Chroma the Great

for orchestra

David Vess

(October 2014)

davidvessmusic@gmail.com

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

Chroma the Great

a tone poem for orchestra

(2014)

David Vess
October 2014
Brighton, MA

Lively, shimmering ♩.=50

Piccolo
Flute
Oboe
English horn
Clarinet in B♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Bassoon
Contrabassoon
Horns 1,2 in F
Horns 3,4 in F
Trumpets 1,2 in B♭
Tenor Trombones 1,2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion 1
Bass drum
Percussion 2
Vibraphone
Harp
Lively, shimmering ♩.=50
Violin I
Divisi
Violin II
Divisi
Viola
Violoncello
Pizz.
Contrabass
Pizz.
Sul tasto
Arco
Divisi
Sul tasto

Copyright © David Vess

7

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
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

with Straight mutes
solo
with Harmon mute, stem in
espressivo
ord.
Ped.

13

15

Picc.

Fl.

pp

Ob.

E.H.

mp pp mp pp

Cl.

mp pp mp pp

B. Cl.

mp pp mp pp

Solo
espressivo

Bsn.

mp pp mf

Cbsn.

mp pp mp pp

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Tpt. 1,2

(Wah)

Tbn. 1,2

gliss. gliss.

ppp mf p

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

B. Drum

Triangle

p

Vib.

f

Hp.

15

Vln. I

pp

Vln. II

Vla.

Ord.

Vc.

p ppp mf

Cb.

19

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
Bass Drum
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
Arco
Pizz.
Ped.

25

6/4

5/4

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.
B. Drum
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

a2
both muted

Flt.

gliss.

Pizz.

Arco

30

5/4 A tempo

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
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

w straight mute
Remove mutes
Remove mute
G nat.
gliss.

5/4 A tempo

35

rit. . . . . .

Brisk ♩ = 152

Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E.H.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1,2
Hn. 3,4
Tpt. 1,2
Remove mutes
Tbn. 1,2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. Drum
Vib.
to Tam-tam
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Divisi
Vc.
Cb.
Pizz.

42

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.

Triangle

B. Drum

Perc. 2

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Arco

49

Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E.H.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
a2
Hn. 1,2
Hn. 3,4
Open
Tpt. 1,2
Solo
Tbn. 1,2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. Drum
Perc. 2
Hp.
Vln. I
Arco
Vln. II
Vla.
Arco
Vc.
Pizz.
Cb.

54

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
Perc. 2
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

5/4 7/8 4/4

f mp ff mf pp sub. gliss. Arco Pizz. Divisi

60

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
Perc. 2
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

espressivo
with Straight mutes
Crotales

68

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.

mf
mp
pp
rit. . . . . .

71

Moderate ♩ = 88

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.

a2
Open
Solo
Bass Drum
Vibraphone
gliss.
Ped.

76

Slowly ♩ = 66

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. D.
Vib.
Hp.

to Harmon mutes
to Straight mute
with Harmon mutes, stem in
Wah
a2
Crotales bowed
(White note gliss.)
gliss.
Ped.

Slowly ♩ = 66

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

Divisi
Sul tasto
ord.
Unison
Pizz.

83

accel. . . . . .

Building ♩ = 80

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

a2

Fltr.

Tpt. 1,2

Fltr.

Tbn. 1,2

Open

with Straight mute

B. Tbn.

Open

Tba.

Timp.

with Mallet

Crot.

Vib.

gliss.

Ped.

Hp.

accel. . . . . .

Building ♩ = 80

Vln. I

Divisi

Vln. II

Divisi

Unison

Vla.

Divisi

Vc.

Arco

Cb.

89

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Tpt. 1,2

Fltr.

Tbn. 1,2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Crot.

Vib.

Tam-tam

LV

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Sul pont.

93

accel. . . .

3/4 . . . . . 4/4

Picc.
Fl.
Ob.
E.H.
Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn.
Cbsn.
Hn. 1,2
Hn. 3,4
Fltr.
Tpt. 1,2
Tbn. 1,2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Crot.
Bass Drum
Tam
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
ord.

