

Joseph Klein

**Against the gusts of blank repose,
a threshold that persists**

(2016/19)

for wind ensemble

To the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein (1991-2015)

duration: c. 10'

Instrumentation

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • piccolo • 2 flutes • 2 oboes • English horn • E\flat clarinet • 2 B\flat clarinets • B\flat bass clarinet • E\flat contra-alto clarinet* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 bassoons • contrabassoon • B\flat soprano saxophone • E\flat alto saxophone • B\flat tenor saxophone • E\flat baritone saxophone | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A piccolo trumpet • 2 C trumpets • 4 F horns • 2 tenor trombones • bass trombone • euphonium • tuba | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • contrabass • piano • harp • timpani • 5 percussion |
|---|---|---|--|

* Note: a B \flat contrabass clarinet part is also available, in lieu of the E \flat contra-alto clarinet.

Timpani: 4 drums (32", 30", 28", 25"), 2 cymbals (inverted and placed on timpani II & III). Striking implements: medium felt sticks, wood stick.

Percussion battery:

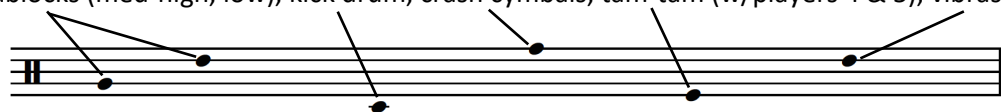
- Player 1: snare drum, bongo drums, 4 tom-toms, 2 woodblocks (high, med-low), triangle (w/player 4),



water gong (w/player 5), vibraslap (w/players 2 & 5).

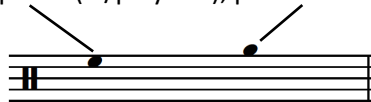
Striking implements: hard rubber mallets, medium yarn mallet, snare drum sticks, metal (triangle) beaters.

- Player 2: 2 woodblocks (med-high, low), kick drum, crash cymbals, tam-tam (w/players 4 & 5), vibraslap (w/players 1 & 5).



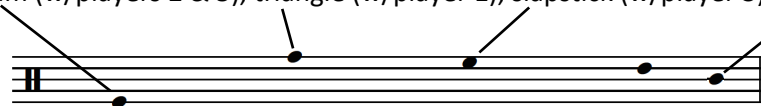
Striking implements: hard rubber mallets, tam-tam beater.

- Player 3: xylophone, glockenspiel, chimes, slapstick (w/player 4), police whistle (worn around neck).



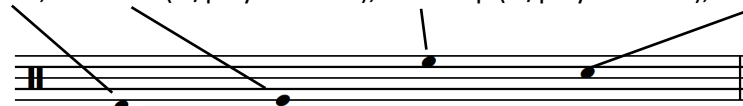
Striking implements: medium rubber mallets, hard rubber mallets, hard plastic mallets, chime hammers.

- Player 4: vibraphone, tam-tam (w/players 2 & 5), triangle (w/player 1), slapstick (w/player 3), ratchet.

