

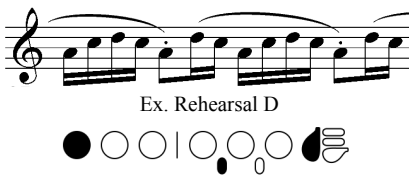
PROGRAM NOTES

This is the first piece written for “History of Something in 3 minutes” series. The series began as the “The History of Something in 60 Seconds,” but quickly upgraded to “The History of Something in 90 Seconds.” And though I gave it a good try, 90 seconds just wasn’t sufficient for the entire universe’s backstory. I dabbled in 120 seconds for a moment, but ultimately settled on 3 minutes for a perfect and concise sketch of all of material creation.

The piece starts off with a pretty literal big bang, and then stays for as long as it can in the realm of hot and dense atoms bumping into each other. After that, the music is all about expansion. Intervals get bigger and bigger and the randomness gradually organizes itself into recognizable rhythms and motifs. The melody in the brass at the very end is simply an interval that widens further and further up to the last note. I purposefully did not end this piece with a resolved chord, as the history of the universe is not over yet.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

- There is a part for Piccolo player can double either Flute 1 or Flute 3, depending on which extra voice you might need. (There is a part for each, but choose only one of these parts!)
- If more sound and chaos is needed at the beginning, horns and/or trombones can play the intense swirls and runs (copy the tpt part from m.1 to m.3)
- Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, and Baritone Sax double each other (or have cues) so the piece will function without one or two of these parts.
- Any time Flutes have the ostinato pictured right, using the trill key fingering for the note D will make this passage much easier and faster. (First trill key for the lower octave, second trill key for the higher octave)



INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo/Flute 1 **or** Piccolo/Flute 3
Flute 1, 2, 3
Oboe
Bassoon
Contrabassoon (Opt.)
B♭ Clarinet 1 & 2
Bass Clarinet
Contrabass Clarinet (Opt.)

Alto Saxophone
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpet 1, 2, 3
Horn 1 & 2
Trombone 1, 2, 3
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba
Double Bass (Opt.)

Percussion 1
Glockenspiel
Brake Drum
Anvil
Suspended Cymbal
Bass Drum
Percussion 2
Bass Drum (shared with Perc 1)
Tubular Bells
Snare Drum
Percussion 3
Crotales
Puili Sticks
Tom-toms (1 high, 1 medium, 1 low)
Percussion 4
Hand Drum (any hand drum will do)

DURATION

approx. 3 minutes ...surprised?

DEDICATED TO AND PREMIERED BY GARY HEATON-SMITH, DECEMBER 2, 2024

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