

KELVIN THOMSON

ARCTIC MELTDOWN

FOR SOLO VIOLIN AND SOPRANO SAXOPHONE,
CONCERTINO AND LARGE ORCHESTRA

*To my parents David and Irene, and my
wife Joy and daughter Carmen, for their support
patience, tolerance and critical ears!*

Presented 27th August, 2009 as part of the
Composition Special Study Portfolio for the
MMus degree, RHUL.

COMPOSER'S NOTE

Arctic Meltdown is a ten-minute free-associative musical meditation on the disappearance of the Arctic Circle, which scientists predict might have fully melted and been reclaimed by the oceans by c2100.

There are two distinct groups operating in this piece: ICE- a concertino group of 12 players lead initially by the solo violinist, who gives way to increasing interruptions by the soprano saxophone; and WATER- a large orchestra which takes an ever-dominating role during the piece as ICE simultaneously disappears. All that remains is a prayer at the end.

Kelvin Thomson

INSTRUMENTATION

Concertino 'ICE' (solo violin and soprano saxophone and 10 players)

Solo Violin

Clarinet in B flat

Bass Clarinet in B flat

Soprano Saxophone (assumes role as soloist from halfway)

Alto Saxophone

Horn in F

Tuba

*Percussion

Piano

Violin

Viola

Cello

* 2 Suspended Cymbals, 3 Tom Toms, Bass Drum, Glockenspiel (pedal), Vibraphone.

Ripieno 'WATER'

2 Flutes (1st doubling Piccolo, both doubling Alto Flute)

2 Oboes (both doubling Cor Anglais)

2 Clarinets in B flat (1st doubling E flat; 2nd doubling Bass Clarinet)

2 Bassoons (2nd doubling Contrabassoon)

4 Horns in F

3 Trumpets in C

2 Trombones

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

**Percussion (3 players)

Harp

Strings (8,8,6,6,3)

**Triangle, Cymbals, Tam-tam, Wood Block, Shaker, Snare Drum, Bass Drum, Xylophone, Marimba, Tubular Bells.

Duration: 10 minutes

NOTES ON SCORE AND PERFORMANCE

Score:

The score is laid out in the following manner:

1. The solo violin appears at the top of the score.
2. The concertino section is placed immediately below the solo violin and each concertino instrument name appears in bold, underlined letters in the left-hand margin throughout the score.
3. The ripieno section is placed below the concertino section and is organized according to normal score layout convention.
4. The first score page is annotated with dotted lines in the left-hand margin to clarify the concertino and ripieno regions.

Performance:

It would help the overall aims of this piece to arrange the players in such a way so that the solo violinist is positioned standing at the front as if for a concerto. In the middle of the piece, the soprano saxophone should assume a soloist position alongside the solo violinist. At the conclusion of their 'dialogue', the solo violinist should sit while the soprano saxophone remains standing as soloist for the rest of the piece.

The concertino should be placed together as a group close to the soloist position. The ripieno should be placed behind and around the concertino in order that the 'water – absorbing – ice' effect may be audibly appreciated.

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59

With a sense of foreboding

Violin solo

Clarinet in Bb
(Laloux)

Bass Clarinet
in Bb (12 players)

Soprano Saxophone
(Laloux)

Alto Saxophone
(Laloux)

Baritone Saxophone
(Laloux)

Tuba
(Laloux)

2 Suspended Cymbals

Bass Drum

Glockenspiel (Petal)

Flute

Violin
(Laloux)

Viola
(Laloux)

Violoncello
(Laloux)

59

With a sense of foreboding

Piccolo Flute

Alto Flute

Flute

Alto Flute

Oboe 1
Cor Anglais

Oboe 2
Cor Anglais

Clarinet in Bb 1

Clarinet in Bb 2
Bass Clarinet

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2
Contrabassoon

Horn

Trumpet

Trombone

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Wood Block

Percussion

Snare Drum

Harp

59

With a sense of foreboding

Violin 1
dir.

