

Jason V. Barabba

Conjecture
for Clarinet and Orchestra

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Duration is approximately 9½ minutes

Instrumentation:

2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 B-flat Clarinets
2 Bassoons
3 Horns in F
2 B-flat Trumpets
2 Trombones
1 Tuba
Strings
Solo clarinet in B-flat

For a long time I was only writing music where the members of the ensemble seemed to be at war with each other, struggling for attention and control. The musical language was one of conflict and not always resolution. But in recent years I have started to rethink this approach. When I started to plan this piece for clarinet and orchestra, I thought it would be nice to try writing something where everyone seems to be listening to each other for a change. Such was my approach with *Conjecture*.

The solo clarinet opens the piece with an opening idea, and almost immediately the orchestra starts responding to it, first with the muted trombone solo and then the clarinet section taking ideas from the soloist and working with them. Sometimes it's a direct restatement, but often the orchestral accompaniment tries to take the ideas of the soloist and turn it into something more. The intended effect is to have the piece feel like the orchestra and the soloist are working through ideas with each other, kind of like thinking out loud...forming or expressing their opinions...*conjecturing*.

Almost every element in the orchestral music is in some way directly connected to what is coming out of the soloist, and in this way they work together to reach...perhaps not a consensus...but a shared destination.

Conjecture was completed during a residency at the Atlantic Center for the Arts. I want to thank ACA and my fellow composers there for their feedback, which had a major impact on the final product. The piece is dedicated to the memory of Andrew Imbrie, a great composer and a fantastic teacher.

Conjecture is registered with ASCAP.

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Conjecture

for Clarinet and Orchestra

Moderato (Approx $\text{♩} = 100$)

Flutes (1,2)

Oboes (1,2)

Clarinets in B \flat (1,2)

Bassoon (1,2)

Horns in F (1-3)

Trumpets in B \flat (1,2)

Trombones (1,2)

Tuba

Solo Clarinet in B \flat

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

con sord. (straight mute)

senza sord.

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

mf *pp*

6

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf

mp

mf

ppp

mp

pp

f

mp

pp

f

mp

f

ff

mf

f

ff

p

solo (1.)

solo (2.)

solo (1.)

p

(titi)

pp

p

div.

A

16

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f *ff*

mp *mp*

solo (1.) arco *p* *f* *gliss.*

solo (2.) arco *p* *f* *gliss.*

tutti *f* *gliss.*

tutti div. *ppp* *f* *gliss.*

tutti div. *ppp* *f* *gliss.*

tutti *ppp* *f* *gliss.*

tutti *ppp* *f* *gliss.*

mp *p* *f* *gliss.*

arco *p* *mp* *p* *f* *gliss.*

arco *p* *mp* *p* *f* *gliss.*

20

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

mp

mf

tutti

f

pizz.

p

24

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp *pp* *f* *ff* *mp*

mp *pp* *f* *ff* *mp*

mp *pp* *f* *ff* *mp*

f *ff* *mp*

f *ff* *mp*

f *ff* *mp*

f *ff* *mp*

f *ff* *mp*

mp *mf*

mf *pp* *gliss.*

mf *pp* *gliss.*

mf *pp* *gliss.*

mf *pp* *gliss.*

B

30

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

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

p *p* *p* *p*

con sord.

div.

arco con sord.

f *f* *f*

37 C

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf* *tr* *tr* *tr*

Cl. in B \flat *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. in F *p*

Tpt. in B \flat *p*

Tbn. *mf* *f*

Tba. *p*

Cl. Solo in B \flat *mf* *f* *mp*

Vln. 1 *mf*

Vln. 2 *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *ff* *mp* *mp* *mp* *senza vib.*

Cb. *ff* *mp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

42

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. in B \flat *p*

Bsn. *p*

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

Tpt. in B \flat *mf* *f* *p*

Tbn. *mf* *f* *p*

Tba. *mf* *f* *p*

Cl. Solo in B \flat *mf*

Vln. 1 *mp*

Vln. 2 *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Cb. *mp*

46

Fl. *ppp* *f* *ppp* *p*

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat *ppp* *f* *ppp* *p*

Bsn.

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

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat *f* *ff*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *ff* *fff* *molto vib.*
gradually increase to *molto vib.*

Vc. *ff* *fff* *molto vib.*
gradually increase to *molto vib.*
vib. ord.

Cb.

51

Fl. *ppp*

Ob. *ppp*

Cl. in B \flat *ppp*

Bsn. *ppp*

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat *p* *mf*

Vln. 1 *pp*

Vln. 2 *pp*

Vla.

Vc. *ff* vib. ord

Cb. *ff*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 51, contains staves for various instruments. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in B \flat), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn. in F), Trumpet in B-flat (Tpt. in B \flat), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba.). The strings consist of Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The woodwinds and strings are marked with *ppp* (pianississimo) and *pp* (pianissimo). The Clarinet Solo in B-flat has dynamic markings *p* and *mf*. The Violoncello and Contrabass are marked with *ff* (fortissimo) and include the instruction 'vib. ord' (vibrato order). The score is written in a common time signature and features various musical notations such as rests, notes, and slurs.

