

ERIC M SCHROEDER

BREATHLESS

FOR CONCERT BAND (2022)

GR 2.5

4 MIN

TERRAN HARMONY

Program Note

When I started writing *Breathless*, I had a couple of educational goals, but mainly, I wanted to write something more mood driven than most of what's come before in my repertoire. As a developing composer, I want to push myself in directions that I haven't gone before, and the early stages of this work were calculated to stretch my own abilities as a writer just as much as they were meant to stretch young middle school bandos in their journies as developing musicians.

Like many of my works though, *Breathless* developed a mind of its own, and I didn't even realize I was writing the ending as I was in its midst, but I remember playing back the recording and my wife letting out a breath after hearing it before exclaiming: "Is that the end?" It wasn't intended to be, but after discussing it with her, it became the ending I didn't know I was building towards. *Breathless* is the darkest of the works that I have written, and my wife drew comparisons between the ending bars and a fading heart monitor, a comparison I didn't notice while writing, but now, can't unhear.

So, is this a song about death? Maybe. It didn't start that way, but having watched more than my fair share of friends and relatives pass away slowly over the course of weeks, months & years, I find the descending arpeggio that chases us throughout the piece to be a harrowing harbinger of the inevitable.

Now, the next obvious question: What is a song about death doing in the middle school band space? Is this the right place for such a work? But, realistically, middle schoolers have to cope with deaths in their family while growing up the same as I did, and I believe they deserve the opportunity to engage with mature topics as much as any adult. So yes. This is a song about death, and I hope you find it meaningful

INSTRUMENTATION

FLUTE 1
FLUTE 2
OBOE
BASSOON
CLARINET 1
CLARINET 2
BASS CLARINET
ALTO SAXOPHONE 1
ALTO SAXOPHONE 2
TENOR SAXOPHONE
BARITONE SAXOPHONE
TRUMPET 1
TRUMPET 2
HORN IN F
TROMBONE 1
TROMBONE 2
EUPHONIUM
TUBA

TIMPANI/RATCHET
BASS DRUM/TRIANGLE
CYMBALS/CABASA
TOM-TOMS/CLAVES
CHIMES/TEMPLE BLOCKS
GLOCKENSPIEL
MARIMBA

*THIS PURCHASE IS ACCOMPANIED
BY A LICENSE TO PHOTOCOPY THE
PURCHASED SCORE AND PARTS AS
NEEDED AS LONG AS THOSE
MATERIALS ARE EXCLUSIVELY
USED BY THE PURCHASING
ENSEMBLE.*

BREATHLESS

ERIC M SCHROEDER (ASCAP)

♩=100 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe

Bassoon

Clarinet 1

Clarinet 2

Bass Clarinet

Alto Saxophone 1

Alto Saxophone 2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet 1

Trumpet 2

Horn in F

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani/Ratchet

Bass Drum/Triangle

Cymbals/Cabasa

Tom-toms/Claves

Chimes/ Temple Blocks

Glockenspiel

Marimba

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

Fl. 1. *mp* *mf* *f*

Fl. 2. *mp* *mf* *f*

Ob. *mf* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. 1. *mf* *mf* *f*

Cl. 2. *mf* *mf* *f*

Bs. Cl. *mp*

A. Sax. 1. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

A. Sax. 2. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

T. Sax. *mp* *mf* *f*

Bar. Sax. *mp* *mf* *f*

Tpt. 1. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *f*

Tpt. 2. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf* *f*

Hn. in F. *mf* *mf* *f*

Tbn. 1. *mp* *mf* *f*

Tbn. 2. *mp* *mf* *f*

Euph. *mp* *mf* *f*

Tba. *mp* *mf* *f*

Timp. *f* *mp* *mf*

B. D. *f* *mf* *f* To Tri.

Cym. *mf* *mf* *f* To Cab.

Tom-t. *f* *mp* *mf* To Clv.

Chim. *mf*

Glock. *f* *mf*

Mar. *f* *mf*

10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Fl. 1. *p* *mp*

Fl. 2. *p* *mp*

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1.