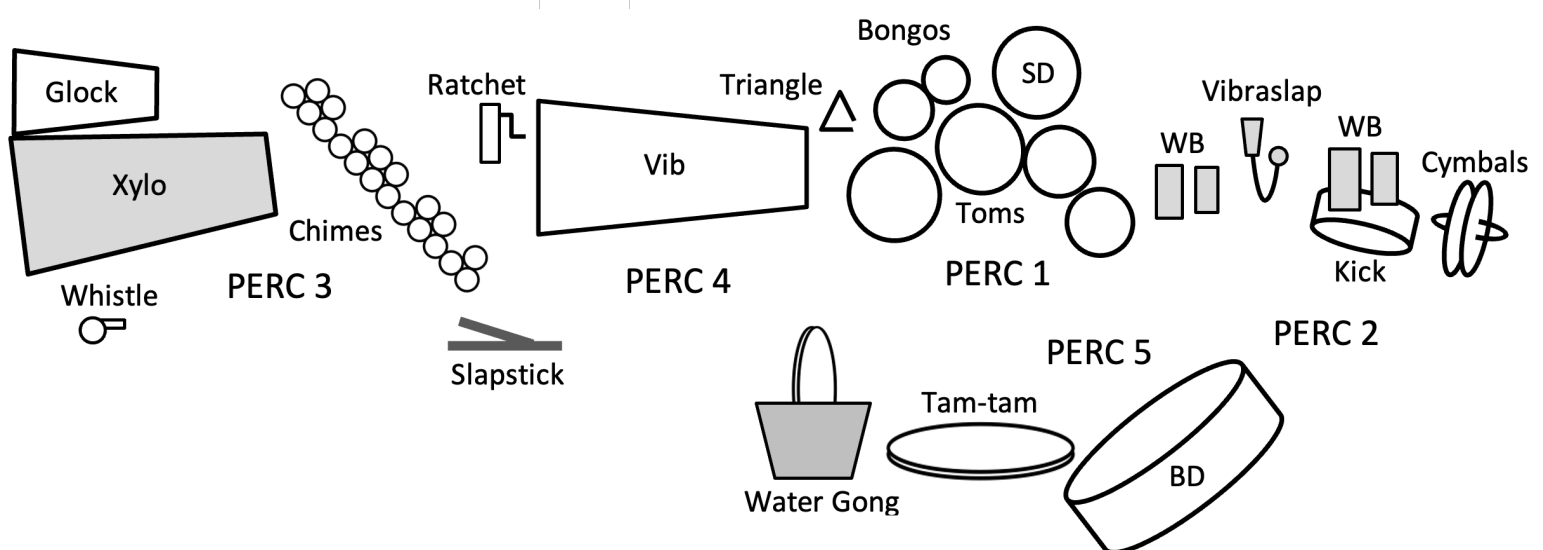


Striking implements: hard rubber mallets, hard yarn mallets, medium yarn mallets, bass bow, metal (triangle) beaters, tam-tam beater.

- Player 5: bass drum, tam-tam (w/players 2 & 4), vibraslap (w/players 1 & 2), water gong (w/player 1).





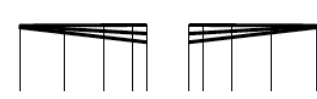





Striking implements: bass drum beater, tam-tam beater, medium yarn mallet.















Performance Information

- This is a transposed score.
- Accidentals apply only to pitches they immediately precede, with the exception of repeated pitches.
- All horns require mutes. All trumpets require straight mutes; additionally, trumpets 2-3 require cup mutes. All trombones require straight mutes; additionally, tenor trombone 2 requires cup mute.
- The chimes and vibraphone require the pedal to be depressed at all times. It is recommended that a weight be used to depress the pedals on these instruments throughout.
- Harp harmonics sound an octave higher than written.

Performance Information (cont.)

-  durational continuum within *senza misura* section: values arranged from shortest to longest (precise durations *ad libitum*).
-  fermata continuum: arranged from shortest to longest.
-  accelerando/ritardando; duration indicated in metered sections.
- (a)   (b)  repeating mobiles: (a) ordered material; (b) unordered material.
- (a)  (b)  repeat material for the duration of the wavy line: (a) as written; (b) freely, *ad libitum*.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
|  | <i>senza misura</i> ; top number indicates the number of cues within the measure |  | pitch bend/glissando |
|  | cue (within <i>senza misura</i> sections) |  | rapid downward glissando (harp) |
|  | brief pause/break in sound |  | slow upward glissando (harp, piano) |
|  | fluttersongue/tremolo/roll/bisbigliando |  | silently depress all keys within range (piano) |
|  | let ring/blend into next section |  | dead stroke (percussion) |
|  | sneak entrance/blend with previous section |  | snap pizzicato (contrabass) |

Program Note

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists is dedicated to the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein, who took his life in September 2015 at the age of 23. The work's title is derived from two lines in Alice Fulton's poem "Silencer," from the collection *Powers of Congress* (1990)—a poem that itself deals with the subject of suicide—and is an allusion to the persistent struggle with that boundary between life and death ("blank repose").

