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THE SUNLIGHT CYCLE

by

Michael Flynn

A thesis submitted to the Graduate College
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of Master of Music
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THE SUNLIGHT CYCLE

Michael Flynn

Western Michigan University, 2018

The Sunlight Cycle is a work in four movements which evokes certain time periods within a 24-hour day. In order of number, the movements are meant to represent dawn, daytime, twilight, and night, respectively. Each movement transitions seamlessly into the next, with Mvt. 4, "Nocturnal," transitioning back to the beginning of Mvt. 1, "Matutinal". This cyclical nature allows for a performance of the cycle to begin with any of the four movements. Theoretically, the work can repeat indefinitely.

Musically, the work develops in three main areas: harmony, rhythm, and timbre. Harmonically, the work is tonal, featuring extended and altered triadic sonorities. Each movement uses a small number of total sonorities, allowing other musical parameters to develop within a firmly established foundation of pitch. Rhythmically, Mvt. 2, "Diurnal," and Mvt. 3, "Crepuscular," utilize repetitive structures that gradually change over time as well as rapidly changing meters, which combine to create a dynamically shifting sense of groove. Mvt. 1, "Matutinal," and Mvt. 4, "Nocturnal," feature drawn-out, lethargic phrases punctuated by sudden, short, and energetic rhythmic gestures. Timbrally, the work develops on both the ensemble and individual levels. This complex sonic palate is created through dynamic, quickly changing orchestration and the use of extended instrumental techniques.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mvt. 1: Matutinal

Score.....1

Mvt. 2: Diurnal

Score.....9

Mvt. 3: Crepuscular

Score.....36

Mvt. 4: Nocturnal

Score.....48

Mvt.1
Matutinal

Michael Flynn

Quiet, but Uneasy $\text{♩} = 110$

Flute

Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$

Violin

Violoncello

Vibraphone

Marimba

Piano

[illegible]

[illegible]

31

Fl. *mp* *p* *lip up* *mp* *mp < mf > p* *mf* *timbre trill* *p*

B. Cl. *To Cl.*

Vln. *arco sul pont* *3* *pizz.* *5* *mf* *arco* *p* *mf* *pizz.* *3* *mf* *dead* *7*

Vc. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *7*

Vib. *mf* *dry* *3* *mf* *7*

Mar. *3* *mf* *5*

Pno. *mf* *arco* *3* *7*

This musical score is for measures 49 through 52 of the piece 'The Swan' from 'The Nutcracker'. The score is written for a full orchestra and includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Violoncello (Vib.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins with a measure rest in measure 49. In measure 50, the Flute and Clarinet play a melody starting on G4, marked *p*. The Violin and Viola play a melody starting on G4, marked *mf*. The Violoncello and Piano play a melody starting on G4, marked *p*. In measure 51, the Flute and Clarinet play a melody starting on A4, marked *p*. The Violin and Viola play a melody starting on A4, marked *mf*. The Violoncello and Piano play a melody starting on A4, marked *p*. In measure 52, the Flute and Clarinet play a melody starting on B4, marked *p*. The Violin and Viola play a melody starting on B4, marked *mf*. The Violoncello and Piano play a melody starting on B4, marked *p*. The score ends with a measure rest in measure 53.

C

58

Fl. *mp* *f* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln. *f* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mp* arco

Vib. *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp*

64

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Vib. *p*

Pno. *p*

attacca "Diurnal"

Mvt. 2

Diurnal

Sprightly ♩ = 120

Michael Flynn

This musical score is for the 'The Firebird' by Igor Stravinsky. It features a variety of instruments, including Flute, Clarinet in Bb, Violin, Violoncello, Temple Blocks, Glockenspiel, Vibraphone, and Piano. The score is written in 2/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *pp* (pianissimo), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *p* (piano). The music is characterized by its complex rhythms and melodic lines, particularly in the woodwinds and strings.

