
MATTHEW CHAMBERLAIN

Science Fiction Music

for sinfonietta

(Full Score)

PROGRAM NOTE

This piece is a kind of science fiction. It imagines a future in which things work a bit differently than they do here and now, a future in which this piece is widely loved, its sensibility appreciated, its craft revered.

I have built the piece's harmony using eighth-tones, pitches that divide the octave into 48 equal parts rather than the standard 12. In this vastly expanded pitch space, familiar chords coexist with wildly unfamiliar harmonies, and players' instruments are rendered unfamiliar technology.

*Like any science fiction, this piece is about the past and how it might hopefully become a more appalling and embarrassing future. It includes three time capsules, each about 5 minutes long. The first, titled *Torch Song*, features two slow-motion phrases for string quartet: two Beethoven bobbleheads shivering with fury. The second movement, *Honor and Fidelity*, sees the full ensemble chart a course from the romantic aspirations of the string quartet to a brief and sneaky dance. The final movement, *Shipwrecks on the Shores of Meaning*, is accurately titled.*

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet / Bass Clarinet
Bassoon / Contrabassoon

Horn
Trumpet
Trombone
Tuba

Percussion
*timpani (B2, E3), snare drum,
low tom, bass drum, hi-hat, tam-tam*

Harp
Piano

Violins 1 and 2
Viola
Cello
Contrabass

The score is given at sounding pitch.

NOTATION



This piece uses the standard quarter-tone accidentals. In addition, arrows are frequently attached to an accidental so as to raise or lower it by an approximate eighth-tone. The precise alteration of pitch called for by an arrow may range from 15¢ – 31¢, in accordance with the performer's sensibility and interpretation of the harmony to which the pitch contributes.

MSP SP PSP ORD PST ST MST

The standard bow position indications are abbreviated in capital letters: MST is *molto sul tasto*, PSP is *poco sul ponticello*, and so forth. At loud dynamics, *sul tasto* should not be taken to imply overpressure and may be mitigated in order to avoid distortion.

MARCATO (^ v)

This piece uses the standard quarter-tone accidentals. In addition, arrows are frequently attached to an accidental so as to raise or lower it by an approximate eighth-tone. The precise alteration of pitch called for by an arrow may range from 15¢ – 31¢, in accordance with the performer's sensibility and interpretation of the harmony to which the pitch contributes.

DETAILS

Duration: ca. 14:30
Completed: 16 September 2018

For Tim Weiss
and the Oberlin Sinfonietta

Dedicated to Jade Conlee,
without whom I would be lost.

VIBRATO

In *Torch Song*, the strings may play freely with vibrato as they deem fit. In *Honor and Fidelity* and *Shipwrecks on the Shores of Meaning*, they should play non vibrato unless otherwise indicated.

RESONANCES

Sonorities written for piano, harp, and percussion should be allowed to ring only so long as the written duration, unless pedaling or *laissez vibrer* ties indicate otherwise.

DYNAMICS

Throughout the piece, dynamics should be understood, first and foremost, as indicating balances. Adjustments to individual dynamics should be made freely as needed.

THE CONDUCTOR

Torch Song should be performed unconduted. The conductor may be on- or off-stage during the movement, seated or standing. The precise details are left up to the performers. Whatever the case, the conductor's entrance into the performance at the beginning of the second movement should be conspicuous.

this page left blank intentionally

I. TORCH SONG

A LABORED AND INEFFICIENT ♩ = 45

Musical score for section A, measures 2-10. The score is for Violin 1 (VN 1), Violin 2 (VN 2), Viola (VA), and Violoncello (VC). The tempo is marked ♩ = 45. The score includes various dynamics: *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*. Performance markings include ST (Sustain), ORD (Order), PSP (Pizzicato Staccato), and 6 (Sixteenth notes). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4.

C

Musical score for section C, measures 11-20. The score is for Violin 1 (VN 1), Violin 2 (VN 2), Viola (VA), and Violoncello (VC). Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, *mf*. Performance markings include ORD (Order), ST (Sustain), PSP (Pizzicato Staccato), and 3 (Triplet). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4.

D

Musical score for section D, measures 16-20. The score is for Violin 1 (VN 1), Violin 2 (VN 2), Viola (VA), and Violoncello (VC). Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *mp*. Performance markings include PSP (Pizzicato Staccato), ORD (Order), and 3 (Triplet). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4.

E

Musical score for section E, measures 21-30. The score is for Violin 1 (VN 1), Violin 2 (VN 2), Viola (VA), and Violoncello (VC). Dynamics include *f*, *mf*. Performance markings include ST (Sustain), ORD (Order), PSP (Pizzicato Staccato), and 6 (Sixteenth notes). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4.

