

B. Tbn. *mf*

Tba.

Timp. *pp* *mf*

B. Drum *mp*

Vib. *Red. f* *

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II *mf* *p* *pp*

Vla. *mf* *p* *pp*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *Pizz.*

Cb. *p* *f*

6/4

rit.

5/4

Picc. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Fl. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Ob. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

E.H. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

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

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

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

Cbsn. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Hn. 1,2 *p* *f* *mp*

Hn. 3,4 *p* *f* *mp*

Tpt. 1,2 *p* *f* *mp* Flt.

Tbn. 1,2 *p* *f* *mp* Flt.

B. Tbn. *p* *f* *mp*

Tba. *p* *f* *mp*

Timp. *p* *f* *mp*

B. Drum *pp* *mp* *pp* *f* *p*

Vib. *p* *f* *mp*

Hp. *mp* *mf* *mp*

6/4

rit.

5/4

Vln. I *p* *mp* *mp*

Vln. II *p* *mp* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* Arco

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* Arco

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

5/4 A tempo

30

Picc. *ff* *p* *ff*

Fl. *ff* *mp* *mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Ob. *ff* *mp* *mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

E.H. *ff* *mp*

Cl. *ff* *mp* *mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

B. Cl. *ff* 3

Bsn. *ff*

Cbsn. *ff* 3

Hn. 1.2 *ff* *p*

Hn. 3.4 *ff* *p*

Tpt. 1.2 *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Tbn. 1.2 *ff* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* Remove mutes

B. Tbn. *ff* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* Remove mute

Tba. *ff* 3

Timp. *f* *mp* *p*

B. Drum

Vib. *ff* *mp*

G nat.

Hp. *mf*

5/4 A tempo

Vln. I *p* *ff*

Vln. II *ff* *mf* *p* *ff*

Vla. *ff* *mf*

Vc. *fff* 3

Cb. *fff* 3

4/4 Brisk ♩ = 152

4/4

rit.

35

Picc. *ff* *mf*

Fl. *ff* *mf*

Ob. *ff* *mf*

E.H. *ff*

Cl. *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Cbsn. *ff* *mf*

Hn. 1,2 *mp* *ff*

Hn. 3,4 *mp* *ff*

Tpt. 1,2 *ff* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff* Remove mutes

Tbn. 1,2 *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Timp. *pp* *f*

B. Drum

Vib. to Tam-tam

Hp. *ff*

4/4 Brisk ♩ = 152

4/4

rit.

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f* Divisi

Vc. *f*

Cb. *fff* *mp* Pizz.

4/4

49

Picc. *mp* *ff* *p*

Fl. *mp* *ff* *p*

Ob. *mp* *ff* *p*

E.H. *f* *mp* *ff* *p* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *ff* *p*

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

Bsn. *f* *mp*

Cbsn. *f* *mp* *ff* *p*

Hn. 1.2 *a2* *mp* *ff* *p*

Hn. 3.4 *mp* *ff* *p*

Tpt. 1.2 *Open* *p* *Solo* *fff*

Tbn. 1.2 *mp* *ff* *p* *f*

B. Tbn. *mp* *ff* *p*

Tba. *mp* *ff* *p*

Timp.

B. Drum

Perc. 2

Hp. *mf*

4/4

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *Arco* *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mp*

Vc. *Arco* *f* *mp*

Cb. *Pizz.* *f* *mf*

5/4

7/8

4/4

54

Picc. *f*

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

E.H. *f*

Cl. *f* *mp*

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

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

Cbsn. *f* *mp* *f* *ff* *mp*

Hn. 1.2 *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Hn. 3.4 *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Tpt. 1.2 *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Tbn. 1.2 *f* *gliss.* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

B. Tbn. *f* *gliss.* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Tba. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Timp.

B. Drum

Perc. 2

Hp. *f* *ff* *mf*

Vln. I *ff* sub. *pp* Divisi

Vln. II *ff* sub. *pp*

Vla. *ff* sub. *pp*

Vc. *ff* sub. *pp*

Cb. *f* Arco *f* Pizz. *f*

60

Picc. *p* *espressivo*

Fl. *mp* *espressivo*

Ob. *mp*

E.H. *mp* *mf*

Cl. *mp* *p* *espressivo*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p* *espressivo* *mp*

Cbsn.

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Tpt. 1,2

Tbn. 1,2 *f* with Straight mutes

B. Tbn. *f* with Straight mutes

Tba.

Timp.

B. Drum *mp* *espressivo* *Crotales*

Perc. 2

Hp. *p*

Vln. I *p* *espressivo* *mf*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Cb.

68 *mf* *p* *rit.*

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1.2

Hn. 3.4

Tpt. 1.2

Tbn. 1.2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Crot.

Perc. 2

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

pp

rit.

Moderate ♩ = 88

rit.