Violin 2
dir.

Violoncello
dir.

Celli
dir.

Bass
dir.

This page of a musical score, numbered 6, contains staves for a variety of instruments. The instruments listed on the left include:

- Vln (Violin)
- Cl (Clarinet)
- B.Cl (Bass Clarinet)
- Sop Sax (Soprano Saxophone)
- Alto Sax (Alto Saxophone)
- Hr (Horn)
- Tbn (Trumpet)
- Bt (Baritone)
- Tm (Tom)
- Clash (Cymbal)
- Ena (Euphonium)
- Vln (Violin)
- Vln (Violin)
- Xa (Xylophone)
- Pci (Percussion)
- Fl (Flute)
- C.A (Cello)
- C.A (Cello)
- Cl (Clarinet)
- Cl (Clarinet)
- Bu (Bassoon)
- Bu (Bassoon)
- Tu (Tuba)
- W.B (Wood Bass)
- Vln I (Violin I)
- Vln I (Violin I)
- Vln II (Violin II)
- Vln II (Violin II)
- Vln (Violin)
- Vln (Violin)
- Vc (Violoncello)
- Vc (Violoncello)
- Dr (Drum)
- Dr (Drum)
- Dr (Drum)

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs. Dynamic markings are present throughout, including *mf* (mezzo-forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *pp* (pianissimo), and *p* (piano). Articulation marks like accents and slurs are also used. The page is divided into three measures, with the first measure starting with a key signature change to one flat.

27

Vln

Cl

B.Cl

Str. Sax

Alto Sax

Hrn

Tbn

B.Dr

Vib

Euph

Picc

Fl

C.A

C.B

C1

C2

Bsn

Bsn

Trp

W.Dr

Vcl

Vcl

Dbl

Dbl

Dbl

col legno battuto

col legno battuto

col legno battuto

To Fl

To B. Cl

To Clarinet

To Clarinet

Mecanico
3/4 $\text{♩} = 100 \sim 120$

Xlo *f* *pizz.* *mf* *arco* *f*

B.Cl.

Ha.

Dbl.

B.D. (with Glock mallet) *f*

Glock. *Glockenspiel* *Glock.* *pp*

Enb. *pp*

Xlo *pizz.* *f* *ppp*

Xlo *pizz.*

Xlo *pizz.* *f*

Ha. *con sord.* *pp*

Trp. *p*

Trp. *p*

Tho. *7*

Tho. *7*

Tr.

W.B.

Hr. *calpash*

Vln. *Mecanico* $\text{♩} = 100 \sim 120$ *p*

Vln. *p*

Vcl. *con sord.* *pp*

Vc. *f*

Db. *f*

14

Vln I

Cl

B.Cl

Snr. Sax

Alto Sax

Hrn

Tbn

Tm

Vln

Euph

Vln

Vln

Fl

Fl

Oboe

Oboe

Hrn

Hrn

Hrn

Tpt

Tpt

Tbn

B. Tbn

Tbn

Trp

Vln

Vln I

Vln II

Vln II

Vln

arco
sul tasto

pp

This page of a musical score, numbered 15, contains staves for a variety of instruments. The instruments listed on the left are: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tub.), Timpani (Tim.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vcl.), Double Bass (Db.), and Percussion (Perc.). The score is written in a standard musical notation with various dynamics such as *mf*, *p*, *ppp*, and *pp*. It includes complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and features several measures with rests. The notation is organized into systems, with some measures containing multiple staves for a single instrument, indicating a large ensemble. The page is divided into three measures, with the first measure starting with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature.

Musical score for measures 19-20. The score includes staves for Xln, Dm, Tm, Eln, Xln, Xln, Xln, Fl, Fl, Orl, Orl, Vln I, Vln I, Vln II, Vln II, and Vla. Measure 19 features a key signature change to one flat and a tempo marking of 1. Measure 20 includes a section marked "To B. D." and a "Bus Drum" section with a "PPP" dynamic marking. The score is written in 4/4 time.