Cl. 2.

Bs. Cl.

A. Sax. 1.

A. Sax. 2.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Tpt. 1.

Tpt. 2.

Hn. in F.

Tbn. 1.

Tbn. 2.

Euph.

Tba.

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Timp.

B. D.

Cym.

Tom-t.

Chim. To T. Bl.

Glock. *p*

Mar.

19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Fl. 1. *p* *mf* *p*

Fl. 2. *p* *mf* *p*

Ob. *p* *mp* *p*

Bsn. *mp*

Cl. 1. *p* *mf*

Cl. 2. *mp*

Bs. Cl. *p*

A. Sax. 1. *p* *mp* *p*

A. Sax. 2. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Tpt. 1. *p*

Tpt. 2. *p*

Hn. in F. *mp*

Tbn. 1. *p*

Tbn. 2.

Euph.

Tba. *p* *mf*

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

Timp. *mp* *mf*

B. D. *mp*

Cym. Cabasa *mp* To Cym. Cymbals *p*

Tom-t. Claves *mp*

Chim. Temple Blocks *mf* To Chim.

Glock. 27 31

Mar. 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34

p *mf* *p* *mp*

35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

Fl. 1. *mf*

Fl. 2. *mp*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *mp* *mf*

Cl. 1. *mf*

Cl. 2. *mp* *mf*

Bs. Cl. *mp* *mf*

A. Sax. 1. *mf* *mf*

A. Sax. 2. *mf* *mp*

T. Sax. *mp* *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mp* *mf*

Tpt. 1. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

Tpt. 2. *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

Hn. in F. *mf* *mp* *mf*

Tbn. 1. *mf* *mf*

Tbn. 2. *mp*

Euph. *mp*

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

Timp. 35 36 37 38 39 40 To Rt. 41 Ratchet 42
mp *mp* *p* *f* *p*

Tri. To B. D. Bass Drum *p* *f* *mf*

Cym. *mf* *f* *mp*

Clv. Tom-toms *mf* To Clv. Claves *mp* *f* Tom-toms *f*

T. Bl. Chimes *f*

Glock. 37 *mp* 41

Mar. *mf* *mp*

35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42

43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

Fl. 1. *p* *p*

Fl. 2. *mf* *f* *mp* *p* *p*

Ob.

Bsn. *mf* *mf*

Cl. 1. *mf* *f* *mp*

Cl. 2. *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

Bs. Cl. *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

A. Sax. 1. *mf*

A. Sax. 2. *mf* *f* *mp* *p* *mf*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *p*

Tpt. 1. *mf* *f* *mp* *p* *p*

Tpt. 2. *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

Hn. in F. *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

Tbn. 1. *mf*

Tbn. 2. *p*

Euph. *mf* *mp*

Tba. *mf* *f* *mp*

Rt. *p* *mp* *f*

To Timp. 48 Timpani

B. D. *f*

Cym. *mp* *mf* *p*

Tom-t. *To Clv.*

Chim. *f*

Glock. *mf* *mp*

Mar. *mf* *p*

43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

Fl. 1. *mf*

Fl. 2. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1. *mf*

Cl. 2. *mf*

Bs. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1. *mf*

A. Sax. 2. *mf*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

Tpt. 1.

Tpt. 2.

Hn. in F *mf*

Tbn. 1.

Tbn. 2.

Euph. *mf*

Tba. *mf*

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

Timp. *mp* *f mp* *f*

B. D. *mf* *f*

Cym. To Cab.

Tom-t.

Chim. To T. Bl.

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

Glock. 53

Mar. 53

To Rt.

To Tri.