71

Picc. *ff*

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

E.H. *fff*

Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Cbsn. *ff* *mf*

Hn. 1.2 *ff* *fff*

Hn. 3.4 *ff* *fff*

Tpt. 1.2 *ff*

Tbn. 1.2 *ff* Open

B. Tbn. *ff* Open

Tba. *ff* *mf*

Timp. *ff* *mf* *f* 3 5

Crot. Bass Drum *p*

Perc. 2 *f* Vibraphone

Hp. *ff* *fff* *mf* *Le0.*

Moderate ♩ = 88

rit.

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff* *mp*

Vc. *ff* *mp*

Cb. *ff* *mp*

accel.

Building ♩ = 80

Picc. -

Fl. -

Ob. -

E.H. -

Cl. -

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

Bsn. -

Cbsn. *ffz*

Fl. *mf* *tr*

Cl. *p*

Hn. 1.2 *f* *p* *ff*

Hn. 3.4 *p* *f* *ff*

Tpt. 1.2 *ff*

Tbn. 1.2 *ff*

B. Tbn. *mf* *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Hn. 1.2 *p* *f* *pp*

Hn. 3.4 *p* *f* *pp*

Tpt. 1.2 *pp* *f* *pp*

Tbn. 1.2 *p* *f* *pp*

B. Tbn. *p* *f* *pp*

Tba. *p* *f* *pp*

Timp. -

Crot. *f*

Vib. *gliss.* *pp* *Red.*

Hp. *mf*

accel.

Building ♩ = 80

Vln. I *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

Vln. II *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

Cb. *p* *f* *pp*

Vln. I *gliss.* *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

Vln. II *gliss.* *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

Vla. *gliss.* *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

Vc. *gliss.* *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

Cb. *p* *f* *pp*

Arco

Picc. *f*

Fl. *pp* *f*

Ob. *f*

E.H.

Cl. *ffz*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1.2 *p* *f* *pp* *p*

Hn. 3.4 *p* *f* *pp* *p*

Tpt. 1.2 *pp* *f* *pp*

Tbn. 1.2 *p* *f* *pp* *p*

B. Tbn. *p* *f* *pp* *p*

Tba. *p* *f* *pp* *p*

Timp.

Crot. *pp*

Vib. Tam-tam LV *mf*

Hp. *pp* *f* *n* *f*

Vln. I *p* Sul pont. *p*

Vln. II *p* Sul pont. *p*

Vla. *p* Sul pont. *p*

Vc. *p* Sul pont. *p*

Cb. *p* *f* *pp* *p*

accel. ...

3
4.....

4
4

Picc. *f*

Fl.

Ob. *f*

E.H. *f*

Cl. *p* *f*

B. Cl. *p* *f*

Bsn. *p* *f*

Cbsn. *ffz*

Hn. 1.2 *f* *pp* *p* *f* *p*

Hn. 3,4 *f* *pp* *p* *f* *p*

Tpt. 1,2 *pp* *f* *pp* *pp* *f*

Tbn. 1,2 *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

B. Tbn. *f* *p* *f* *p*

Tba. *f* *pp* *f* *p*

Timp.

Crot. Bass Drum

Tam.

Hp. *ff*

accel. ...

3
4.....

4
4

Vln. I *f* *ord.* *p* *f* *p*

Vln. II *f* *ord.* *p* *f* *p*

Vla. *f* *ord.* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *f* *ord.* *p* *f* *p*

Cb. *f* *pp* *f* *p*

4/4 Brisk ♩ = 152

97

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Tpt. 1,2

Tbn. 1,2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

B. Drum

Vibraphone

Tam.

Hp.

4/4 Brisk ♩ = 152

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Sul tasto

Ord.

Pizz.

104

Picc. -

Fl. -

Ob. *mf* *p* *mf*

E.H. *mf* *p* *mf*

Cl. *p sfp* *f* *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *p sfp* *f* *p* *mf*

Bsn. *sfp* *f* *p* *mf*

Cbsn. *p* *mf*

Hn. 1.2 *mp* *f* *f*

Hn. 3.4 *mp* *f* *f*

Tpt. 1.2 *f* *sim.*

Tbn. 1.2 *p* *mf*

B. Tbn. *p* *mf*

Tba. *f*

Timp. *mf* *p*

B. Drum -

Tam. -

Hp. -

Vln. I *p sfp* *f* *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *p sfp* *f*

Vc. *p sfp* *f* *ff* *Arco*

Cb. *ff*

7/8 4/4 7/8 3/4 2/4 3/4 4/4

117

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

solo

mp

p

3

3

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Tpt. 1,2

Tbn. 1,2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

n

n

n

B. Drum

Tam.

Hp.

p

7/8 4/4 7/8 3/4 2/4 3/4 4/4

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pp

pp

pp

pp

3

3

3
4

4
4

Picc. *pp*

Fl. *ppp*

Ob.

E.H.

Cl. *ppp* *ppp*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Tpt. 1,2

Tbn. 1,2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

B. Drum

Tam.

Hp. *p*

Vln. I Solo *p* *dolce* *mf* *p* *mp* *n* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

Vln. II *pp* *mp*

Vla. *ppp* *p*

Vc.

Cb.

Divisi

3/4 4/4

3/8 4/4

9/8

139

Picc. *pp*

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

E.H.

