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Octour pour les Temps Troublés (Octet for Troubled Times)

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Octour pour les temps troublés

(Octet for troubled times)

Octet for flute, oboe, clarinet in B $\flat$, bassoon
and string quartet

Aaron S. Ricucci-Hill

Completed: October 31st, 2017,
Revised: February 28th, 2020

Approx. time: ~9 minutes

Instrumentation

Winds

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bassoon

Strings

Violin I

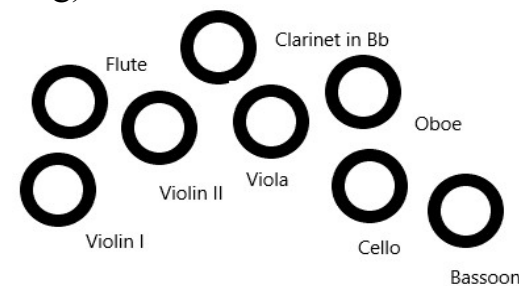
Violin II

Viola

Cello

*A note on placement

There are several ways that the musicians could be placed depending on different scenerios. This piece is recommended to have a conductor, however it is not required. If a conductor is engaged, and if a platform or riser is available, the winds should be placed behind the strings in a row while the strings in front sit in a semi-circle (standard orchestral seating). However, if this is not the case, the composer's preferred method is as follows:



In this arrangement the composer feels cues would be easiest to give and blending would be most optimal.

In the case a conductor is not present, the ensemble should sit in a semi-circle in the following order (from left to right in the audience's point of view): violin I, violin II, viola, cello, bassoon, clarinet in B $\flat$, oboe, flute.

Program notes

Program notes for this piece are rather difficult. This piece was, as the title suggests, written for troubled times. At the time I started writing this, it was in the aftermath of the 2016 US election and the cacophony of events that followed. However, what constitutes "troubled times" could mean many things to many people. The main thing that seems to tie these varied definitions together is the idea of uncertainty and unsteadiness. With this piece, I tried capturing that feeling and attitude.

This piece is divided into two parts. The first deals mainly with the ideas addressed above. It feels uncertain, trembly, and full of anxiety. The first part still tries to maintain order, however, by taking on the semblance of a sonata form. Even that is shown to be futile as the second part interrupts the first, this time though, that shakiness and unease is gone. In its place is an affect of calm, which is still, in a way, nervous. You're longing for something to give you hope and you're so close you can almost taste it before, once again, you're interrupted by something else... something mysterious, you can't quite grasp what it is.... maybe it's what you were searching for? Is this the answer? Can I finally find that long sought-after stillness in the midst of the crashing waves and, oh, what was that? Oh, never mind, I think I see the glimmering through the trees with widening, wishful eyes and happily greet the glo-oh, there it was again... and... oh.... it's the troubled times again... the reality of the situation, trudging on like before....

-Aaron S. Ricucci-Hill

Dedicated to my love and best friend,
Michael Anthony Ricucci-Hill

Special thanks to my friend, Andy Leggett, for helping
get this piece its premiere performance. Thank you for
helping make my dream a reality.

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.
Partie I

Aaron S. Ricucci-Hill

Andante Moderato (M.M. ♩. = c. 80)

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B♭

Bassoon

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

fp *pp* *p* *f* *3* *2* *8va* *col legno** *p* *sf*

[illegible]

This musical score page contains measures 17 through 21 of a symphony. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

Measure 17: The woodwinds and strings enter with rhythmic patterns. The Flute plays a melodic line with slurs. The Oboe and Bassoon play rhythmic figures. The Violins and Viola play a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*. The Cello plays a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*.

Measure 18: The woodwinds continue their patterns. The Flute plays a melodic line with slurs. The Oboe and Bassoon play rhythmic figures. The Violins and Viola play a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*. The Cello plays a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*.

Measure 19: The woodwinds continue their patterns. The Flute plays a melodic line with slurs. The Oboe and Bassoon play rhythmic figures. The Violins and Viola play a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*. The Cello plays a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*.

Measure 20: The woodwinds continue their patterns. The Flute plays a melodic line with slurs. The Oboe and Bassoon play rhythmic figures. The Violins and Viola play a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*. The Cello plays a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*.

Measure 21: The woodwinds continue their patterns. The Flute plays a melodic line with slurs. The Oboe and Bassoon play rhythmic figures. The Violins and Viola play a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*. The Cello plays a rhythmic pattern marked *sfz*.

23

Fl.

> p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Ob.

> p *f* *p* *f* *p* *p*

B♭ Cl.

f *p* *f* *p* *p*

Bsn.

f *p*

Vln. I

f *subito p* *f* *p*

Vln. II

f *subito p* *f* *p*

Vla.

f *subito p* *f* *p*

Vc.

f *pizz.* *mf*

(Col legno notes are not strictly in time/tune.)
col legno*

col legno*

col legno*

[illegible]

34

Fl. *mf* *f* Flz.