Sustain until the end of 1 full bow, ending independently.

F LESS PATIENTLY ♩ = 60

Musical score for section F, measures 25-30. The score is for Violin 1 (VN 1), Violin 2 (VN 2), Viola (VA), and Violoncello (VC). Dynamics include *mf*, *f*. Performance markings include PSP (Pizzicato Staccato), ORD (Order), and 6 (Sixteenth notes). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4.

G **H** **I**

VN 1
VN 2
VA
VC

31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40

VN 1
VN 2
VA
VC

41 42 43 44

II HONOR AND FIDELITY

A LACKING CHARISMA ♩ = 60

FL
Musical notation for Flute, measures 2-9.

CL
Musical notation for Clarinet, measures 2-9.

**HH
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM**
Musical notation for Percussion, measures 2-9. Includes markings: *pp*, *p*, *ppp*, *pp*, *p*.

HP
Musical notation for Horns (Harp), measures 2-9. Includes markings: *p*, *p*, *mp p*, *p*, *pp*.

PNO
Musical notation for Piano, measures 2-9. Includes markings: *pp*, *pp*, *ppp poss.*, *p*, *f*.

VN 1
Musical notation for Violin 1, measures 2-9. Includes markings: *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *ppp pp*, *p*, *ppp*, *mp - pp*, *ppp*, *p*, *ppp*.

VN 2
Musical notation for Violin 2, measures 2-9. Includes markings: *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *ppp pp*, *p*, *ppp*, *mp - pp*, *ppp*, *p*, *pp*.

VA
Musical notation for Viola, measures 2-9. Includes markings: *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*, *ppp pp*, *p*, *ppp*, *mp - pp*, *ppp*, *p*, *pppp*.

VC
Musical notation for Cello, measures 2-9. Includes markings: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p pp*, *ppp*, *mp - pp*, *ppp*, *p*, *pp*.

Measure numbers: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9.

B

FL

CL

BSN

HRN

TPT

TBN

TBA

HH
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM

HP

PNO

VN 1

VN 2

VA

VC

CB

To BCL

mf *f* *mf* *ppp*

mf *f* *f* *mf* *ppp*

mf *p* *mp* *p*

p *pp* *p*

p *pp* *p*

p

PC VIB PC PC

mf *f* *mp*

p

f *p*

ORD

mf *f* *mf* *ff*

mf *f* *mf* *ff*

mf *f* *f*

mf *ppp*

mp *f* *mf* *p*

C

FL *mp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *poco vib.*

OB *mf* *f* *poco vib.*

BCL *mp* *pp* *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *p* *BCL*

HRN *pp*

TPT *pp*

TBN *pp*

TBA *pp*

VIB *pp* *p* *VIB* *PC*

HP *p* *pp* *mf* *f* *pp*

PNO *f* *mp* *pp*

VN 1 *pppp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *f* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *mp* *ST* *ORD*

VN 2 *pppp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *f* *vib.* *non vib.* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *mp* *ST* *ORD*

VA *pppp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *f* *vib.* *non vib.* *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *mp* *ST* *ORD*

VC *pp* *mp* *mf* *f* *vib.* *non vib.* *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *mp* *ST* *ORD*

CB *pp* *f* *vib.* *non vib.* *mp* *pp*

D

FL *non vib.*
f *p* *ff* *mf* *vib.* *mf*

OB *p* *ff* *mf* *vib.*

BCL *To CL* *CL*
mf *p* *mf*

BSN *f* *p* *f* *pp*

HRN *mf* *f* *mp* *pp*

TPT *f* *ffp* *p* *mp* *pp*

TBN *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

TBA *mf* *f*

HH
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM *mf* *f* *unintelligently*

VIB *f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

HP *f*

PNO *mf* *f* *p* *ff* *fff*

VN 1 *f* *mf* *f* *ffp* *mp* *PSP*

VN 2 *f* *mf* *f* *ffp* *mp* *(ORD)*

VA *f* *mf* *f* *ffp* *mp* *ST*

VC *f* *mf* *f* *ffp* *mp* *ST*

CB *f* *mf* *f* *fff*

FL *non vib.*
f *ff* *fff* *p* *f* *ppp*

OB *non vib.*
f *fff* *fffz-f* *p* *f* *pp*

CL *non vib.*
f *ff* *f* *fff* *f* *p* *f* *ppp* *fff*

BSN *fff* *fffz-f* *p* *f* *pp* *fff*

HRN *cuivré* *ff* *ord.* *f warm* *f*

TPT *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* *fff* *fffz-f* *ord.* *f warm*