10

17
 Fl. *mf*
 Cl. *p*
 Vln. *arco*
 Vc. *mp*
 T. Bl. *mp*
 Glock. *mp*
 Vib. *pp*
 Pno. *p*
 20

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Trombone (T. Bl.), Glockenspiel (Glock.), Vibraphone (Vib.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score features various dynamics (mf, p, pp, mp) and articulations (pizz., arco). Measure 17 shows a melodic line in the Flute and Clarinet, with the Violin and Viola playing a sustained chord. Measure 18 introduces a triplet in the Violin and Viola. Measure 19 continues the triplet pattern. Measure 20 features a complex rhythmic pattern in the Piano, with the other instruments providing harmonic support.

24

Fl. *mp*

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *arco* *molto sul tasto* *p* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *mp* *mf*

T. Bl. *mf*

Glock. *mp*

Vib. *mp*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mp*

A Jet

37

Fl. *mf* *f*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Vln. *ord.* *f*

Vc. *pizz.* *arco* *f*

T. Bl. *mp*

Glock. *mf*

Vib. *f*

Pho. *f* *mp*

8va

8va

43 Jet

Fl. *mf*

Cl.

Vln. *pizz.* *mf* *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *mf* *p*

T. Bl. *mf*

Glock. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *8va* *8va* *3*

47 Jet

Fl. *mf* *mp*

Cl. *mf* *mp*

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

T. Bl. *mp*

Glock. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

arco
sul pont

(8)

3

52

Fl. *pizz.* T T T T...etc. *mf* Jet

Cl. *mp* *p* *mf*

Vln. *pizz.* *p* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mf* sul pont.

T. Bl. *p* *mf*

Glock. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mf* *8va* *3*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is written for a chamber ensemble. Measure 52 begins with a flute solo marked 'pizz.' and 'T T T T...etc.', with a 'Jet' annotation above it. The clarinet plays a melodic line marked 'mp'. Measures 53-55 show a more complex texture. The violin and viola play pizzicato, while the tenor bassoon and glockenspiel have melodic lines. The piano part features octaves and triplets, with a dynamic shift from 'p' to 'mf'.

58

Fl. *p* *mp*

Vln. *p* *mp*

Vc. *p* *mp*

T. Bl. *p* *mp*

Glock. *p* *mp*

Pno. *p* *mp*

3

20

78

Fl. *p* *mp* *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *sul pont arco* *mp* *pizz.* *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Glock. *mp*

Vib. *mp*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mf*

84

Fl. *p* *mp* *mf*

Cl. *p*

Vln. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Glock. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

89 Jet

Fl. *f* sput. *f*

Cl. *mf* *mp* *p*

Vln. *f* arco. sul pont. *f*

Vc. *f* arco. sul pont. *mf* *mp* *p*

T. Bl. *f*

Glock. *f*

Pno. *f* freely *mp* *p*

8va 8va

3 3 3 3 3 3

200

94

Fl. *pp* *mf* 3

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *arco* *pp* *mp* 3 *mf*

Vc. *pp* *mf* 3 pizz. *mf*

T. Bl. *mf* 3

Glock. *mp*

Pno. *mp* 3

106

D

Fl. Cl. Vln. Vc. T. Bl. Glock. Vib. Pno.

mp *pizz.* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *ppp*

119

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *mf* *pp* *mf* *mf* *pizz.* *arco*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *mf*

T. Bl. *p* *mf*

Glock. *mf*

Vib. *mp* *mf* *dead stroke*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

129

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mp*

Vln. *arco mp* *pizz. mf*

Vc. *arco mp* *pizz. mf*

T. Bl. *mp*

Glock. *mf*

Vib. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 129 to 132. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Trombone (T. Bl.), Glockenspiel (Glock.), Vibraphone (Vib.), and Piano (Pno.). The score is written in 4/4 time. Measures 129 and 130 show the Flute and Clarinet playing a melodic line with a *mf* dynamic, while the Violin and Viola play a rhythmic accompaniment with a *mp* dynamic. In measure 131, the Violin and Viola parts include a *pizz.* (pizzicato) section with a *mf* dynamic. The Trombone, Glockenspiel, and Vibraphone also have parts in this measure. In measure 132, the Piano part enters with a melodic line and a *mp* dynamic. The Flute and Clarinet continue their melodic line. The Violin and Viola continue their rhythmic accompaniment. The Trombone, Glockenspiel, and Vibraphone have parts in this measure as well.