The work is characterized by sharp juxtapositions of contrasting—often conflicting—musical elements, including sections of restless energy, obsessive ostinato figures, and intrusive interjections, occasionally relieved by stretches of placid, suspended music. The disjunct, fragmentary structure that results, combined with the inherently static, non-developmental nature of the material itself, is intended to subvert the typical linear narrative. An important unifying element of the work is the pitch cell G-A-B \flat -E, which is the basis of a repeating interval sequence used to generate the symmetrical, non-octave-repeating scale that is used pervasively throughout the work. This scale is most clearly presented in the ascending quasi-ostinato bass line that first occurs after the slow introductory section. Prime numbers and rhythmic patterns based on Morse Code are also used as unifying structural elements.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists was completed in September 2016 and first performed on 9 April 2026 at the University of North Texas by the UNT Wind Orchestra, conducted by Andrew Trachsel.

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

to the memory of my son, Gabriel Paul Klein (1991-2015)

for wind ensemble

Joseph Klein

2016/19

Transposed score

Anxious ♩ = 48; ♩ = 72

c. 25"

The score is for a wind ensemble and percussion. It features 22 staves for woodwinds and brass, 2 staves for piano and harp, and 5 staves for percussion. The woodwinds include Piccolo, Flute 1,2, Oboe 1,2, English Horn, Clarinet in Eb, Clarinet in Bb 1, Clarinet in Bb 2,3, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Contra-Alto Clarinet in Eb, Bassoon 1,2, Contrabassoon, Soprano Saxophone, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The brass includes Piccolo Trumpet in A, Trumpet in C 2,3, Horn in F 1,3, Horn in F 2,4, Trombone 1,2, Bass Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The piano and harp parts are marked with *mp*. The percussion part includes Woodblocks w/hard rubber, Police Whistle, Slapstick, Ratchet, and Vibraslap. The score is marked with dynamics such as *ff*, *p*, *mp*, *mf*, and *sfz*. There are also performance instructions like "1. mute" and "1. place cymbals on Timp II & III". The score is divided into two measures, with a large "6 X" marking the beginning of the second measure. The tempo is marked as *mf* and the time signature is 7/8.

1

2

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

5" 3"

PC

FL 1,2

OB 1,2

EH

Eb CL

CL 1

CL 2,3

BS CL

CA CL

BN 1,2

CBN

S SX

A SX

T SX

B SX

PC TP

TP 2,3

HN 1,3

HN 2,4

TN 1,2

B TN

EUPH

TB

CB

PF

HP

TIMP

PRC 1

PRC 2

PRC 3

PRC 4

PRC 5

sim., ad libitum

sim., ad libitum

(play independently)

mp

p erratic

p erratic

(play independently)

3X

3X

3X

3X

1

gliss.

mf

n

gliss.

mf

n

arco div. (a 2)

gliss.

mf

n

mf

n

f (non troppo)

7 8 9 10

This musical score is for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes parts for PC, FL 1,2, OB 1,2, EH, Eb CL, CL 1, CL 2,3, BS CL, CA CL, BN 1,2, CBN, SX (S, A, T, B), PC TP, TP 2,3, HN 1,3, HN 2,4, TN 1,2, B TN, EUPH, TB, CB, PF, HP, TIMP, and PRC 1-5. The second system includes parts for PRC 1-5. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including 4/4, 3/4, and 8/8 time signatures, and dynamic markings such as *f* (non troppo), *mf*, *mp*, and *sfz*. The percussion parts include LO BONGO and TOMS. The score is marked with measure numbers 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29.

This page of a musical score covers measures 37 through 44. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with multiple staves for woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion. The percussion section includes timpani, bongo, and snare drums. The woodwind section includes flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, saxophones, and trumpets. The brass section includes trombones, tubas, and euphoniums. The string section includes violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including 4/8, 3/8, and 5/8 time signatures. Dynamic markings such as *f* (non troppo), *mp*, and *mp* (sim.) are used throughout. Performance instructions like *poco* and *mp* (sim.) are also present. The score is divided into measures 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, and 44, with measure numbers indicated in boxes at the bottom of each measure.

