

2023

Chasing the Heart of Music

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Recommended Citation

Zuiderveen, Josiah (2023) "Chasing the Heart of Music," *The Laureate*: Vol. 21, Article 95.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.wmich.edu/laureate/vol21/iss1/95>

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JOSIAH ZUIDERVEEN

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Timing!
Tick, tick, tick
You are watched
Tempo! Tempo! Tempo!
Keep the tempo!
You are observed and studied.
The pacer! tick, tick, tick, keep the pacer!
Not too fast not too slow
The voices of instructors crowd your mind
Adjust the metronome,
Don't play during that quarter rest
Breath here, but never there
you are studied and judged
Here a tad fast there a little behind
Don't wipe the sweat from your brows and focus
Tick, tick, tick, tick
The note must fit
The lines must align with
Tick tick tick
You tell yourself "Forget the eyes,
You aren't really being watched"
Tick, tick, tick,
One-E-And-a-Click, Click
Just focus on the ticks and the beats
And how from the impersonal ticks emerges a melody
You have heard this melody many times as you have practiced
As you adhere to the tick tick tick
But now the melody is showing its true nature
A beautiful swelling of emotion that expands in glorious majesty
Tick tick tick
Tri-po-lit tri-po-lit quick
How beautiful, how alluring, as high notes sway
And rhythms combine
Telling thought and ideas
Things that mere words always labor to express
The joy and the sorrow and the pain that loves,
The happy dance and the frozen trance
All of it here and more.
Your understanding of the world brims.