TBN *cuivré* *mp* *ff* *ord.* *f warm*

TBA *cuivré* *ff* *fffz-f* *ord.*

HH S DR B DR TOM TAM *ff* *p*

CROT *ff*

VIB *fff* *ff*

HP *fff* *ff* *p*

PNO *pedal liberally* *ff sempre*

VN 1 *ORD* *mf* *f* *fff* *mf < f*

VN 2 *ORD* *mf* *f* *fff* *mf < f*

VA *ORD* *f* *fff* *mf* *f* *ST*

VC *ORD* *f* *fff* *fffz-f* *f* *p* *ST*

CB *fffz-f* *f* *p* *ST*

FL
OB
CL
BSN
HRN
TPT
TBN
TBA

ffppp
pp
ffppp
ff
f
mf
mp
p
pp
ffppp
ff > f
fp
pp
ppp
pppp
p
pp
ppp
ff > f
fp
pp
ppp
pppp
f
mf
mp
p
pp
ppp
ff > f
fp
pp
ppp
pppp
ff > f

VIB

PC

(x)

HP

mp
mf
mf
f

PNO

(ff)

VN 1
VN 2
VA
VC
CB

pp
ffppp
vib. ST
non vib.
pp
ppp
pppp
pp
ffppp
non vib.
pp
ppp
pppp
ORD
ST
pp
ppp
ppp
vib. ST
non vib.
pp
ppp
pppp
ORD
ST
pp
ppp
ppp
vib. ST
non vib.
pp
ppp
pppp
ORD
ST
pp
ppp
ppp
vib. ST
non vib.
pp
ppp
pppp
ff > f

This musical score page contains six staves for different instruments: Clarinet (CL), Piano (PNO), Violin 1 (VN 1), Violin 2 (VN 2), Viola (VA), and Violoncello (VC). The score spans measures 50 to 58. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature changes frequently, including 2/4, 16/16, 3/4, 9/16, and 4/4. The Clarinet part begins with a *pppp* dynamic marking and features several five-fingered runs. The Piano part provides harmonic support with chords and arpeggios. The Violin 1 part includes a *pppp* marking and a *staccato* (st) instruction. The Viola and Violoncello parts also feature five-fingered runs. Measure numbers 50 through 58 are printed below the corresponding measures.

H

FL *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

OB *pp* *ppp* *pp* *pp*

CL *pp* *ppp* *pp* *ppp* *pp*

BSN *pp*

HRN *pp*

TPT *pp*

TBN *pp*

HH
SDR
BDR
TOM
TAM *mp* *f* *p*

VIB *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *ff*

HP *f* *mp* *ff* *fff*

PNO *(ff)* *mp sub.* *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

VN 1 *pppp* *pp* *pp* *f* *f*

VN 2 *pppp* *pp* *pp* *f* *f* *ppp* *pp*

VA *remove mute* *pp* *pp* *f* *f*

VC *remove mute* *pp* *pp* *f* *f*

CB *pizz.* *pp*

Musical score for CROT, VIB, HP, PNO, VN 1, VA, and VC. The score is divided into three measures: 68, 69, and 70. The instruments are arranged vertically. The CROT part is in treble clef. The VIB part is in treble clef with a sharp sign. The HP part consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The PNO part consists of two staves, treble and bass clef. The VN 1 part is in treble clef. The VA part is in bass clef with a sharp sign. The VC part is in bass clef with a sharp sign and 'arco ST' marking. Dynamics include *fff*, *ff*, *pp*, and *pppp*. There are triplets and accents throughout the score.

HH
SDR
BDR
TOM
TAM

f *ff*

CROT

VIB

HP

PNO

71 72 73 74 75 76 77

J

HH
SDR
BDR
TOM
TAM

mf

CROT

VIB

HP

PNO

78 79 80 81 82 83

K

FL

OB

CL

BSN

HRN

TPT

TBN

TBA

HH
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM

XYL

VIB

HP

PNO

VN 1

VN 2

VA

VC

CB

FL *p* *ff* *ppp* *p* *mf* *ff*

OB *ff* *ppp* *p* *mf* *ff*

CL *ff* *ppp* *p* *mf* *ff*

BSN *mp* *ff* *ff*

HRN *ff* *ff*

TPT *straight mute* *p* *mf* *ff*

TBN *f* *p* *mf*

TBA *p* *mf*

HH SDR BDR TOM TAM *mf* *f*

CROT *f*

XYL *ff*

VIB *fff* *mf*

HP *f* *fff* *ff* *fff* *f* *fff* *ff*

PNO *f* *fff* *ff* *f* *fff* *f* *ff* *fff*

VN 1 *pizz.* *p* *mp* *SP arco* *ORD* *mp* *fff* *pizz.* *fff* *arco* *pp* *5 SP* *pp*

