

We're Not Going To Heaven

-Threnody for Full Orchestra-

Matt A. Mason

2019

Letter to the Conductor

We're Not Going To Heaven is composed in two parts: a screeching and dissonant cacophony and a calm hymn. Likewise, two events in my life led to the creation of this work. In 2016, after the shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, I went to church the following Sunday. Before the service there is an open prayer and I publicly asked the pastor to say a prayer for the victims and their families. The pastor said "No, they weren't going to Heaven anyway." To me, the opening violins represent that shattering of my religious world. After that moment, I stopped going to church. Then in 2019, while walking I stopped to meet a street evangelist proselytizing on the street, but with a much different message. His was a peaceful message saying instead that unless we can pray for and save everyone, then no one is going to Heaven. I wrote this piece as a retelling of that spiritual journey for me. I don't think about this work in a religious way, but instead in the context of building a full and loving community, regardless of religious affiliation. To me, the pianist represents that individual who slowly builds his community around him and makes it of his own design.

Instrumentation

2 Flutes

Oboe

2 Clarinets in Bb

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

2 Horns in F

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Tuba

Percussion (2 players)

Bass Drum, Tam-tam, Triangle, Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbal, Snare Drum, Wind Chimes

Piano

Violin I (Covering Parts I-IV)

Violin II (Covering Parts V-VIII)

Violas

Cello

Contrabass

We're Not Going To Heaven

Score

Threnody

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♩ = 66

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe

Clarinet in B-1

Clarinet in B-2

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Horn in F 1

Horn in F 2

Trumpet in C

Trombone

Tuba

Percussion 1
B. Drum L.V.
ff

Percussion 2
Suspended Cymbal
ppp
soft mallets
no cresc. L.V.

Piano

Violin I
ff

Violin II
ff

Violin III
ff

Violin IV
ff

Violin V
ff

Violin VI
ff

Violin VII
ff

Violin VIII
ff

Viola I
solo
ppp
Choral
mp

Viola II
solo
ppp
Choral
mp

Cello
solo
ppp
Choral
mp

Contrabass
solo
ppp
Choral
mp

This musical score is for the piece "We're Not Going To Heaven" and is marked with a rehearsal cue "10" at the beginning of the first measure. The score is arranged for a full orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Flutes:** Fl. 1 and Fl. 2 (both in treble clef).
- Woodwinds:** Ob. (oboe, treble clef), B♭ Cl. 1 and B♭ Cl. 2 (both in treble clef), B. Cl. (baritone clarinet, treble clef), Bsn. (bassoon, bass clef).
- Horns:** Hn. 1 and Hn. 2 (both in treble clef), C Tpt. (cornet, treble clef), Tbn. (trombone, bass clef), and Tuba (bass clef).
- Percussion:** Perc. 1 (with dynamics *ff* and *L.V.*) and Perc. 2 (with dynamics *pp*).
- Piano:** Pno. (grand piano, grand staff).
- Strings:** Violins (Vln. I through Vln. VIII, all in treble clef with dynamics *ff*), Viola I and II (Vla. I and II, both in alto clef with dynamics *n*), and Cello/Double Bass (Vc. and Cb., both in bass clef with dynamics *n*).

The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and dynamic markings such as *pp*, *ff*, and *n*. A *tutti* marking is present in the lower strings section starting in the fourth measure. The piece concludes with a *ff* dynamic in the final measure.

This page of the musical score, numbered 15 at the top left, contains the following parts and markings:

- Fl. 1 & 2:** Flute parts, mostly rests.
- Ob.:** Oboe part, mostly rests.
- B♭ Cl. 1 & 2:** Bass Clarinet parts with dynamics *ppp*, *mf*, and *n*.
- B. Cl.:** Baritone Clarinet part, mostly rests.
- Bsn.:** Bassoon part, mostly rests.
- Hn. 1 & 2:** Horn parts, mostly rests.
- C Tpt.:** Cornet part, mostly rests.
- Tbn.:** Trombone part, mostly rests.
- Tuba:** Tuba part, mostly rests.
- Perc. 1:** Percussion I with dynamics *ff* and *p*. Includes the instruction "High Triangle (open)".
- Perc. 2:** Percussion II with the instruction "no cresc." and the marking "L.V.".
- Pno.:** Piano part, mostly rests.
- Vln. I-VIII:** Violin parts with dynamics *pp*, *n*, and *p*.
- Vla. I & II:** Viola parts with dynamics *n*, *ppp*, and *mf*.
- Vc.:** Violoncello part with dynamics *n* and *ppp*.
- Cb.:** Contrabass part with dynamics *n* and *ppp*.

This page of a musical score, numbered 4, is for the piece "We're Not Going To Heaven". It features a variety of instruments and includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *ff*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*, and *n*. The score is organized into systems for woodwinds, brass, percussion, strings, and double bass.

Woodwinds: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), Bass Clarinet 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn 1 (Hn. 1), Horn 2 (Hn. 2), and Contrabass Trombone (C Tpt.).

Brass: Trombone (Tbn.) and Tuba.

Percussion: Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), and B. Drum.

Strings: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Violin III (Vln. III), Violin IV (Vln. IV), Violin V (Vln. V), Violin VI (Vln. VI), Violin VII (Vln. VII), Violin VIII (Vln. VIII), Viola I (Vla. I), and Viola II (Vla. II).

Double Bass: Double Bass (Vc.) and Double Bass (Cb.).

The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *ff*, *mf*, *p*, *pp*, and *n*. It also features performance instructions like "solo" and "ritardando".