

If Only I

for Woodwind Quintet

JESSICA MEYER

If Only I

for Woodwind Quintet

6'

On January 19th of 2018, my father passed away after a long battle with various ailments. We knew it was coming eventually, but we did not expect for it to happen so soon. I was in the Bronx about to attend a concert of students who wrote their own music as part of a residency I was teaching, and something told me to check my phone. There was an urgent voicemail from my mom, and when I reached her she said that I should get my family ready to come see Papa for the last time, for he would not last more than a day or two.

As I helped set up the chairs for the stage, I knew that this was it - yet I was still deciding whether or not to stay for the concert. Something told me to call again, and she said to "come now". I drove all the way out to Long Island, but did not make it in time to say all the things I wanted to say - he died while I was stuck in traffic.

The weeks previous were busy and I was sick with the flu, yet I wonder about all the times I could have called...if only I had made the time.

As a child, I would spend many hours at the piano improvising pieces in order to process how I feel - usually only using the white keys (which is why there are no flats or sharps in this piece).

Many thanks to the Mill Ave Chamber Players for commissioning me to write a piece for them, and to Rose French for asking me to write something beautiful.

SCORE in C

If only I

Commissioned by the Mill Ave Chamber Players

JESSICA MEYER

♩ = 55 **Forlorn**

Flute

Oboe *take your time*

Clarinet in B \flat

Horn in F

Bassoon

p *mf*

A

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

a tempo

mp *p* *pp* *pp* *pp*

pointed accents

B

16

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

mp

mf

mf

pp

pp

mf

mp

mf

pp

mf

pp

molto rit... a tempo

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 16 through 22, labeled as section B. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part starts at measure 16 with a dynamic of *mf* and includes a box labeled 'pointed accents' above measures 17-18. The Oboe part begins at measure 17 with a dynamic of *mp*. The Clarinet part has a dynamic of *mf* and includes a triplet in measure 21. The Horn part has a dynamic of *mf*. The Bassoon part has a dynamic of *mf* and includes a triplet in measure 21. Section B ends at measure 22 with a dynamic of *pp*. Performance instructions include 'molto rit... a tempo' between measures 21 and 22.

C

23

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

p

p

mf

mf

mf

p

mf

p

mf

play this triplet slightly faster than written

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 23 through 29, labeled as section C. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part starts at measure 23 with a dynamic of *p*. The Oboe part starts at measure 23 with a dynamic of *p*. The Clarinet part has a dynamic of *mf* and includes triplets in measures 23, 24, and 25. The Horn part has a dynamic of *mf*. The Bassoon part has a dynamic of *p*. Section C ends at measure 29 with a dynamic of *mf*. A performance instruction box says 'play this triplet slightly faster than written' above the first triplet in the Clarinet part.

D pointed accents

29

Fl. *f* *a tempo* *p*

Ob. *f* *p*

Cl. *f*

Hn. *f*

Bsn. *f* *take your time* *rit...* *mp*

35

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

Cl. *p* *pp*

Hn. *mp*

Bsn. *p* *pp*

sustained and floaty until m. 53, slur and breathe where you need

E

Musical score for measures 40-44. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part starts at measure 40 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Oboe part starts at measure 41. The Clarinet part starts at measure 40 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Horn part starts at measure 40 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Bassoon part starts at measure 40 with a dynamic marking of *p*. There are trills in the Flute and Clarinet parts. The Horn part has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 42. The Bassoon part has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 44.

F

Musical score for measures 45-49. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part starts at measure 45 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Oboe part starts at measure 45 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Clarinet part starts at measure 45 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Horn part starts at measure 45 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Bassoon part starts at measure 45 with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Flute part has a dynamic marking of *mf* at the start of measure 49. The Oboe part has a dynamic marking of *mf* at the start of measure 49. The Clarinet part has a dynamic marking of *mf* at the start of measure 49. The Horn part has a dynamic marking of *mf* at the start of measure 49. The Bassoon part has a dynamic marking of *mf* at the start of measure 49. There is a dynamic marking of *f* in the Bassoon part at the end of measure 49.

G choral-like, no melody
start moving forward...getting more urgent

50

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

f

getting slower.....

55

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Hn.
Bsn.

ff

♩ = 45

H ♩ = 55

sustained and floaty until the end, slur and breathe where you need

62

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p* *sfz* *p*

Hn. *p* *p*

Bsn. *p* *p*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 62 through 67. The Flute (Fl.) part begins with a half note *p* in measure 62, followed by a whole rest in measure 63, and then a sixteenth-note triplet in measure 64. The Oboe (Ob.) part has a half note *p* in measure 62, a whole rest in measure 63, and then a sixteenth-note triplet in measure 64. The Clarinet (Cl.) part has a half note *p* in measure 62, a whole rest in measure 63, and then a sixteenth-note triplet in measure 64. The Horn (Hn.) part has a half note *p* in measure 62, a whole rest in measure 63, and then a half note *p* in measure 64. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part has a half note *p* in measure 62, a whole rest in measure 63, and then a half note *p* in measure 64. A dynamic marking of *sfz* is placed above the Clarinet staff in measure 65, with a hairpin leading to *p* in measure 66.

68

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 68 through 73. The Flute (Fl.) part has a continuous sixteenth-note triplet throughout. The Oboe (Ob.) part has a continuous sixteenth-note triplet throughout. The Clarinet (Cl.) part has a continuous sixteenth-note triplet throughout. The Horn (Hn.) part has a half note in measure 68, a whole rest in measure 69, and then a half note in measure 70. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part has a half note in measure 68, a whole rest in measure 69, and then a half note in measure 70.

71

I

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

This musical system covers measures 71, 72, and 73. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part has a melodic line with eighth-note patterns. The Oboe and Clarinet parts have similar melodic lines with some rests. The Horn and Bassoon parts are mostly silent, with a few notes in measure 72. A first ending bracket labeled 'I' spans measures 72 and 73.

74

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn.

Bsn.

This musical system covers measures 74, 75, and 76. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The Flute part continues with its melodic line. The Oboe and Clarinet parts have similar melodic lines. The Horn and Bassoon parts are mostly silent, with a few notes in measure 75.