VN 2 *pizz.* *p* *mp* *SP arco* *ORD* *mp* *fff* *pizz.* *fff* *arco* *pp* *5 SP* *pp*

VA *pizz.* *p* *mp* *SP arco* *ORD* *mp* *fff* *pizz.* *fff* *arco* *pp* *5 SP* *pp*

VC *pizz.* *p* *mp* *SP arco* *ORD* *mp* *fff* *pizz.* *fff* *arco* *pp* *5 SP* *pp*

CB *pizz.* *f* *ff* *f* *ff* *ff* *ff*

L

FL

OB

CL

BSN

HRN

TPT

TBN

HH
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM

CROT

XYL

VIB

HP

PNO

VN 1

VN 2

VA

VC

CB

III SHIPWRECKS ON THE SHORES OF MEANING

A ♩ = 60

The musical score is arranged in a system with ten staves. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- FL (Flute):** Starts with *pp*, then *ppp*.
- OB (Oboe):** Starts with *mf*.
- CL (Clarinet):** Starts with *pp*, then *mf*.
- BSN (Bassoon):** Starts with *pp*, then *mf*.
- HRN (Horn):** Starts with *pp*, then *mf*, then *f*.
- TPT (Trumpet):** Starts with *f*, then *pp < f*.
- TBN (Trombone):** Starts with *f*, then *mf*, then *p* with *poco vib.* marking.
- VIB (Viola):** Starts with *bowed* and *(<) pp*.
- VN 1 (Violin 1):** Starts with *mf*, then *ppp*.
- VN 2 (Violin 2):** Starts with *pp*, then *mf*, then *f*.
- VA (Viola):** Starts with *pp*, then *mf*, then *f* and *mp*.
- VC (Violoncello):** Starts with *pp*, then *mf*, then *f* and *mp*.
- CB (Contrabass):** Starts with *pp*, then *mf*, then *f* and *p*.

The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (*pp*, *ppp*, *mf*, *f*, *p*), articulation (*pp*, *mf*, *f*), and performance instructions (*bowed*, *poco vib.*). It also features time signature changes (4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 4/4) and multi-measure rests (16, 8).

FL
OB
CL
BSN
HRN
TPT
TBN
TBA
HH
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM
CROT
VIB
HP
PNO
VN 1
VN 2
VA
VC
CB

mf *ff* *pp* *fff* *mp* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *f* *fff* *pp* *f* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *f* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *ppp* *mf* *mf* *fff* *mf* *mf* *fff* *mf* *mf* *fff* *f* *mf* *fff* *pp*

To CBSN To BCL CBSN

B

BCL

BCL

CBSN

mp

p mf

HRN

TBN

TBA

mp

p

HH
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM

To VIB bowed

pp

pp

p

HP

mp

p

f

PNO

f

VA

VC

CB

PSP

pizz. arco III

mp

mp

(mp)

mp

mf

PSP

<mf

FL *ppp* *p* *f* *mf* *poco f* *ff*

OB *f* *f* *ff*

BCL *f* *mf* *poco f* *To CL*

BSN *To BSN* *BSN* *f* *mf* *mf* *f*

HRN *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

TPT *f* *mp* *mf* *f*

TBN *mf* *mp* *p* *mf*

TBA *f*

HH *PC*
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM *p* *pp* *To TIMP* *TIMP* *mf* *PC* *To VIB*

HP *mp* *mp* *f* *mf* *f*

PNO *pp* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *f* *ff*

VN 1 *f* *mp* *p* *f* *mp* *ff* *mf*

VN 2 *mf* *pp* *poco vib.* *ORD* *ST* *3* *non vib.* *f* *mp* *p* *f* *mp* *ff* *mf*

VA *mf* *pp* *poco vib.* *ORD* *ST* *3* *non vib.* *f* *mp* *p* *f* *mp* *ff* *mf*

