

The Big Note

for Clarinet, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, and Tuba

Composed 1990; drastically re-written June 1-28, 2004

First movement composed Oct. 28—Nov. 12, 2011

Duration: approximately 19 minutes

Dedicated to clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz

In 1989, I had the pleasure of visiting with an old friend I met at NTSU in the '70s, Fred Robinson (no relation), when the Air Force Band he composed and arranged for played at Brevard, NC. As a result of this visit, when I returned home to Cleveland NC, I wrote a series of pieces for his musicians. Sadly none were used. When I revisited these scores in 2003 and 2004, I changed them radically and greatly expanded them with many improvements. One of these scores was originally a little five-minute romp for brass quintet. I wrote a new first movement, based on a short exercise from my student years imitating Wagner, and completely re-wrote the second movement, all from June 1 to June 28, 2004. These are now the second and third movements.

The tessitura for the first trumpet was very high, and this part became much more practical and even idiomatic when played on a clarinet. Thus, the idea came to change the instrumentation to clarinet and brass. I composed an entirely new first movement in the fall of 2011 to make the piece more similar to the length of most of my other pieces. I have written two previous works including clarinet with my friend Fred Jacobowitz in mind, and this is the third.

About the cover; the middle photograph is of a Japanese acoustic airplane detector from the 1930's. The bottom image is of the largest denomination of currency ever issued by the United States government.

Bill Robinson

Publisher Parrish Press

First Edition, 2011

billrobinsonmusic.com

The Big Note

[6:40]

(♩ = 120)

Allegro grande nota

I. Let's Get Things Rolling

Bill Robinson

Musical score for measures 1-7. The score is for five instruments: Clarinet in B \flat , Trumpet in B \flat , Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. The Clarinet part begins with a *p* dynamic. The Tuba part has a *p* dynamic. The Trumpet and Horn parts enter in measure 5 with a *p* dynamic. A large slur covers the first four measures of the Clarinet and Tuba parts.

Musical score for measures 8-14. The score is for five instruments: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The Clarinet part begins with a *mp* dynamic. The Tuba part has a *mp* dynamic. The Horn and Trombone parts have a *mp* dynamic. A large slur covers measures 8-14 across all parts.

Musical score for measures 15-21. The score is for five instruments: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The Clarinet part begins with a *mf* dynamic. The Tuba part has a *mf* dynamic. The Horn and Trombone parts have a *mf* dynamic. The Trumpet part has a *mf* dynamic. A large slur covers measures 15-21 across all parts.

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Musical score for measures 22-28. The score is for five instruments: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 22 starts with a dynamic of *p*. The Clarinet part has a melodic line with a slur. The Trumpet, Horn, and Trombone parts have rhythmic patterns. The Tuba part has a low, sustained note. Measure 28 ends with a dynamic of *p*.

Musical score for measures 29-35. The score is for five instruments: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 29 starts with a dynamic of *p*. The Clarinet part has a melodic line with a slur. The Trumpet, Horn, and Trombone parts have rhythmic patterns. The Tuba part has a low, sustained note. Measure 35 ends with a dynamic of *mp*.

Musical score for measures 36-42. The score is for five instruments: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The time signature is 3/4. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 36 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. The Clarinet part has a melodic line with a slur. The Trumpet, Horn, and Trombone parts have rhythmic patterns. The Tuba part has a low, sustained note. Measure 42 ends with a dynamic of *f dim.*

The Big Note

40

Cl. *mf* *mp* *p* *f*

Tpt. *mp* *p*

Hrn. *mf* *mp* *p* *f*

Tbn. *mf* *mp* *p* *f*

Tuba 40 *p* *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 40 through 45. The music is written for five instruments: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The time signature starts in 4/4, changes to 3/4 at measure 42, and returns to 4/4 at measure 44. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *mp*, *p*, and *f*. The Tuba part begins at measure 40 with a *p* dynamic and features a *f* dynamic at measure 44.

46

Cl. *ff*

Tpt. *f* *ff*

Hrn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Tuba 46 *ff*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 46 through 50. The music continues for the same five instruments. The time signature changes to 4/4 at measure 46, then to 2/4 at measure 48, and returns to 4/4 at measure 50. Dynamic markings are predominantly *f* and *ff*. The Tuba part begins at measure 46 with a *ff* dynamic.

51

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba 51

Detailed description: This system contains measures 51 through 55. The music continues for the same five instruments. The time signature is 4/4. The music features melodic lines for all instruments, with some measures containing rests. The Tuba part begins at measure 51.