59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

Fl. 1. *f* *mp*

Fl. 2. *f* *mp*

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *f* *p*

Cl. 1. *f* *mp*

Cl. 2. *f* *p* *mp*

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

A. Sax. 1. *f* *p*

A. Sax. 2. *f* *mp*

T. Sax. *f* *p* *mp*

Bar. Sax. *f* *p*

Tpt. 1. *p* *mp* *p*

Tpt. 2. *p* *mp* *p*

Hn. in F. *f* *p* *mp*

Tbn. 1. *f* *p* *mp*

Tbn. 2. *f* *p* *mp*

Euph. *f* *p* *mp*

Tba. *f* *p* *mp*

Timp. 59 60 61 Ratchet *mp* 62 63 64 65 To Timp. 66

B. D. Triangle

Cym. Cabasa *mp* To Cym.

Tom-t. Claves

Chim. Temple Blocks

Glock. 59 *p* 63

Mar. 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75

Fl. 1. Fl. 2. Ob. Bsn. Cl. 1. Cl. 2. Bs. Cl. A. Sax. 1. A. Sax. 2. T. Sax. Bar. Sax.

67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75

Tpt. 1. Tpt. 2. Hn. in F. Tbn. 1. Tbn. 2. Euph. Tba.

67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75

Rt. Timpani

Tri. Cab. Clv. T. Bl. Glock. Mar.

To B. D. Cymbals To Tom-t. Chimes

76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83

Fl. 1. *f* *ff*

Fl. 2. *f* *ff*

Ob. *f* *ff*

Bsn. *f* *ff*

Cl. 1. *f* *ff*

Cl. 2. *f* *ff*

Bs. Cl. *f* *ff*

A. Sax. 1. *f* *ff*

A. Sax. 2. *f* *ff*

T. Sax. *f* *ff*

Bar. Sax. *f* *ff*

Tpt. 1. 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83

Tpt. 2. *f* *ff*

Hn. in F. *f* *ff*

Tbn. 1. *f* *ff*

Tbn. 2. *f* *ff*

Euph. *f* *ff*

Tba. *f* *ff*

Timp. 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83

Tri. Bass Drum *f*

Cym. *f*

Clv. Tom-toms

Chim. *f* *ff*

Glock. 76 80

Mar. 76 80

accel. 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91

Fl. 1. *mp* *p*

Fl. 2. *mp* *p*

Ob.

Bsn. *mp* *p*

Cl. 1. *mp* *p*

Cl. 2. *mp* *p*

Bs. Cl. *mp* *p*

A. Sax. 1. *mp*

A. Sax. 2. *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

Tpt. 1. accel. 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 *mp* *p*

Tpt. 2. *mp* *p*

Hn. in F

Tbn. 1. *mf* *mp* *mp*

Tbn. 2. *mf* *mp* *mp*

Euph.

Tba.

Timp.

B. D. *mf* *mp*

Cym.

Tom-t.

Chim. *mp* *n*

Glock. accel. 84 88 *mp* *n*

Mar. *mp*

84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91

92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Fl. 1. *rit.*

Fl. 2.

Ob. *mp* *p*

Bsn.

Cl. 1.

Cl. 2.

Bs. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 *n*

A. Sax. 2 *n*

T. Sax. *n*

Bar. Sax. *n*

92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Tpt. 1 *rit.*

Tpt. 2.

Hn. in F *mp* *p*

Tbn. 1 *p* *p* *n*

Tbn. 2 *p* *p* *n*

Euph. *mp* *p*

Tba. *mp* *p*

92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Timp.

B. D. *mp*

Cym.

Tom-t.

Chim.

92 96

Glock. *rit.*

Mar.

92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 92 to 100. It features a large ensemble of instruments. The woodwind section includes Flutes 1 and 2, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinets 1 and 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophones 1 and 2, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass section includes Trumpets 1 and 2, Horn in F, Trombones 1 and 2, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Bass Drum, Cymbals, Tom-toms, Chimes, Glockenspiel, and Maracas. The score is in a key with three flats and a 4/4 time signature. Measure 92 is marked with a box containing the number 92. Measure 96 is marked with a box containing the number 96 and the word 'rit.' above it. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), and *n* (normal). The woodwinds and brass play sustained notes with various articulations and dynamics. The percussion has specific rhythmic patterns, with the Bass Drum playing a steady eighth-note pattern.

BREATHLESS_SCORE



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