Ob. *p* *f*

B♭ Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Vln. I *col legno** *arco* *f*

Vln. II *mf* *p* *f*

Vla. *p* *f*

Vc. *arco* *f*

B

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

73 *molto rit.*

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

The musical score for measures 73-77 is written for a woodwind and string ensemble. The woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, Bassoon) play melodic lines with dynamic markings of *pp*, *fp*, and *f*. The strings (Violins I and II, Viola, and Cello) provide a rhythmic and harmonic foundation, with dynamic markings of *mp*, *sf*, and *f*. The tempo is marked *molto rit.* with a dashed line indicating a gradual deceleration.

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

79

Fl. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *ff* *a tempo*

Ob. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *ff*

B♭ Cl. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *ff*

Bsn. *ppp* *ff*

Vln. I *pp* *f* *fp* *ff*

Vln. II *pp* *f* *fp* *ff*

Vla. *pp* *f* *fp* *ff*

Vc. *ppp* *ff*

Flz.

79

79

79

79

79

79

79

79

This musical score page contains measures 84, 85, and 86. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 84-86 feature triplet eighth notes, with a forte (*f*) dynamic and an *ord.* (ordered) marking in measure 85.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Measures 84-86 feature triplet eighth notes, with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a whole note chord in measure 85.
- B♭ Clarinet (B♭ Cl.):** Measures 84-86 feature triplet eighth notes, with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a whole note chord in measure 85.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Measures 84-86 feature a wavy line in measure 84, followed by a forte (*f*) dynamic and a whole note chord in measure 85.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 84-86 feature a forte (*f*) dynamic, a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking in measure 85, and a *sforzando* (*sfz*) marking in measure 86.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 84-86 feature a forte (*f*) dynamic, a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking in measure 85, and a *sforzando* (*sfz*) marking in measure 86.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 84-86 feature a forte (*f*) dynamic, a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking in measure 85, and a *sforzando* (*sfz*) marking in measure 86.
- Double Bass (Vc.):** Measures 84-86 feature a forte (*f*) dynamic, a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking in measure 85, and a *sforzando* (*sfz*) marking in measure 86.

87

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*³ ³

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *mf*³ ³

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *mf*

mf

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *mf*³ ³ ³ ³ ³ ³ ³ ³

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

p *mf* *mf*

sul pont.

93

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

The musical score is arranged in a system of seven staves. The first staff is for Flute (Fl.), the second for Oboe (Ob.), the third for B-flat Clarinet (B $\flat$ Cl.), the fourth for Bassoon (Bsn.), the fifth for Violin I (Vln. I), the sixth for Violin II (Vln. II), and the seventh for Double Bass (Vc.). The score is divided into three measures. The first measure contains triplets of eighth notes in the Flute, Oboe, and B-flat Clarinet parts. The second measure continues the triplet patterns in the woodwinds and introduces a new melodic line in the Bassoon. The third measure features a more complex melodic development in the Flute and Oboe, with a final cadence in the Bassoon and Double Bass. The Violin I and II parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and occasional melodic fragments. The Double Bass part follows a similar pattern to the Violin I, providing a solid foundation for the ensemble.

96

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ord.

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

f

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

100

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

Largo Andante (♩ = 65)
Longing... longing for... something
You don't quite know what. An inner peace?

Partie II

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B♭

Bassoon

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

[illegible]

2A

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

15

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp

mp

mp

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 15 to 20. Measures 15-18 show rests for all instruments. In measure 19, the Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello parts begin a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. In measure 20, the Flute, Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, and Bassoon parts enter with a melodic line. The Cello part also continues the rhythmic pattern. The dynamic marking *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present in measures 19 and 20 for the string parts and in measure 20 for the woodwind parts.

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

Fl. *mp* *p* *mp* *allarg.*

Ob. *p* *mp*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *mp*

Bsn. *pp* *mp*

Vln. I *pp* *mp*

Vln. II *pp* *pp* Harmonic Gliss.

Vla. *pp* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

21 12 16 12 16 12 16 12 16

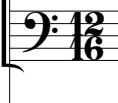
Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