E

140

Fl. *f*

Cl. *mp* *mf*

Vln. *f* *mp* *mf* *arco*

Vc. *f* *mf*

T. Bl. *mf*

Glock. *f* *mf*

Vib. *f*

Pno. *f* *mf*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 140, 141, and 142, marked with rehearsal symbol E. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The Flute part (Fl.) plays a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to A4, then down to G4, F#4, E4, and D4. The Clarinet part (Cl.) plays a similar melodic line, starting on E4 and moving up to F#4, then down to E4, D4, C#4, and B3. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting on G3 and moving up to A3, then down to G3, F#3, E3, and D3. The Trombone (T. Bl.) part plays a melodic line starting on G3, moving up to A3, then down to G3, F#3, E3, and D3. The Glockenspiel (Glock.) part plays a melodic line starting on G3, moving up to A3, then down to G3, F#3, E3, and D3. The Vibraphone (Vib.) part plays a melodic line starting on G3, moving up to A3, then down to G3, F#3, E3, and D3. The Piano (Pno.) part features a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand, starting on G4 and moving up to A4, then down to G4, F#4, E4, and D4. The left hand plays a steady bass line, starting on G3 and moving up to A3, then down to G3, F#3, E3, and D3.

149

Fl. *mf* *f*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Vln. *pizz.* *arco* *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f*

T. Bl. *mf*

Glock. *mf*

Vib. *f*

Pno. *mf*

157

Fl. Cl. Vln. Vc. Glock. Vib. Pno.

f *ff* *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *p*

F

170 $\frac{2}{4}$

Fl. *sweetly* *p* *sweetly* *p*

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Glock. *p* *mp*

sweetly *p* *f* *p* *mp*

Pno.

Red.

G

182

Fl. Cl. Vln. Vc. Glock. Vib. Pno.

4 mallets *pp* *mp* *p*

half-air,
half-pitch

193

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

Cl. *mp* *pp*

Vln. *pizz.* *p* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *p* *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vib. *mp* *p*

Pno. *p*

sul tasto arco

arco sul pont.

half-air, half-pitch

201 → fully pitched

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Pno.

ord.

attacca "Crepuscular"

Mvt. 3

06 = 90

06 = 90

A

This musical score is for measures 12 through 15 of the piece 'The Little Mermaid' by John De Meij. The score is written for a full orchestra and includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Glockenspiel (Glock.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and the time signature is 3/4. The score begins with a measure rest in measure 12. In measure 13, the Flute and Bass Clarinet play a triplet of eighth notes. The Violin and Viola play a half note. The Glockenspiel plays a half note. The Piano plays a half note. In measure 14, the Flute and Bass Clarinet play a half note. The Violin and Viola play a half note. The Glockenspiel plays a half note. The Piano plays a half note. In measure 15, the Flute and Bass Clarinet play a half note. The Violin and Viola play a half note. The Glockenspiel plays a half note. The Piano plays a half note. The score ends with a measure rest in measure 16.

[illegible]

26

Fl. *f* *pp* *ord.* *sul pont.*

Vln. *f* *p* *ord.* *sul pont.*

Vc. *f* *p*

Glock. *mp*

Vib. *f*

Pno. *f* *mp* *3* *8va*

B Exuberant ♩ = 116

30

Fl.

B. Cl.

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Vln.

Vc.

T. Bl.

Glock.

Pno.

ord.

arco

pizz.

mf

mp

p

3

rit. -

♪ = 92

Led.—

Calm and Methodical ♪ = 68

45

63

Bass Clarinet
in B $\flat$

Cl.

Vc.

T. Bl.

Glock.

Pno.

marimba mallets

pp

mp

pp

mf

pp

p

mf

f

mf

una corda

sempre *da*

rit. ♩ = 60

accel. ♩ = 82

72

Fl. *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

ord. → sul tasto

→ sul pont.