37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44

This musical score page contains measures 51 through 56. The instrumentation includes:

- PC (Percussion)
- FL 1,2 (Flutes)
- OB 1,2 (Oboes)
- EH (English Horn)
- Eb CL (E-flat Clarinet)
- CL 1 (Clarinet 1)
- CL 2,3 (Clarinet 2 & 3)
- BS CL (Bass Clarinet)
- CA CL (Cello)
- BN 1,2 (Bassoon)
- CBN (Cello/Bassoon)
- S SX (Soprano Saxophone)
- A SX (Alto Saxophone)
- T SX (Tenor Saxophone)
- B SX (Bass Saxophone)
- PC TP (Percussion/Timpani)
- TP 2,3 (Tom-toms)
- HN 1,3 (Horn 1, 3)
- HN 2,4 (Horn 2, 4)
- TN 1,2 (Trumpet 1, 2)
- B TN (Bass Trumpet)
- EUPH (Euphonium)
- TB (Tuba)
- CB (Cello/Bassoon)
- PF (Piano)
- HP (Harp)
- TIMP (Tympani)
- PRC 1 (Percussion 1: TOMS, KICK DRUM)
- PRC 2 (Percussion 2)
- PRC 3 (Percussion 3)
- PRC 4 (Percussion 4)
- PRC 5 (Percussion 5)

The score features complex rhythmic patterns with frequent time signature changes (5/8, 3/8, 4/8, 5/4) and dynamic markings such as *sfz*, *mp*, and *f*. The percussion section includes detailed notation for various instruments like toms, snare, and bongos. The woodwinds and strings play melodic and harmonic lines, often with articulation marks like accents and slurs. The harp part includes specific chordal instructions like *D1 C1*.

51

52

53

54

55

56

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
CL 1
CL 2,3
BS CL
CA CL
BN 1,2
CBN
S SX
A SX
T SX
B SX
PC TP
TP 2,3
HN 1,3
HN 2,4
TN 1,2
B TN
EUPH
TB
CB
PF
HP
TIMP
PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PRC 4
PRC 5

63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

F Suspended $\text{♩} = 40$

80

81

82

83

84

This page contains a musical score for measures 101 through 106. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion. The instruments listed on the left include PC (Percussion), FL 1,2 (Flutes), OB 1,2 (Oboes), EH (English Horn), Eb CL (E-flat Clarinet), CL 1 (Clarinet), CL 2,3 (Clarinet), BS CL (Bass Clarinet), CA CL (Cello), BN 1,2 (Bassoon), CBN (Contrabassoon), S SX (Soprano Saxophone), A SX (Alto Saxophone), T SX (Tenor Saxophone), B SX (Baritone Saxophone), PC TP (Percussion Tom Tom), TP 2,3 (Tom Tom), HN 1,3 (Horn), HN 2,4 (Horn), TN 1,2 (Tuba), B TN (Baritone Tuba), EUPH (Euphonium), TB (Trombone), CB (Cymbal), PF (Piano), HP (Harp), TIMP (Timpani), PRC 1-5 (Percussion). The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and various time signatures (4/4, 3/4, 4/4). Dynamic markings such as *ff*, *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *p* are used throughout. Performance instructions include *gliss.*, *arco, div. (a 2)*, *pizz.*, *(VIB w/bow)*, *(brITTLE)*, and *(l.v.)*. A *WATER GONG w/med. yarn* is introduced in measure 104. The page is numbered 101 through 106 at the bottom.

101

102

103

104

105

106

Against the gusts of blank repose, a threshold that persists

← ♩ = ♩ → (♩ = 72)

← ♩ = ♩ → (♩ = 108)

This page contains the musical score for measures 107 through 112. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with the following parts from top to bottom:

- PC (Percussion I)
- FL 1,2 (Flutes)
- OB 1,2 (Oboes)
- EH (English Horn)
- Eb CL (E-flat Clarinet)
- CL 1 (Clarinet 1)
- CL 2,3 (Clarinet 2 & 3)
- BS CL (Bass Clarinet)
- CA CL (Cello)
- BN 1,2 (Bassoon 1 & 2)
- CBN (Contrabassoon)
- S SX (Soprano Saxophone)
- A SX (Alto Saxophone)
- T SX (Tenor Saxophone)
- B SX (Baritone Saxophone)
- PC TP (Percussion II)
- TP 2,3 (Tom Tom 2 & 3)
- HN 1,3 (Horn 1, 3)
- HN 2,4 (Horn 2, 4)
- TN 1,2 (Trombone 1 & 2)
- B TN (Baritone Trombone)
- EUPH (Euphonium)
- TB (Tuba)
- CB (Cymbal)
- PF (Piano/Forte)
- HP (Harp)
- TIMP (Timpani)
- PRC 1 (Percussion 3)
- PRC 2 (Percussion 4)
- PRC 3 (Percussion 5)
- PRC 4 (Percussion 6)
- PRC 5 (Percussion 7)

