

Steven Webb

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Webb', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

A Circle Within a Circle

Violin
Trombone
Bass Clarinet
Vibraphone

Program Notes:

"Whether the sky be clear or cloudy, it always seems to us to have the shape of an elliptic arch; far from having the form of a circular arch, it always seems flattened and depressed above our heads, and gradually to become farther removed toward the horizon." – Camille Flammarion, 1888.

Created as part of the 2019 International ACTOR Research Project into orchestration pedagogy, 'A Circle Within a Circle' is an exploration of a variety of spectral and nonspectral orchestration techniques, designed to fuse the timbrally disjunct ensemble together.

Thematically the music explores the pre-heliocentric conception of the universe, as seen in the anonymous woodcut image found in Camille Flammarion's 1888 work, *L'atmosphère : météorologie populaire*. The universe, (or heavens) at this time were conceived of as a series of layered circles of various elements: Fire, Air, Water etc. The music explores these various circles of the heavens, outlining each independently, and their interaction with one another.

Duration: 6 minutes 30 seconds

About the Composer:

Originally from South Africa, Steven Webb (b.1989) is a Toronto based performer, composer, and audio engineer. Steven has written music for a wide variety of ensembles, and his repertoire includes choral, chamber, and orchestral music. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by: The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Thin Edge New Music Collective, The University of Guelph Symphonic Choir, Exultate Chamber Singers, and Prairie Voices, among many others.

As a film composer, Steven has worked on a number of noteworthy projects including 'Chopin's Heart' for The National Screen Institute, and 'Period Piece', winner of the best Canadian Short Film at the Toronto After Dark Film Festival. Steven is a member of SOCAN, an Associate Composer at the Canadian Music Centre, and a member of the Screen Composers Guild of Canada.



Steven Webb
www.stevenwebbmusic.com
stevenwebb@gmail.com

A Circle Within a Circle

♩=108

sul pont. *ord.* *sul pont.*

Violin *ff*

Trombone *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f* *port.* Blow air through mouthpiece

Bass Clarinet in B \flat *ff* 9 6

♩=108

Motor Off

Vibraphone *ff* *Red.* 10 10

3

7

Vln.

Violin staff with musical notation. It begins with seven measures of whole rests. The eighth measure contains a triplet of eighth notes (G4, A4, B4) marked *ff* and *ord.*. The ninth measure contains a glissando (marked *gliss.*) from B4 to C5. The final two measures are whole rests.

Tbn.

Dixie Mute

Mute Out

Tuba staff with musical notation. It begins with seven measures of whole rests. The eighth measure contains a half note G3 with a flat, marked *pp* and *Dixie Mute*. The ninth measure is a whole rest. The tenth measure contains a melodic phrase (G3, F3, E3, D3) marked *f* and *Mute Out*. The final two measures are whole rests.

B. Cl.

Bass Clarinet staff with musical notation. It begins with seven measures of whole rests. The eighth measure contains a half note G3 with a sharp, marked *pp*. The ninth measure contains a half note G3 with a flat, marked *pp*. The tenth measure contains a triplet of eighth notes (G3, F3, E3) marked *ff*. The final two measures are whole rests.

Vib.

Vibraphone staff with musical notation. It begins with seven measures of whole rests. The eighth measure contains a chord (G3, B3, D4) marked *pp*. The ninth measure contains a chord (G3, B3, D4) with a glissando. The tenth measure contains a triplet of eighth notes (G3, F3, E3) marked *ff*. The final two measures contain chords with glissandos marked *ff*.

Vln. 17 *pizz.* *f* *arco* *mp* *pp* 4

Scratch tone

ad lib scratch tone.
Gradually get more sparse

10 sec

A

The violin part begins at measure 17 with a *pizz.* (pizzicato) instruction and a dynamic of *f*. It then switches to *arco* (arco) with a dynamic of *mp*. A 10-second section is boxed, containing a 'Scratch tone' indicated by a series of vertical lines. This section concludes with an 'ad lib scratch tone' that gradually becomes sparser, ending with a dynamic of *pp*. A rehearsal mark **A** is placed at the end of the section.

Tbn. *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

Blow Air through Mouthpiece

10 sec

The tuba part features a melodic line starting with a dynamic of *mf*. A 10-second section is boxed, containing a 'Blow Air through Mouthpiece' instruction. The dynamics in this section are *p*, *p*, and *mf*. The section ends with a dynamic of *mf*.

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

10 sec

The bass clarinet part starts with a dynamic of *f*. A 10-second section is boxed, containing a melodic line that begins with a dynamic of *mf* and ends with a dynamic of *p*.

