



David Heuser

In s o m n i a

for woodwind quintet

Total length, approximately 23'

2023

I n s o m n i a

for woodwind quintet

- I. *Luminous dark birds, perched on lamps of water, guarding our dreams* (p 3)
- II. *Speaking the glyph of plants* (p 25)
- III. *Time corroded by its own clocks* (p 29)
- IV. *The squirrels of forgetfulness* (p 46)
- V. *The place on the circle where everything crosses in time at the bottom of sleep* (p 57)

Total length, approximately 23'

The titles of the movements of *Insomnia* come from four different poems by the poet Olga Cabral (1909-1997). The opening movement's title comes primarily from her 1976 poem *House of the Poet*, but I stole the "luminous dark birds" part from a later poem of hers (*The Scream*). *House of the Poet* also provided the title for movement III, again with some minor adjustments to the line. The poem *The Meadow (homage to Paul Klee)* (1976) provided the title for movements II and V. The fourth movement's title comes from the poem which also provided the title for the work as a whole, *Insomnia* (1980):

With the pallor of butterflies locked in ice
the moon walks grandly down the staircase
the stars buckle themselves in for the night
the squirrels of forgetfulness
run here, run there
looking for black peonies
I lie lightly over the whole earth
and cover it with my body
like snow.

Score is not in C

In s o m n i a

David Heuser
2023

I. Luminous dark birds, perched on lamps of water, guarding our dreams

♩. = ca. 138

The musical score is for five woodwind instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in B \flat , Horn in F, and Bassoon. The time signature is 12/8. The tempo is indicated as ♩. = ca. 138. The score is divided into two main sections. The first section, from measure 1 to 4, is marked *ppp*. The second section, from measure 5 to 8, is marked *p*. The instruments play a melodic line consisting of half notes and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The Flute part starts on a whole note G \sharp (F \sharp), followed by a half note G \sharp (F \sharp) and a quarter note G \sharp (F \sharp). The Oboe part starts on a whole note F \sharp (E \sharp), followed by a half note F \sharp (E \sharp) and a quarter note F \sharp (E \sharp). The Clarinet in B \flat part starts on a whole note G \sharp (F \sharp), followed by a half note G \sharp (F \sharp) and a quarter note G \sharp (F \sharp). The Horn in F part starts on a whole note G \sharp (F \sharp), followed by a half note G \sharp (F \sharp) and a quarter note G \sharp (F \sharp). The Bassoon part starts on a whole note G \sharp (F \sharp), followed by a half note G \sharp (F \sharp) and a quarter note G \sharp (F \sharp). The dynamics are *ppp* for the first section and *p* for the second section.

8

Musical score for measures 8-15. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. The music is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 8-11) features a melodic line in the woodwinds with dynamics ranging from *p* to *mf*. The second system (measures 12-15) features a melodic line in the woodwinds with dynamics ranging from *p* to *f*. A *ft.* (fortissimo) marking is present at the end of measure 15.

16

Musical score for measures 16-19. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 12/8. The music is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 16-18) features a melodic line in the woodwinds with dynamics ranging from *pp* to *p*. A *ft.* (fortissimo) marking is present at the end of measure 18. The second system (measures 19-21) features a melodic line in the woodwinds with dynamics ranging from *pp* to *pp*. A *pp* (pianissimo) marking is present at the end of measure 21.

22

Musical score for measures 22-27. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.).

- Fl.:** Measures 22-23: eighth-note runs. Measure 24: *pp*. Measure 25: *flt.* with a hairpin. Measure 26: *mf*. Measure 27: *mf*.
- Ob.:** Measures 22-23: whole notes. Measure 24: *p* to *pp* with a hairpin. Measure 25-27: whole notes.
- B♭ Cl.:** Measures 22-23: eighth-note runs. Measure 24-27: whole notes.
- Hn.:** Measures 22-23: whole notes. Measure 24-27: whole notes.
- Bsn.:** Measures 22-23: eighth-note runs. Measure 24-27: whole notes.

Measure 27 includes a trill (*tr*) in the Bass Clarinet part.

28

Musical score for measures 28-31. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.).

- Fl.:** Measure 28: *pp*. Measure 29: *mf* to *pp*. Measure 30: *pp*. Measure 31: *pp*.
- Ob.:** Measure 28: *pp*. Measure 29: *mf* to *pp*. Measure 30-31: whole notes.
- B♭ Cl.:** Measure 28: *mf* to *pp*. Measure 29: *p*. Measure 30: *pp*. Measure 31: *pp*.
- Hn.:** Measure 28: *mf* to *pp*. Measure 29-31: whole notes.
- Bsn.:** Measure 28-31: whole notes.

33

Musical score for measures 33-39. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B \flat Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.).

- Flute:** Measures 33-34 feature sixteenth-note runs. Measures 35-39 feature sustained notes with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *p*.
- Oboe:** Measures 33-34 are silent. Measures 35-39 feature sustained notes with dynamics *mf*, *ppp*, and *mf*.
- Bass Clarinet:** Measures 33-34 feature sixteenth-note runs. Measures 35-39 feature sustained notes with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *p*.
- Horn:** Measures 33-34 are silent. Measures 35-39 feature sustained notes with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *p*. A "mute out" instruction is present in measure 35.
- Bassoon:** Measures 33-34 feature sixteenth-note runs. Measures 35-39 feature sustained notes with dynamics *p*.

40

Musical score for measures 40-44. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B \flat Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.).