Cl. *pp*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1.2

Hn. 3.4

Tpt. 1.2

Tbn. 1.2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp. *ppp* *n*

B. Drum

Tam. *p* *Red.* *

Hp. *mp*

3/4 4/4

3/8 4/4

9/8

Vln. I *ppp* Unison

Vln. II *ppp* Unison

Vla. *ppp* Pizz. *p* Arco

Vc. *pp* Pizz.

Cb. *pp* *mp*

152 **9** (2+2+2+3) **7** 153

Picc. *ff*

Fl. *f* *mp* *p* *f*

Ob. *f* *mp* *p* *f*

E.H. *f* *mp* *p* *f*

Cl. *f* *mp* *p* *f*

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

Bsn. *f* *mp* *p*

Cbsn.

Hn. 1,2 *f* *a2*

Hn. 3,4 *f* *a2*

Tpt. 1,2 *f* *ff* *sub.* *Open*

Tbn. 1,2 *f* *a2*

B. Tbn. *f* *a2*

Tba. *f*

Timp.

B. Drum

Tam. *mp* *tam-tam*

Hp. *f*

9 (2+2+2+3) **7** 153

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff* *Arco*

Vc. *ff* *Arco*

Cb. *ff*

8

12 rit. 8

4/4

161

Picc. *f*

Fl. *tr* *ff*

Ob. *tr* *ff*

E.H. *tr* *ff*

Cl. *tr* *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Cbsn. *ff*

Hn. 1,2 *ff*

Hn. 3,4 *ff*

Tpt. 1,2 *f* *ff*

Tbn. 1,2 *ff* *f* *gliss.*

B. Tbn. *ff* *f*

Tba. *ff* *f*

Timp. *ff* *mp*

B. Drum *ff* *mp* *f* *mf*

T.-t.

Hp.

8

12 rit. 8

4/4

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Cb. *ff*

4/4 Brisk ♩ = 120

accel.

167

Picc. *ff*

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

E.H. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Cbsn. *ff*

Hn. 1.2 *ff*

Hn. 3.4 *ff*

Tpt. 1.2 *ff*

Tbn. 1.2 *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Timp.

B. Drum *ff*

T.-t.

Hp. *ffz*

4/4 Brisk ♩ = 120

accel.

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *ffz*

Cb. *ffz*

Divisi

molto rit. . . .

173

Picc. *ff*

Fl. *ff*

Ob.

E.H. *f* *ff*

Cl.

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Cbsn. *ff*

Hn. 1.2 *mf* *ff*

Hn. 3.4 *mf* *ff*

Tpt. 1.2 *ff*

Tbn. 1.2 *ff*

B. Tbn.

Tba. *ff*

Timp.

B. Drum Bass Drum *p*

T.-t. *p*

Hp.

molto rit. . . .

Moderate ♩ = 92

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. Divisi *mf* (non-divisi) *ff*

Cb. *ff*

Maestoso ♩ = 66

179

Picc. *fff* *mf* *mp*

Fl. *fff* *mf* *mp*

Ob. *ff* *mf* *fff* *mp*

E.H. *ff* *mf* *fff* *f*

Cl. *ff* *mf* *fff* *mp*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf* *f* *mf*

Bsn. *ff* *mf* *fff* *f* *mf*

Cbsn. *fff* *ff* *mf*

Hn. 1.2 *fff* *mp* *mp* *ff* *mp* *fff* *fff* *mp*

Hn. 3.4 *fff* *mp* *mp* *ff* *mp* *fff* *fff* *mp*

Tpt. 1.2 *fff* *mp* *mp* *ff* *mp* *fff* *mp*

Tbn. 1.2 *ff* *3* *ff* *mp* *fff* *f* *3* *p*

B. Tbn. *fff* *mp* *f* *3* *p*

Tba. *fff* *mp* *fff* *mf*

Timp. *fff* *mp* *mp*

B. D. *fff* Crotales

T.-t. *fff* *mp*

Hp.

Maestoso ♩ = 66

Vln. I *fff* *mp*

Vln. II *fff* *mp* *mp*

Vla. *fff* *f* *3* *p*

Vc. *fff* *f* *3* *mf*

Cb. *fff*

192

Picc. *n*

Fl.

Ob.

E.H. *n*

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn. *p* *n*

Cbsn.

Hn. 1.2

Hn. 3.4

Tpt. 1.2

Tbn. 1.2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Crot. *p*

Vib. *p* bowed *p*

Hp. *mp* *p*

Vln. I *ppp*

Vln. II *pp* Sul tasto

Vla. *pp* Sul tasto

Vc. *p* Divisi *p* Pizz.

Cb.

molto rit.

201

Picc.
 Fl.
 Ob.
 E.H.
 Cl.
 B. Cl.
 Bsn.
 Cbsn.

Hn. 1.2
 Hn. 3.4
 Tpt. 1.2
 Tbn. 1.2
 B. Tbn.
 Tba.

Timp.
 Croc.
 Vib.
 Hp.

molto rit.

Vln. I
 Vln. II
 Vla.
 Vc.
 Cb.