Vib. *mf* *pp*

10 sec

A *arco* *pp*

The viola part begins with a dynamic of *mf*. A 10-second section is boxed, containing a melodic line that ends with a dynamic of *pp*. A rehearsal mark **A** is placed at the end of the section, with the instruction *arco* and a dynamic of *pp*.

5

28

Vln.

Violin staff with musical notation. Dynamics include *pp* and *mf*. Markings include *gliss.* and *gliss.*. The staff shows a melodic line with a long note in the first measure and a glissando in the second measure.

Tbn.

Tuba staff with musical notation. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*. A marking *Growl* is present. The staff shows a melodic line with a long note in the first measure and a glissando in the second measure.

B. Cl.

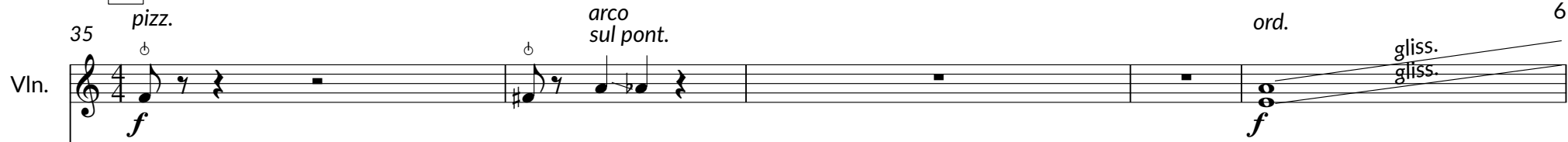
Bass Clarinet staff with musical notation. Dynamics include *ppp*, *mf*, and *pp*. Markings include *Irregular trill* and *Chromatic gliss*. The staff shows a melodic line with a long note in the first measure and a glissando in the second measure.

Vib.

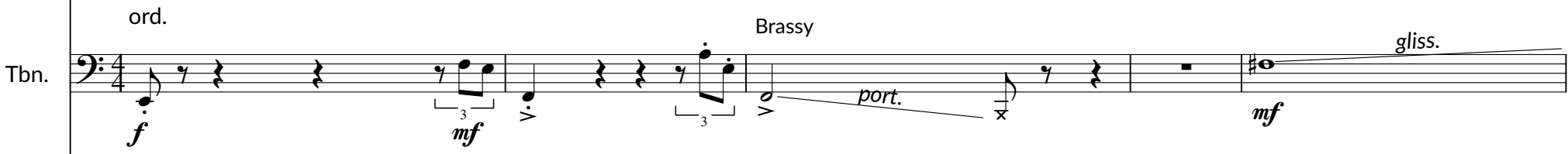
Vibraphone staff with musical notation. Dynamics include *p* and *mf*. A marking *Mallets* is present. The staff shows a melodic line with a long note in the first measure and a glissando in the second measure.

B Playful

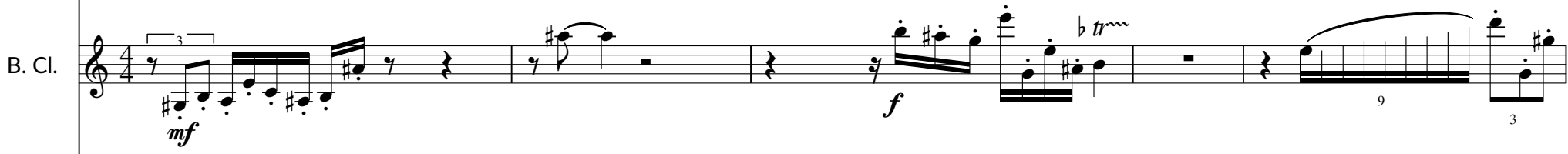
Vln. 35 *pizz.* *f* *arco sul pont.* *ord.* *f* *gliss.* *gliss.* 6



Tbn. *ord.* *f* *mf* *Brassy* *port.* *mf* *gliss.*



B. Cl. *mf* *f* *b tr* 9 3



B Playful

Vib. *f* 5 3 3



7

40

Vln. *pizz.* *arco* *ff* 5 *pizz.*

Tbn. Expel air through mouthpiece *f* *p* *f*

B. Cl. *b tr* *b tr* *ff* 5

Vib. *gliss.* *ff*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 7, contains four staves. The Violin staff (Vln.) begins at measure 40 with a plucked note (pizz.), followed by a rest, then a plucked note, and a series of notes including a five-fingered scale (5) and a fortissimo (ff) section. The Trombone staff (Tbn.) features a dynamic of fortissimo (f) with a note marked 'Expel air through mouthpiece', followed by a piano (p) note and another fortissimo (f) note. The Bass Clarinet staff (B. Cl.) includes trills (tr) and fortissimo (ff) passages. The Vibraphone staff (Vib.) features a glissando (gliss.) and fortissimo (ff) notes. The score concludes with repeat signs and a 3/4 time signature.