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4

56

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

56

61

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

61

68

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

68

The Big Note

6

95

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

cresc.

mf

f

ff

mf

f

ff

mf

f

ff

mf

f

ff

f

99

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff

105

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

p

The Big Note

8

129

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

135

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

135

141

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

141

The Big Note

149 9

Cl.
Tpt.
Hrn.
Tbn.
Tuba

149

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 149 to 156. It features five staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The Clarinet part has a whole note rest in measure 149, followed by a series of half notes with slurs. The Trumpet part has a melodic line of eighth and quarter notes. The Horn part has a melodic line of quarter notes. The Trombone and Tuba parts have a melodic line of quarter notes. The system ends with a measure number '9' in the top right corner.

157

Cl.
Tpt.
Hrn.
Tbn.
Tuba

157

mp
p
mp
p
mp

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 157 to 164. It features five staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The Clarinet part has a whole note rest in measure 157, followed by a series of half notes with slurs. The Trumpet part has a melodic line of eighth and quarter notes. The Horn part has a melodic line of quarter notes. The Trombone and Tuba parts have a melodic line of quarter notes. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *p* (piano). The system ends with a measure number '157' in the top left corner.

165

Cl.
Tpt.
Hrn.
Tbn.
Tuba

165

mp
ff
ff
mp
ff

Detailed description: This system of music covers measures 165 to 172. It features five staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The Clarinet part has a melodic line of eighth and quarter notes. The Trumpet part has a melodic line of quarter notes. The Horn part has a melodic line of quarter notes. The Trombone and Tuba parts have a melodic line of quarter notes. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *ff* (fortissimo). The system ends with a measure number '165' in the top left corner.

The Big Note

10

171

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

171

ff

ff

This system contains five staves of music for measures 171 through 175. The instruments are Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The music is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Clarinet part features a complex melodic line with many sixteenth notes and a sharp sign at the end of the first measure. The Trumpet part has a melodic line starting in measure 174. The Horn part has a melodic line starting in measure 174. The Trombone part has a melodic line starting in measure 174. The Tuba part has a melodic line starting in measure 174. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is present in the Horn and Tuba parts.

176

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

176

This system contains five staves of music for measures 176 through 181. The instruments are Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The music is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Clarinet part has a melodic line starting in measure 176. The Trumpet part has a melodic line starting in measure 176. The Horn part has a melodic line starting in measure 176. The Trombone part has a melodic line starting in measure 176. The Tuba part has a melodic line starting in measure 176.

182

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

182

This system contains five staves of music for measures 182 through 187. The instruments are Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hrn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The music is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Clarinet part has a melodic line starting in measure 182. The Trumpet part has a melodic line starting in measure 182. The Horn part has a melodic line starting in measure 182. The Trombone part has a melodic line starting in measure 182. The Tuba part has a melodic line starting in measure 182.

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186

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

189

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

192

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff

legato

The Big Note

12

196

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

196

legato

legato

ff

legato

ff

201

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

201

206

Cl.

Tpt.

Hrn.

Tbn.

Tuba

206

II. More Dolce Please

[5'10"]

13

Chorale $\bullet = 54$

Musical score for the Chorale section, measures 1-6. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 54. It features five staves: Clarinet in B \flat , Trumpet in B \flat , Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba. All parts are marked *p* (piano). The music consists of long, flowing lines with many ties across measures.

Musical score for the *More Dolce Please* section, measures 7-11. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 62. It features five staves: Cl. (Clarinet), Tpt. (Trumpet), Hn. (Horn), Tbn. (Trombone), and Tuba. The section begins with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. The music changes to 3/4 time at measure 10. Dynamics include *p* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

Musical score for the *More Dolce Please* section, measures 12-15. The score is in 3/4 time. It features five staves: Cl. (Clarinet), Tpt. (Trumpet), Hn. (Horn), Tbn. (Trombone), and Tuba. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano). The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns and ties.

The Big Note

14

Cl. 17

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba 17

Cl. 21

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba 21

Cl. 27

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba 27

mp

32

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

mp

mp²

f

ff

36

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

41

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

The Big Note

16

44

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

48

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff

ff

ff

ff

52

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff *p* *mf* *f*

ff *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

ff *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

ff *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

57

Cl. *ff*

Tpt. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Tuba 57 *ff*

60

Chorale ♩ = 54

Cl. *p*

Tpt. *p*

Hn. *p*

Tbn. *p*

Tuba 60 *ff* *p*

65

Cl. *rit.*

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba 65

III. Polytonalmodalyodel

(7)

♩ = 98

Polytonalmodalyodel

Clarinet in B \flat

Trumpet in B \flat

Horn in F

Trombone

Tuba

mp *ff* *ff*

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

10

ff *mf* *mp* *ff* *ff*

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

19

ff *f* *f* *f*

27

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff

34

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff

41

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff

The Big Note

20

47

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

47

52

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

52

57

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

57

62

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

p

69

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

mp

74

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

mf

f

The Big Note

22

78

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

f

83

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

88

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff

ff

ff

93

Cl.
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba

p

93

p

p

Detailed description: This system covers measures 93 to 97. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/4 at measure 95. The Clarinet (Cl.) part starts with a dotted quarter note, followed by eighth notes, and ends with a half note in measure 97. The Trumpet (Tpt.) part plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. The Horn (Hn.) part has a dotted quarter note followed by a half note. The Trombone (Tbn.) part plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. The Tuba part has a dotted quarter note followed by a half note. Dynamics include *p* (piano) in measures 95, 96, and 97.