VC *mf* *pp* *poco vib.* *ORD* *ST* *3* *non vib.* *f* *mf* *mp* *ff* *mf*

CB *f*

C

FL *fff* *ppp*

OB *fff* *pp* *f*

CL *ff* *pp* *pp* *ppp*

BSN *ff* *ffff sost.* *p*

HRN *ff* *pp* *pp* *pp*

TPT *ff* *mp* *pp* *pp* *mf*

TBN *pp* *pp*

TBA *p*

VIB *mp* VIB bowed To CROT CROT To VIB *p* *p*

HP *ff* *mf*

PNO *fff* *ff* *mf*

VN 1 *sfz* *ppp* *mf* *p*

VN 2 *sfz > p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p*

VA *sfz > p* *pp* *pp* *p*

VC *sfz > p* *mf* *pp*

CB *sfz > p* *pp* *mf* *p*

D

FL *f* *ff* *fff* *ffff* *pp* *p* *mp dolce*

OB *mp* *f* *ff* *fff* *ffff* *pp* *p* *mp dolce*

CL *ff* *fff* *ffff* *p*

BSN *mf*

HRN *mf* *fff* *pp* *mf* clearly articulated

TPT *poco* *f* *fff* *ffff*

TBN *fff non dim.* *mp*

TBA *fp*

CROT *fff*

VIB *fff* *mf* *p*

HP *f* *fff* *ff*

PNO *mf* *fff* *p* *fff*

VN 1 *mf* *f* *ff* *fff* *ffff* *fp* *mp* *pp bright* bow freely

VN 2 *mf* *ff* *fff* *ffff* *fp* *mp* *pp bright* bow freely

VA *mf* *ff* *fff* *ffff* *fp* *mp* *pp bright* bow freely

VC *f* *ff* *fff* *ffff* *fp* *mf* *pp bright* bow freely

E

Musical score for orchestral instruments. The score is divided into systems for woodwinds (FL, OB, CL, BSN), brass (HRN, TPT, TBN, TBA), percussion (CROT, VIB), keyboard (HP, PNO), and strings (VN 1, VN 2, VA, VC, CB). The music is written in 12/8 time and includes various dynamic markings such as *pp*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *ff*, *fff*, and *ffff*. Performance instructions include *cup mute*, *mute off*, and *cuivré*. The score is marked with measure numbers 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19. A large 'E' is placed above the first staff.

8 **F** **G**

FL
OB
CL
BSN
HRN
TPT
TBN
TBA
CROT
TIMP
HP
PNO
VN 1
VN 2
VA
VC
CB

62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69

H

I

FL *mf* *fff > f > mp* *ff* *ff* *fff* *ff* *f*

OB *mf* *fff > f > mp* *ff* *ff* *fff* *ff* *f*

CL *mf* *mp* *fff* *ff* *fff* *ff* *f*

BSN *mf* *mp* *fff* *sfz-f* *ff* *ff* *f*

HRN *mf* *fff sost.* *ff* *fff* *ff* *ff* *f*

TPT *ff > f > mp* *fff sost.* *ff* *fff* *ff* *ff* *f*

TBN *mf* *f > mp* *sfz-f* *molto* *fff* *ff* *f*

TBA *sfz-f* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *f*

HH
S DR
B DR
TOM
TAM

TIMP *ff* *p* *ff*

HP *fff* *fff* *f*

PNO *fff* *fff* *f*

VN 1 *mf* *ff > f > mp* *ff* *ff* *fff* *ff* *f*

VN 2 *mf* *ff > f > mp* *ff* *ff* *fff* *ff* *f*

VA *mf* *ff > f > mp* *ff* *ff* *fff* *ff* *f*

VC *mf* *ff > f > mp* *ff* *ff* *fff* *ff* *f*

CB *sfz-f* *ff* *fff* *fff* *ff* *ff* *f*

FL
OB
CL
BSN
HRN
TPT
TBN
TBA
HH
SDR
BDR
TOM
TAM
TIMP
HP
PNO
VN 1
VN 2
VA
VC
CB

(Dampen each note after its written duration.)

J

78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85

8

FL *fff*

OB *fff*

CL *fff*

BSN *fff*

HRN *fff*

TPT *fff*

TBN *fff*

TBA *fff*

TIMP *fff*

PNO *fff*

VN 1 *fff*

VN 2 *fff*

VA *fff*

VC *fff*

CB *fff*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains staves for various instruments. The woodwind section includes Flute (FL), Oboe (OB), Clarinet (CL), Bassoon (BSN), Horn (HRN), Trumpet (TPT), Trombone (TBN), and Tuba (TBA). The percussion section includes Timpani (TIMP). The piano (PNO) part is shown in grand staff notation. The string section includes Violin 1 (VN 1), Violin 2 (VN 2), Viola (VA), Violoncello (VC), and Contrabass (CB). The score is written in 7/8 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music is marked with a forte dynamic (*fff*). The piece concludes on page 27 with a final double bar line.