E

Allegro (Approx $\text{♩} = 126$)

67

mf

mf

mp

mp

mp

f

f

p

p

mf

mf

mf

f \rightarrow *mp*

div. *ppp* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *ppp*

div. *ppp* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *ppp*

div. *ppp* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *ppp*

div. *ppp* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *ppp*

div. *ppp* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *ppp*

div. *ppp* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *ppp*

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

74

Fl.
Ob.
Cl. in B♭
Bsn.
Hn. in F
Tpt. in B♭
Tbn.
Tba.
Cl. Solo in B♭
Vln. 1
Vln. 2
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

p, *f*, *mf*, *espress.*, *arco div.*, *pizz.*, *PPP*, *f*, *PPP*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 74, features a large ensemble of instruments. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in B♭), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn. in F), Trumpet in B-flat (Tpt. in B♭), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba (Tba.). The string section consists of Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Clarinet Solo in B-flat (Cl. Solo in B♭) is also present. The score is written in a common time signature. The woodwinds and strings play melodic lines with various dynamics such as piano (*p*), mezzo-forte (*mf*), and forte (*f*). The strings are marked with *pizz.* (pizzicato) and *arco div.* (arco diviso). The Clarinet Solo part includes an *espress.* (espressivo) marking and a triplet of eighth notes. The string parts feature a dynamic shift from *PPP* (pianissimo) to *f* (forte) and back to *PPP*.

80

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

mp

mf

f

ff

p

pizz. div.

unis.

3

85

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp, *mf*, *p*, *f*, *ppp*, *div. arco*, *arco*, *3*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 85, 86, and 87. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in B \flat), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn. in F), Trumpet in B-flat (Tpt. in B \flat), Trombone (Tbn.), and Trombone (Tba.). The brass section includes Clarinet Solo in B-flat (Cl. Solo in B \flat). The string section includes Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score features various dynamics such as *mp*, *mf*, *p*, *f*, and *ppp*. Performance instructions include *div. arco* and *arco*. Trills and triplets are indicated with '3' and a vertical line. The woodwinds and strings play sustained notes with some movement, while the brass and solo clarinet play more rhythmic patterns.

118

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f *ff* *mf* *f* *pp* *f*

pizz. *f* *ff*

arco *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

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

I Andante (Approx ♩=86)

139

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

Ob. *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

Cl. in B \flat *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

Bsn. *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

Hn. in F *pp* *mp* *pp*

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Tba. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. Solo in B \flat *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Vln. 1 con sord. unis. 3 *p* legato *mf* *mp*

Vln. 2 con sord. unis. 3 *p* legato *mf* *mp*

Vla. con sord. unis. 3 *p* legato *mf* *mp*

Vc. legato *p* *mf* *mp*

Cb. unis. *p* *mf* *mp*

J

Moderato (Approx $\text{♩} = 100$)

150

Fl. *mp*

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat *mp*

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *pp* *pp*

Vln. 1 *div.* *mp*

Vln. 2 *div.* *mp*

Vla. *div.* *mp*

Vc. *ppp* *mp* *ppp* unis. con sord.

Cb. *mf* *ppp* unis.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 150 to 154. It features a full orchestra and a solo clarinet in B-flat. The woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B-flat, Bassoon) play melodic lines with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The strings (Violins 1 & 2, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass) provide a rhythmic accompaniment, with dynamics ranging from mezzo-piano (*mp*) to pianissimo (*ppp*). The solo clarinet in B-flat has a dynamic contour that starts at *mp*, dips to *pp*, rises to *mp*, peaks at *mf*, and then returns to *pp*. The Cello and Contrabass parts include markings for 'unis.' (unison) and 'con sord.' (with mutes). The score is in a key with one flat and a 4/4 time signature.

K

158

This page of a musical score contains measures 158 through 161. The instruments listed on the left are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in B \flat), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn in F (Hn. in F), Trumpet in B-flat (Tpt. in B \flat), Trombone (Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Clarinet Solo in B-flat (Cl. Solo in B \flat), Violin 1 (Vln. 1), Violin 2 (Vln. 2), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

Measures 158 and 159 are mostly rests for all instruments. In measure 160, the Clarinet Solo in B-flat begins with a *mf* dynamic, playing a melodic line with triplets. The Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello parts also begin in measure 160 with a *p* dynamic, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with triplets. The Clarinet Solo in B-flat continues through measure 161, reaching a *f* dynamic. The Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, and Violoncello parts continue their accompaniment through measure 161. The other instruments (Fl., Ob., Cl. in B \flat , Bsn., Hn. in F, Tpt. in B \flat , Tbn., Tba., and Cb.) remain silent throughout these measures.

163

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

div.

mp

pp

f

L
167

Fl.
mf 3

Ob.
p

Cl. in Bb
mp 3

Bsn.

Hn. in F
p con sord. senza sord.

Tpt. in Bb
p con sord. senza sord.

Tbn.
p con sord. senza sord.

Tba.
p con sord. senza sord.

Cl. Solo in Bb

Vln. 1
3

Vln. 2
3

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.
mf 3

171

Fl. *mf* *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p*

Cl. in B \flat *mf* *f* *p*

Bsn. *f* *p*

Hn. in F *f* *p*

Tpt. in B \flat *f* *p*

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat *ppp* *p*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla. *senza vib.*

Ve. *senza vib.*

Cb. *3*

176

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

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

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Ve.

Cb.

senza sord.

senza vib.

ppp

M

186

Fl. *f*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. in B \flat *f*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. in F *mf*

Tpt. in B \flat *mf*

Tbn. *f*

Tba. *mf*

Cl. Solo in B \flat

Vln. 1 *f* con sord.

Vln. 2 *f* con sord.

Vla. *f* vib. ord. con sord.

Vc. *f* vib. ord. con sord.

Cb. *f* vib. ord.

195

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B \flat

Bsn.

Hn. in F

Tpt. in B \flat

Tbn.

Tba.

Cl. Solo in B \flat

espress.
mp

Vln. 1

p

Vln. 2

Vla.

mp

Vc.

ff *mf* *ppp*

Cb.

ff *mf* *ppp*

ppp