Musical score for measures 21-22. The score includes staves for Xln, B.D., Eln, Xln, Fl, Fl, Orl, Orl, Vln I, Vln I, Vln II, Vln II, and Vla. Measure 21 features a key signature change to two flats and a tempo marking of 1. Measure 22 includes a section marked "To B. D." and a "Bus Drum" section with a "PPP" dynamic marking. The score is written in 4/4 time.

This page of a musical score contains staves for the following instruments and parts:

- Flutes (Fl.):** Two staves, both marked *mp*.
- Oboes (Ob.):** Two staves, both marked *mp*.
- Horns (Hr.):** Four staves (Hr. 1, Hr. 2, Hr. 3, Hr. 4), all marked *mp*.
- Trumpets (Tpt.):** Two staves, both marked *mp*.
- Timpani (Timp.):** One staff, marked *mp*.
- Snare Drum (Snare Drum):** One staff, marked *mf*.
- Tom-tom (Tom-t.):** One staff, marked *mf*.
- Triangle (Tri.):** One staff.
- Wood Bass (W.B.):** One staff.
- Tab. B.** (Tub. B.): One staff.
- Harpsichord (Hp.):** One staff.
- Violins (Vln.):** Four staves (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vln. III, Vln. IV), all marked *mp*.
- Violas (Vla.):** Two staves, both marked *mp*.
- Celli (Vcl.):** Two staves, both marked *mp*.
- Double Basses (Db.):** Two staves, both marked *mp*.

Key markings and annotations include:

- Tragicomic:** Marked at the top right of the first staff and at the bottom right of the Violin I staff.
- To Picc:** Marked at the end of the Flute I staff.
- To Tom-t:** Marked at the end of the Tom-tom staff.
- mf** (mezzo-forte): Marked at the end of the Snare Drum and Tom-tom staves.
- pp** (pianissimo): Marked at the end of the Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass staves.
- arco**: Marked at the end of the Double Bass staves.

This page of a musical score contains staves for various instruments, including woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion. The staves are arranged in a vertical column, with each staff labeled with the instrument name on the left. The notation includes notes, rests, and other musical symbols. Some staves have specific markings or instructions, such as "To A. Fl.", "To C. A.", "To B. Cl.", "Bass Clarinet", "Contrabassoon", "Hr.", "Tpr.", "B. Tbn.", "Tbn.", "Timp.", "Tr.", "Sh.", "S. D.", "Tab. B.", "Xyl.", "Mar.", "Vln. I", "Vln. II", "Vla. I", "Vla. II", "Vcl.", "Db.", "Db.", and "Db.". The score is written in a standard musical notation style, with a key signature of one flat and a time signature of 4/4. The page number "20" is located in the top left corner.

79

Fla.

Fla.

Oboe

Oboe

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Clarinet in Bb

To A. Fl.

To C. A.

To C. A.

To B. Cl.

Bass Clarinet

Contrabassoon

Hr.

Tpr.

Tpr.

B. Tbn.

Tbn.

Tbn.

Timp.

Tr.

Sh.

S. D.

Tab. B.

Xyl.

Mar.

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla. I

Vla. II

Vcl.

Db.

Db.

Db.

[illegible]

1-60
 Xln
 Sub Sax
 Clarinet
 B. Cl.
 Bass
 Chn.
 Tbn.
 B. Tbn.
 Tbn.
 Timp.
 Tr.
 S. D.
 Tab. B.
 Vn.
 Va.
 Dbl.
 Dbl.
 Dbl.

Play Reedy!
 To Tab. B.
 To S. D.
 To Cym.
 To Tr.