- Flute:** Measures 40-44 feature sixteenth-note runs with dynamics *ppp*, *fp*, and *f*.
- Oboe:** Measures 40-44 feature sustained notes and sixteenth-note runs with dynamics *p*, *ppp*, *f*, *fp*, and *f*.
- Bass Clarinet:** Measures 40-44 feature sixteenth-note runs with dynamics *ppp*, *fp*, and *f*.
- Horn:** Measures 40-44 feature sustained notes and sixteenth-note runs with dynamics *ppp*, *fp*, and *f*.
- Bassoon:** Measures 40-44 feature sustained notes and sixteenth-note runs with dynamics *ppp*, *fp*, and *f*.

45

Fl. *fp fp fp fp fp fp*

Ob. *fp fp fp fp fp f*

B \flat Cl. *fp fp fp fp fp f*

Hn. *fp f fp fp f*

Bsn. *fp fp f fp fp*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45, 46, and 47. The Flute part features a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings of *fp* and *f*. The Oboe part has a similar melodic line with accents and *fp* dynamics. The Bass Clarinet part plays a harmonic accompaniment with accents and *fp* dynamics. The Horn part has a melodic line with accents and dynamics of *fp* and *f*. The Bassoon part plays a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and dynamics of *fp* and *f*.

48

Fl. *fp f ff*

Ob. *ff*

B \flat Cl. *fp ff*

Hn. *ff pp*

Bsn. *f ff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 48, 49, and 50. The Flute part has a melodic line with accents and dynamics of *fp*, *f*, and *ff*. The Oboe part has a melodic line with accents and a *ff* dynamic. The Bass Clarinet part has a melodic line with accents and dynamics of *fp* and *ff*. The Horn part has a melodic line with accents and dynamics of *ff* and *pp*. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with accents and dynamics of *f* and *ff*.

II. Speaking the glyph of plants

260 ♩ = ca. 66

Fl.

Ob. *p* *mp*

B \flat Cl.

Hn. *p* *mp*

Bsn. *p* *mp*

The score is written for five woodwind instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), B \flat Clarinet (B \flat Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The music is in 4/4 time and consists of six measures. The tempo is marked as ♩ = ca. 66. The Oboe, Horn, and Bassoon parts feature melodic lines with accents and dynamic markings (*p* and *mp*). The Flute and B \flat Clarinet parts are mostly rests.

266

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

pp *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp* *mf*

p *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp* *mf*

pp *mf* *pp p* *ppp* *mf*

274

Fl.

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

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

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

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

III. Time corroded by its own clocks

310 ♩ = ca. 120

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

f

f

f

3 3 3 3 3 3

30

315

Fl. *f* *mf*

Ob.

B \flat Cl.

Hn. *f*

Bsn. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

320

Fl. *mf* *mp* *ppp*

Ob. *mp* *p* *pp*

B \flat Cl.

Hn. *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

Bsn. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *mf* *mp* *p*

325

Fl. *f* *fp* *f* *pp*

Ob. *f* *f*

B \flat Cl. *f* *pp* *f*

Hn. *pp* *f* *pp*

Bsn. *f* *fp*

Measures 325-328. The score is in 4/4 time. Measure 325 has a key signature of one flat. Measure 326 has a key signature of one sharp. Measure 327 has a key signature of one sharp and a 3/4 time signature. Measure 328 has a key signature of one sharp and a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *f*, *fp*, and *pp*. The Flute part features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The Clarinet part has a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with a slur and a fermata.

330

Fl. *f* *fp* *f*

Ob. *f* *fp* *f*

B \flat Cl. *f*

Hn. *f* *fp* *f*

Bsn. *f* *fp* *f*

Measures 330-333. The score is in 4/4 time. Measure 330 has a key signature of one flat. Measure 331 has a key signature of one sharp. Measure 332 has a key signature of one sharp. Measure 333 has a key signature of one flat. Dynamics include *f*, *fp*, and *pp*. The Flute part has a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The Clarinet part has a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with a slur and a fermata.

334

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *f*

Hn. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 334 to 338. The Flute part features a melodic line with a dynamic of *f* and a slur over measures 335-338. The Oboe part plays a triplet-based rhythmic pattern with a dynamic of *f*. The Bassoon part has a continuous eighth-note accompaniment with a dynamic of *f*. The Clarinet part has a melodic line with a dynamic of *pp* in measure 334, which changes to *f* in measure 335. The Horn part has a melodic line with a dynamic of *f* starting in measure 335.

339

Fl. *fp* *mf*

Ob. *pp* *mf*

B♭ Cl. *fp* *mf*

Hn. *fp*

Bsn. *fp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 339 to 343. The Flute part has a melodic line with dynamics of *fp* and *mf*. The Oboe part has a melodic line with dynamics of *pp* and *mf*. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with dynamics of *fp* and *mf*. The Clarinet part has a melodic line with dynamics of *fp* and *mf*. The Horn part has a melodic line with a dynamic of *fp*. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with a dynamic of *fp*. The score includes a time signature change from 4/4 to 2/4 in measure 341.

343

Fl. *f* *mf* *ff* *p*

Ob. *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *p*

B♭ Cl. *f* *p* *mf* *ff* *p*

Hn. *f* *pp* *f* *ff* *p*

Bsn. *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *p*

351

Fl. *ppp*

Ob. *ppp*

B♭ Cl. *ppp* *pp* *pp*

Hn. *p* *ppp* *pp*

Bsn. *ppp* *pp* *pp*