

A Nation Unfinished

for trumpet in B-flat, violoncello, and piano

Transposed Score

JESSICA MEYER

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6'

PROGRAM NOTES

In January 2021, our nation witnessed an attack on our capitol and the inauguration of a new President of the United States.

The days in between were fraught with horror, shock, sadness, and uncertainty - and this work is meant to express those moments.

Amanda Gorman's poem "The Hill We Climb" was a highlight of the inauguration, and the title of my piece was inspired by the following passage:

*Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken
but simply unfinished*

This work was cathartic to write in order to process all that was going on, and I thank the Silver Spruce Trio for the opportunity.

A Nation Unfinished

Commissioned by the Silver Spruce Trio

JESSICA MEYER

- ∞ = improvise a meandering gesture with this pitch or pitches, slow
- ∞ = improvise a gesture with this pitch or pitches, start slow, get faster, then slower
- ∞ = improvise your own extremely fast gesture with these pitches

♩ = 50 **Ominous**

Trumpet in Bb

Violoncello

Piano

Need pick for m. 38-39

p *Ped.*

ff *Ped.*

n *ff* *zing!*

6 *ad libitum*..... *a tempo*

Tpt.

Vc.

Pno.

p *gliss.* *mp* *ord.* *mp*

mp

11

Tpt. *p*

Vc. *n < ff*
zing!
f *passionately* 3

Pno. *ff* *Ped.* *ff* *Ped.*

♩ = 65 **Foreboding**

16

Tpt. *mp* *ff*

Vc. *fp* *fp* *fp* *pp*

Pno. *mp* *Ped.* *pp*

meandering: repeat and change patterns and rhythms

walk over to piano and angrily play these gestures into the piano

20

Tpt. *ff* *f*

Vc. *ff* *f*

Pno. *Ped.*

start speeding up the gestures.....

start speeding up the gestures.....

keep pedal down until mid. m. 25

22

Tpt. *ff* *fff*

Vc. start using separate bows and add random accents.....get even faster.....
ff *p* *fff* *p* *fff*
 n.v. → molto vib. n.v. → molto vib.

Pno. *ff*

start to use double-stops.....add random accents.....get even faster.....

♩ = 45

26 walk back to normal position

Tpt.

Vc. *p* *gliss.*

Pno. *pp*

uneven, ad libitum rhythms (until . 30)

29 *a tempo* con sord

Tpt.

Vc. *n* *mf* *mp*
 6 3
 bow down fingers tapping the top of cello knocking

Pno. *p*

triumph

34

Tpt. p mf

Vc. p f p

Pno.

tapping while alternating fingers...accents with thumb if comfortable

36

Tpt. p mf f mp f

Vc. f p fp fp fp

Pno. ff $gliss.$

tr

fl.z.

get pick...lean over strings...foot near pedal

38

Tpt. mp f

Vc. ff fp fp

Pno. ff $gliss.$

knocking

tapping while alternating fingers...accents with thumb if comfortable

on lowest string possible, slowly scrape pick on string towards you

scrape upper register strings

gliss.

40

Tpt. *mp* *f* fl.z. senza sord

Vc. *fp* *fp fp fp* get bow

Pno. *f* return seated

42

Tpt. *f*

Vc. *f* 6 6 6 6

Pno. *ff*

43

Tpt. 6 6

Vc. 6 6 6 6

Pno.

44

Tpt. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

45

Tpt. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

con sord
rubber plunger

Come in when you can
repeat in any order
as fast as possible

ff

pp

repeat in any order
as fast as possible

pp (damper pedal for this bar)

47

Tpt. 

Vc. 

Pno. 

tutti: repeat this bar until you feel like you will explode

repeat as fast as possible and add random accents in response to cello

open plunger slowly

flz.

f

mf < ff

repeat in any order in random gestures, with space in between, some notes repeated in a row

sul pont

tr

ord.

gliss on A string to highest note

hit the lowest strings inside the piano with the palm of your hand

as you repeat, add random accents in response to cello

ff

mf

mf

mf

mf

51

Tpt.

Vc.

Pno.

mf

52

Tpt.

Vc.

Pno.

mf

53

Tpt.

Vc.

Pno.

f.z.

54

Tpt. *6* *3*

Vc. *6* *6* *6* *6*

Pno. *6* *6* *6* *6*

55 $\text{♩} = 112$

Tpt. *ff*

Vc. *ff* open A's

Pno. *ff*

57

Tpt. *fff* make up the highest "warning" riff you can - an evil, outraged, dissonant trumpet call above A5

Vc. *fff* slide up using a dissonant double stop *gliss.* *fff* *tr* *ff*

Pno. *fff* random clusters

♩ = 60 **Shock**

60 *molto accel...* *rit...*

Tpt.

Vc. *Passionate cadenza...* *molto vib.*

Pno.

64 *take all the time you need...* *a tempo*

Tpt. choose a mute that has a sterile and solemn sound *con sord*

Vc. *less and less vib.....* *mf* *mp* *pp*

Pno.

♩ = 45 **The Waiting**

72 choose a different mute that has a more expressive sound

Tpt. *mp*

Vc. *p*

Pno. *pp* *p* *mp*

79

Tpt.

Vc.

Pno.

rit.....

82

Tpt.

Vc.

Pno.

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