Key features of the score include:

- Tempo markings: $\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$ (♩ = 72) and $\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$ (♩ = 108).
- Time signatures: 4/4, 12/8, and 3/4.
- Dynamic markings: *mf*, *ff*, *f*, *mp*, *p*, *f* (non troppo), *f* (brittle), *p*, *molto*.
- Performance instructions: *pizz. (non div.)*, *f* (non troppo), *f* (brittle), *INSIDE w/fingertips*, *Sost.*, *TAM TAM*, *BASS DRUM*, *molto*.
- Rehearsal marks: 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112.

Tempestuous ♩ = 120

[H] Suspended ♩ = 40

The musical score is divided into measures 113 through 118. The tempo is marked 'Tempestuous' at 120 beats per minute, which then changes to 'Suspended' at 40 beats per minute. The score includes various woodwind instruments (Piccolo, Flute, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinets, Bass Clarinet, Saxophones), strings (Violins, Violas, Cellos, Double Basses), percussion (Timpani, Snare, Cymbals, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Ratchet, Bass Drum, Vibraslap), and Harp. Dynamic markings range from *mf* to *sfz* and *p*. The percussion parts are highly detailed, with specific instructions for playing techniques like 'arco' and 'poco'.

113

114

115

116

117

118

This page contains a musical score for measures 119 through 123. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with multiple staves for woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion. The percussion section includes a variety of instruments such as timpani, snare drum, cymbals, and gongs. The woodwind section includes flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, and saxophones. The brass section includes trumpets, trombones, and tubas. The string section includes violins, violas, cellos, and double basses. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including 4/2, 3/2, and 5/2 time signatures. Dynamics range from *p* (piano) to *ff* (fortissimo). Performance instructions include "2. st. mute", "1. mute", "2. (open)", "gliss.", "mf", "n", "straight mutes", "ff intrusive", "div. (a 2)", "WATER GONG w/med. yarn", and "GLOCKENSPIEL w/hard rubber".

119

120

121

122

123

3" Tempestuous ♩ = 120 5" Tempestuous ♩ = 120

PC
FL 1,2
OB 1,2
EH
Eb CL
CL 1
CL 2,3
BS CL
CA CL
BN 1,2
CBN
S SX
A SX
T SX
B SX
PC TP
TP 2,3
HN 1,3
HN 2,4
TN 1,2
B TN
EUPH
TB
CB
PF
HP
TIMP
PRC 1
PRC 2
PRC 3
PRC 4
PRC 5

141 142 143 144 145 146

This page contains the musical score for measures 152 through 155. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument family. The instruments listed on the left are: PC (Percussion), FL 1,2 (Flutes), OB 1,2 (Oboes), EH (English Horn), Eb CL (E-flat Clarinets), CL 1 (Clarinets), CL 2,3 (Clarinets), BS CL (Bassoons), CA CL (Corns), BN 1,2 (Bassoons), CBN (Contrabassoon), S SX (Saxophones), A SX (Alto Saxophones), T SX (Tenor Saxophones), B SX (Baritone Saxophones), PC TP (Percussion/Tam-tam), TP 2,3 (Tom-toms), HN 1,3 (Horns), HN 2,4 (Horns), TN 1,2 (Trumpets), B TN (Baritone Trumpet), EUPH (Euphonium), TB (Tuba), CB (Cymbals), PF (Piano/Forte), HP (Harp), TIMP (Timpani), PRC 1-5 (Percussion/Drum set). The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (ff, f, mf, mp, fff, p), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions like 'st. mute' and '(brittle)'. Measure numbers 152, 153, 154, and 155 are indicated at the bottom of the page. A large '3X' is written vertically on the right side of the score, spanning measures 152, 153, and 154.

152

153

154

155