97

Brisk ♩ = 152

Picc.

Fl.

Ob. — *mf* — *mp* — *p*

E.H. — *mf* — *mp* — *p* — *p* — *mf*

Cl. — *ff* — *mp* — *sfp* — *sfp*

B. Cl. — *ff* — *mp* — *sfp* — *sfp*

Bsn. — *ff* — *p* — *mf*

Cbsn.

Hn. 1,2 — *ff*

Hn. 3,4 — *ff*

Tpt. 1,2 — to Straight mute — *ff* — with Straight mutes — *mf*

Tbn. 1,2 — *ff*

B. Tbn. — *ff*

Tba. — *ff*

Timp. — *ff* — *f*

B. Drum

Vibraphone

Tam.

Hp.

Brisk ♩ = 152

Vln. I — *f* — *mp* — Sul tasto — Ord. — *sfp* — *sfp*

Vln. II — *f* — *mp* — *mf*

Vla. — *f* — Sul tasto — *mp* — Ord. — *sfp* — *sfp*

Vc. — *f* — Sul tasto — *mp* — Ord. — *sfp* — *sfp*

Cb. — *ff* — Pizz. — *mf* — Pizz. — *mf*

104

108

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
Tam.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

sim.

Divisi

Arco

108

110

114

Picc.

Fl. — *espressivo* — *mf* — *pp*

Ob. — *espressivo* — *mf* — *pp*

E.H. — *mf* — *pp*

Cl. — *mf* — *pp*

B. Cl. — *mf*

Bsn. — *mf*

Cbsn. — *p*

Hn. 1,2 — *f*

Hn. 3,4 — *f*

Tpt. 1,2

Tbn. 1,2 — *mf* — *pp*

B. Tbn. — *mf* — *pp*

Tba. — *mp* — *pp*

Timp.

B. Drum

Tam.

Hp. — *mp*

114

Vln. I — *espressivo* — *mf* — *p*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. — Pizz. — *sub.* *mp*

Cb. — Pizz. — *sub.* *mp* — *p*

117

Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

E.H.

Cl.

solo

B. Cl.

mp

p

Bsn.

Cbsn.

Hn. 1,2

Hn. 3,4

Tpt. 1,2

Tbn. 1,2

n

B. Tbn.

n

Tba.

n

Timp.

B. Drum

Tam.

Hp.

p

Vln. I

pp

Vln. II

pp

Vla.

pp

Vc.

Cb.

126

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

Tam.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pp

ppp

ppp

ppp

p

Solo

dolce

p

mf

p

mp

n

ppp

Divisi

pp

mp

Divisi

pp

mp

p

139

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
Tam.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Unison
Unison
Pizz.
Arco
Pizz.
Pizz.
Ped.

152

9/8 (2+2+2+3) 7/8 153

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
Tam.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

ff f mp p sub. Open a2 Tam-tam Arco

161

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
T.-t.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

9/8

12/8 rit.

4/4

gliss.

167

Brisk ♩ = 120

accel. . . . .

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
T.-t.
Hp.

Brisk ♩ = 120

accel. . . . .

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

173

molto rit. . . .

Moderate ♩ = 92

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
T.-t.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Bass Drum

Divisi

(non-divisi)

8va

179

Maestoso ♩ = 66

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. D.
T.-t.
Hp.

a2

Crotales

Maestoso ♩ = 66

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

185

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.
T.-t.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

5/8 3/4 5/8 3/4

pp p mp

bowed

Vibraphone

gliss.

Divisi

192

195

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.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

n
p
bowed
mp
Sul tasto
pp
Divisi
Pizz.
ppp

195

201

molto 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.
ppp *n*
Crot.
Bass Drum
ppp *ppp* *pppp* *ppp* *pp*
Vib.
Tam-tam
LV
p *pppp*
Hp.
p
molto rit.
Vln. I
n
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Pizz.
p *pp* *ppp*
Cb.
Pizz.
p *pp* *ppp*