Vln. *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

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

T. Bl. *mp* *p*

Pno. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

tre corde

attacca "Nocturnal"

Mvt. 4 Nocturnal

Calm, but Busy $\text{♩} = 82$

Michael Flynn

The musical score is for a piece titled "Nocturnal" by Michael Flynn, marked "Calm, but Busy" with a tempo of 82 beats per minute. The score is written for a large ensemble of instruments. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute:** Plays a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes and a final half note. Dynamics include *mp* and *pp*.
- Bass Clarinet in B_♭:** Plays a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes and a final half note. Dynamics include *mp* and *pp*.
- Violin:** Plays a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes and a final half note. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.
- Violoncello:** Plays a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes and a final half note. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.
- Temple Blocks:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.
- Marimba:** Plays a melodic line starting with a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes and a final half note. Dynamics include *mp* and *p*.
- Piano:** Plays a complex melodic line starting with a half note, followed by a series of eighth notes and a final half note. Dynamics include *mf*, *mp*, and *p*.

The score is written in 4/4 time and features a variety of musical notations, including notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The overall mood is "Calm, but Busy".

10

Fl. *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *mf* *pp*

Vln. *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p*

Mar. *mp* 3 5 6

Pno. *p* *mp*

16

Fl. *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

Vln. *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *p*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *mp*

Mar. *mf* *p*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *p*

29

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Mar.

Pno.

31 **B**

Fl. *mf*

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Cl. *mp* *p*

Vln. *mf* *ord.* *mf* *fp*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *arco sul pont.* *ord.* *mf* *fp*

Mar. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

dampen string $\rightarrow$ half-pitch $\rightarrow$ full-pitch $\rightarrow$ half-pitch $\rightarrow$ dampen string

32

54

C

A bit quicker $\text{♩} = 100$

43 → half-air, half-pitch

fully pitched →

Fl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *mp*

Cl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

Vln. → sul tasto *mf* *mp*

Vc. → sul tasto *mf* *mp*

Mar. *f* *mp* *mf* *dead*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *pizz.*

51

Fl. Cl. Vln. Vc. Mar. Pno.

full pitch → half-pitch →

pp p

bounced p pizz. mp

mp

dampen string no pitch

mp p

sostenuto down release sos.

pizz.

56

58

Cl. *mf* *pp*

Vln. *mf* *pp*

Vc. *mf* arco bounced *p* c.l.b. *p*

T. Bl. *mp* *p*

Mar. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

57

66

Cl.

mp

Vln.

c.l.b.

pp

Vc.

pp

T. Bl.

mp

pp

mf

pp

Pno.

p

mp

no pitch

80

Fl. TR TR

air flz. → fully-pitched ord.

mp

Cl. ♩ ♩

mf

Vln. pizz.

mf

Vc. pizz.

mf

Mar. 3

mf

Pno. → full pitch

mf

61

107 TR

Fl. *mp*

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *pp* *molto sul pont*

Vc. *pp* *molto sul pont*

T. Bl. *p*

Mar. *p*

Pno. *p* *una corda*

W

117 → air

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

To B. Cl.

Vln. *pp* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Viola *pp* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *mp*

T. Bl. *p*

Mar. *pp*

118

119

120

121

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160

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162

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164

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166

167

168

169

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171

172

173

174

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177

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181

182

183

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185

186

187

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540

5

135

flz. air sound no pitch → half-pitch → ord. → TR

Fl. *ppp* *pp* *mf*

B. Cl. *ppp* *mp* *p* no pitch *q* very little pitch *q*

Vln. *ppp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *jeté* *c.l.b.* *mf*

Vc. *ppp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *jeté* *c.l.b.* *mf*

T. Bl. *mp* *mf* *5*

Pno. no pitch *mp* no pitch *3* *mp* no pitch *3* *mf* *p*

142

Fl. *half-pitch* *TR* *mp* *p* *flz.* *mf* *pp*

B. Cl. *mf* *pp*

Vln. *molto sul tasto* *airy tone* *pp* *molto sul pont.* *mf* *pp* *pp < p* *p* *molto sul pont.* *p* *mp*

Vc. *increase finger pressure* *ord.* *molto sul pont.* *p*

T. Bl. *p* *mf* *pp*

Pno. *reduce pressure* *half-pitch* *pitch* *3* *3* *no pitch* *5* *6* *p* *mf*

[illegible]

accel. . . . ♩ = 110

162

Fl. TR 3 TR TR TR

mp

B. Cl. ♩ 3 ♩ mp

Vc. f mp p

Mar. mp dead

Pno. f mp p

attacca "Matutinal"