1-60

1-140
 Sub Sax
 Clarinet
 Picc.
 Ob.
 Cor Anglais
 Cor Anglais
 Tr. Cl.
 Clarinet
 Bass
 Chn.
 Hn.
 Hn.
 Hn.
 Tpt.
 Tpt.
 Tbn.
 Tbn.
 B. Tbn.
 Tbn.
 Timp.
 Tr.
 T. A.
 S. D.
 Tab. B.
 Vln.
 Va.
 Vn.
 Dbl.

To Picc.
 To Ob.
 Piccolo
 Oboe
 Cor Anglais
 Cor Anglais
 To B. Cl.
 Bass Clarinet
 Contrabassoon
 Cymbals
 Tan-tan
 To B. D.
 Snare Drum

1-140

musical score for page 27, featuring various instruments and dynamic markings.

Top Section (Percussion and Woodwinds):

- Pic:** Piccolo, marked *ff* and *accel.*
- Fl:** Flute, marked *ff*
- Ob:** Oboe, marked *ff*
- C.A:** Clarinet in A, marked *ff*
- Es Cl:** E-flat Clarinet, marked *ff*
- B. Cl:** Bass Clarinet, marked *ff*
- Bss:** Bassoon, marked *ff*
- Chs:** Contrabassoon, marked *ff*

Middle Section (Brass and Percussion):

- Ha:** Horns (multiple staves), marked *ff* and *belli up*
- Tpt:** Trumpets (multiple staves), marked *ff*
- Tbn:** Trombones (multiple staves), marked *ff*
- B. Tbn:** Baritone Trombone, marked *ff*
- Tbn:** Tuba, marked *ff*
- Tim:** Timpani, marked *ff*
- Cym:** Cymbals, marked *mf*
- T.A:** Tuba, marked *mf*
- B. D:** Bass Drum, marked *ff*
- S. D:** Snare Drum, marked *ff*

Bottom Section (Strings):

- Vln. I:** Violins I, marked *ff* and *accel.*
- Vln. II:** Violins II, marked *ff*
- Vla:** Viola, marked *ff*
- Vcl:** Violoncello, marked *ff*
- Db:** Double Bass, marked *ff*

Additional markings and notes:

- arco au talon** (arco on the talon) is noted for the Violoncello and Double Bass parts.
- mf** (mezzo-forte) is marked for the Tuba and Snare Drum parts.
- ff** (fortissimo) is marked for many of the woodwind and brass parts.
- belli up** (bell up) is marked for the Horns.
- accel.** (accelerando) is marked for the Piccolo and Violins I.

The musical score for "The Rose Tree" is presented for a full band. The Solo Saxophone part (Sax. Solo) is written in a single staff with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with various articulations, including accents, staccato, and pizzicato. The Saxophone (Sax.) part is written in a single staff with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature, featuring a rhythmic pattern with accents and staccato. The Trombone (Tbn.) part is written in a single staff with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature, featuring a rhythmic pattern with accents and staccato. The Trumpet (W.R.) part is written in a single staff with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature, featuring a rhythmic pattern with accents and staccato. The Xylophone (Xyl.) part is written in a single staff with a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature, featuring a rhythmic pattern with accents and staccato.

This image shows a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony. The score is written for a large ensemble, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The instruments listed on the left are: Sn. Sns., B.D., Glock., Eup., Sln., Sln., Sln., Tr., W.B., W.B., Xyl., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Dbl.

The score is divided into measures, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 4/4. The tempo/mood is marked as "molto rall." (molto rallentando). The score includes various dynamic markings, such as "ppp" (pianissimo) and "pp" (piano). The percussion section includes a Bass Drum (B.D.) and a Glockenspiel (Glock.). The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and Xylophone (Xyl.). The string section includes Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Dbl.).

The score is written for a large ensemble, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The instruments listed on the left are: Sn. Sns., B.D., Glock., Eup., Sln., Sln., Sln., Tr., W.B., W.B., Xyl., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Dbl.