98

Cl.
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

p *mf*

98

Detailed description: This system covers measures 98 to 101. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 at measure 100. The Clarinet (Cl.) part has a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *mp* and *mf*. The Trumpet (Tpt.) part has a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *mp* and *mf*. The Horn (Hn.) part has a long note in measure 98, followed by a half note in measure 100, and a long note in measure 101. Dynamics *p* and *mf* are indicated. The Trombone (Tbn.) part has a long note in measure 98, followed by a half note in measure 100, and a long note in measure 101. The Tuba part has a long note in measure 98, followed by a half note in measure 100, and a long note in measure 101.

102

Cl.
Tpt.
Hn.
Tbn.
Tuba

f *ff*

f *ff*

f *ff*

ff

102

ff

Detailed description: This system covers measures 102 to 105. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/4 at measure 103. The Clarinet (Cl.) part has a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *f* and *ff*. The Trumpet (Tpt.) part has a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *f* and *ff*. The Horn (Hn.) part has a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *f* and *ff*. The Trombone (Tbn.) part has a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *ff*. The Tuba part has a melodic line with slurs and dynamics *ff*.

The Big Note

24

106

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

This system of music covers measures 106, 107, and 108. The Clarinet (Cl.) and Trumpet (Tpt.) parts feature eighth-note patterns with slurs and accents. The Horn (Hn.) part consists of dotted quarter notes. The Trombone (Tbn.) and Tuba parts have a more active eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

109

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

This system of music covers measures 109, 110, 111, and 112. The Clarinet (Cl.) part continues with eighth-note patterns. The Trumpet (Tpt.) part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The Horn (Hn.) part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Trombone (Tbn.) and Tuba parts have a more active eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

113

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

This system of music covers measures 113, 114, 115, and 116. The Clarinet (Cl.) part features a melodic line with slurs. The Trumpet (Tpt.) part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents. The Horn (Hn.) part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Trombone (Tbn.) and Tuba parts have a more active eighth-note accompaniment. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

117

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

121

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

ff *pp*

pp

128

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

p *mp*

p *mp*

p *mp*

The Big Note

26

134

Cl. *mf* *f*

Tpt. *mf* *f*

Hn.

Tbn. *mf* *f*

Tuba 134 *f*

140

Cl. *p*

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn. *p*

Tuba 140 *p*

$\bullet = 92$
A little slower

144

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn. *p*

Tuba 144

Tempo I

147

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

147

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

150

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

150

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

ff

ff

ff

ff

153

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

153

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

f

f

f

f

mf

mf

mf

mf

The Big Note

28

159

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

159

f *ff*

164

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

164

170

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

170

176

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

182

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

187

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

The Big Note

30

193

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

200

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

206

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

211

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

This system of music covers measures 211 to 216. It features five staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a key signature of two flats. Measures 211-212 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the woodwinds and brass. Measure 213 features a melodic line in the Clarinet and Trumpet. Measure 214 has a prominent melodic line in the Horn. Measure 215 shows a melodic line in the Trombone. Measure 216 concludes with a melodic line in the Tuba.

217

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

This system of music covers measures 217 to 220. It features five staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a key signature of two flats. Measures 217-218 show a melodic line in the Clarinet and Trumpet. Measure 219 features a melodic line in the Horn. Measure 220 concludes with a melodic line in the Tuba.

221

Cl.

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

This system of music covers measures 221 to 224. It features five staves: Clarinet (Cl.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Tuba. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a key signature of two flats. Measures 221-222 show a melodic line in the Clarinet and Trumpet. Measure 223 features a melodic line in the Horn. Measure 224 concludes with a melodic line in the Tuba.

Andante $\bullet = 52$ The Big Note

225

Cl. *ff* \rightarrow *pp* 3

Tpt.

Hn. *pp*

Tbn. *pp*

225

Tuba *pp*

$\bullet = 98$ Tempo I

231

Cl. *pp*

Tpt. *pp*

Hn.

Tbn.

231

Tuba *pp*

237

Cl. \gt

Tpt.

Hn.

Tbn.

237

Tuba