

A Quiet Plague

For Wind Ensemble

By Matt Mason

Program Note

Of all the biblical stories, Job has fascinated me the most. This piece is my way of interpreting, musically, the story of Job, chronicling his life before, during, and after God's intervention. It is my attempt at better understanding the quiet suffering Job underwent, detailing his slow and torturous loss and pain, and commenting on the idea that destruction is not always sudden. However, the piece, finishes with a new and quiet resolve paralleling Job's salvation after years of torment.

Instrumentation

2 Flutes

Oboe

2 Bassoons

2 Clarinets in B-flat

Bass Clarinet

2 Alto Saxophones

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

2 Trumpets in B-flat

4 Horns in F

2 Trombones

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Percussion 1

Bass Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Triangles (multiple sizes), Gongs, Mark Tree

Percussion 2

Tam-Tam, Suspended Cymbal, Triangles (multiple sizes), Tambourine, Toms

Percussion 3

Marimba

Percussion 4

Xylophone, Tubular Bells

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$\text{♩} = 100$

The score is for a 4/4 piece with a tempo of 100. It features a large woodwind section with Flute 1 & 2, Oboe, Bassoon 1 & 2, Clarinet in Bb 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax, Tenor Sax, and Baritone Sax. The brass section includes Trumpet in Bb 1 & 2, Horn in F 1, 2 & 3, 4, Trombone, Bass Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba. The percussion section includes Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Percussion 3 (Marimba), and Percussion 4 (Xylophone). Dynamics range from *pp* to *f*. The woodwinds and saxophones play a melodic line with dynamic swells. The brass and percussion provide a rhythmic accompaniment.

Every 6 to 8 seconds, quietly strike any instrument from the list: Bass Drum, Suspended Symbol, Triangle, Small Gong, Mark Tree. Continue until m. 26

Every 6 to 8 seconds, quietly strike any instrument from the list: Tam-Tam (with brushes) Suspended Cymbal, Small Triangle, Tambourine (soft thumb roll). Continue until m. 28

Marimba *mp*

Xylophone *pp*

* The percussion should not be in sync

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This musical score is for the second page of a piece titled "A Quiet Plague". It features a large ensemble of instruments. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Flute 1 and 2, Oboe, Bassoon 1 and 2, B♭ Clarinet 1 and 2, B♭ Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, Bass Saxophone, B♭ Trumpet 1 and 2, Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4, Trombone, Bass Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba, and Timpani. The second system includes Percussion 1, 2, 3, and 4. The score begins at measure 15. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *f* (forte), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). There are several slurs and accents throughout. A first ending bracket labeled "a.1" is present in the Trumpet 1 and 2 parts. The percussion parts are mostly rhythmic patterns with some melodic lines in Percussion 3 and 4.

This page of the musical score, titled "A Quiet Plague" and numbered 3, contains measures 29 through 32. The instrumentation includes:

- Flutes (Fl. 1, Fl. 2):** Both parts play a melodic line starting in measure 29, marked *pp* (pianissimo).
- Woodwinds:** Bassoon 1 and 2, B♭ Clarinet 1 and 2, and Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.) play sustained notes, marked *pp* in measure 29 and *mf* (mezzo-forte) in measure 30. The Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.) and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sx.) play a rhythmic pattern starting in measure 30, marked *pp* and *mf*.
- Brass:** Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4; Trombone (Tbn.); Baritone Trombone (B. Tbn.); and Euphonium (Euph.) play sustained notes, marked *mf* in measure 29 and *pp* in measure 30. The Tuba plays a sustained note, marked *mf* in measure 29 and *pp* in measure 30.
- Percussion:** Timpani (Timp.) and four Percussion parts (Perc. 1-4) are present but have no notation on this page.

The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The dynamic markings *pp*, *mf*, and *p* are used throughout to indicate the volume of the instruments.

This musical score page, titled "A Quiet Plague" and numbered "4", contains staves for various instruments. The woodwind section includes Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon 1 (Bsn. 1), Bassoon 2 (Bsn. 2), B♭ Clarinet 1 (B♭ Cl. 1), B♭ Clarinet 2 (B♭ Cl. 2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sax.), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sax.). The string section includes Trumpet 1 (B♭ Tpt. 1), Trumpet 2 (B♭ Tpt. 2), Horns 1 & 2 (Hn. 1, 2), Horns 3 & 4 (Hn. 3, 4), Trombone (Tbn.), Baritone Trombone (B. Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani (Timp.), Percussion 1 (Perc. 1), Percussion 2 (Perc. 2), Percussion 3 (Perc. 3), and Percussion 4 (Perc. 4). The score begins at measure 35. The woodwinds and strings play sustained notes with dynamic markings such as *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *f*, and *pp*. The percussion parts are currently blank.