2B  *a tempo*

Fl.  *p* *pp* *p*

Ob.  *pp* *p*

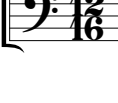
B♭ Cl.  *p*

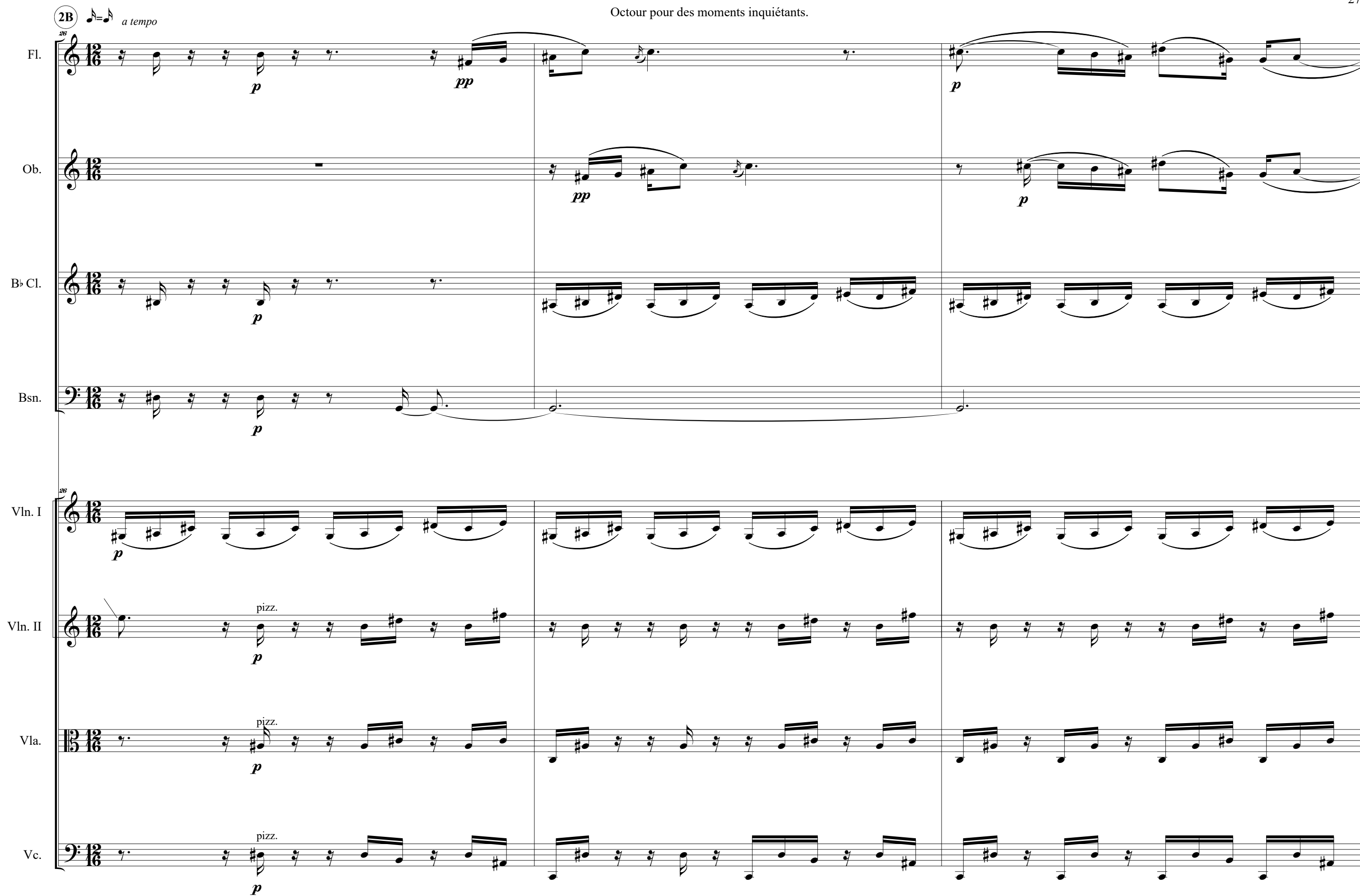
Bsn.  *p*

Vln. I  *p*

Vln. II  *pizz.* *p*

Vla.  *pizz.* *p*

Vc.  *pizz.* *p*



[illegible]

2C

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

33

34

35

36

37

mp

pp

arco

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp*

Bsn.

Vln. I *mp* *mp* *pp*

Vln. II *mp* *mp* *pp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 30 through 33. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), B-flat Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.). The score is divided into four measures by vertical bar lines. Measure 30 (measure number 37 in the system) is in 11/16 time, marked *mp*. Measure 31 is in 9/16 time, also marked *mp*. Measure 32 is in 6/16 time, marked *pp*. Measure 33 is in 6/16 time, marked *pp*. The woodwinds (Fl., Ob., B♭ Cl., Bsn.) and Violin I play melodic lines with various articulations and dynamics. The Violin II, Viola, and Cello provide harmonic support with sustained notes and moving lines. The Bassoon has a long rest in measures 31 and 32. The score includes dynamic markings (*mp*, *pp*) and articulation marks (accents, slurs, and breath marks).

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

rit.

41

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp

mp

p

mf

pp

mp

pizz.

The musical score for measures 41-45 is written for a symphony orchestra. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), B♭ Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The score is in 2/4 time. Measure 41 starts with a forte (f) dynamic. Measure 42 has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measure 43 has a piano (p) dynamic. Measure 44 has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measure 45 has a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

a tempo

47

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p

a tempo

arco

p

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

[illegible]

56

Fl.

mf *3* *3* *rit.* *fp* *pp*

Ob.

p *mp* *3* *fp* *pp*

B♭ Cl.

p *mp* *3* *3* *fp* *pp*

Bsn.

mp *3* *fp* *pp*

Vln. I

mf *p* *p*

Vln. II

mf *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp* *p*

Vla.

mf *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp* *2* *p*

Vc.

mf *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp* *fp* *pp* *p*

Octour pour des moments inquiétants.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

66

p

mf

p

mp

sf

sf

mp

sf

mp

pizz.

arco

p

3

67

68

