

A dark, atmospheric landscape with a forest of tall, thin trees under a cloudy sky. The scene is monochromatic, with shades of grey and black. The trees are silhouetted against a lighter, hazy sky. The overall mood is somber and mysterious.

HAZE

for large orchestra

SHAUN CHEN

ABOUT THE MUSIC

In late 2019, the world experienced a drastic increase in the occurrence of forest fires on more than half the globe's continents. The composer's home country of Malaysia was heavily affected by the resultant smog from the fires in Borneo, with Air Pollution Index (API) readings rising well over the levels considered to be hazardous. Haze is a single movement tone poem written as an emotional response to these events. The piece features a virtuosic solo violin part which plays the role of a least pygmy squirrel, native to the rainforests of Borneo. We see the effects of the fire through its eyes in this short snapshot of the final moments of its life as its home is ravaged by the insatiable, unforgiving wrath of the flames consuming all in its path.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Drawing from his passion for film, theatre, and immersive experiences, Shaun Chen's concert works often carry with them an air of drama and a strong emotional pull that projects listeners into idiosyncratic sound worlds. He has most notably received premieres of his string quartet "6 Impossible Things Before Breakfast" by the JACK Quartet (2018), his ballet "The Ladder" at The Boston Conservatory's Winterworks (2019), and his graphic scores "Dreamscapes I, II, III" by Richard Carrick's Neither/Nor Ensemble (2020). Other composers he has studied with include Dennis Leclaire, Andrew List, Marti Epstein, David Lang, Maria Schneider, George Lewis, and Norman Ludwin.

Born in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia where he grew up playing the violin, Chen relocated to the United States in 2017 to further his studies in composition, film scoring, and conducting at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts. He is the recipient of the 2019 Jim Reyes award for outstanding achievement in vocal composition and the 2020 Tibor Puztai award for outstanding achievement in conducting. Chen currently resides in Los Angeles, California.

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INSTRUMENTATION

2 Flutes
Piccolo (doubling Alto Flute)

2 Oboes
English Horn
2 Clarinets in Bb
Bass Clarinet in Bb
2 Bassoons

4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in Bb
(3rd doubling Trumpet in D)
2 Tenor Trombones
Bass Trombone
Tuba

Timpani

Xylophone
Bass Drum
Snare Drum
Suspended Cymbals
Crash Cymbals
Tam-Tam

Piano

Harp

Solo Violin

Violin I (12-17)
Violin II (10-14)
Violas (8-12)
Cellos (6-9)
Basses (4-6)

4
2

2
3

1 *mf*

Fl. 2 *mf*

Picc. 1 *f* 3 3

Ob. 2 *mf* *ff*

C. A. *mf* *ff* *mf*

Cl. 1 6 6 *mf* *ff*

Cl. 2 6 6 *mp* *f*

B. Cl. 6 6 *mf* *f* *mf* *mf*

Bsn. 1 2

Hns. 1 2 3 4 *mf* *mf*

Tpts. 1 2 3

Tbns. 1 2

B. Tbn. *mf*

Tba. *mf*

Timp. *mf*

Xyl.

B. D.

S. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Pno. *f*

Hp. *f*

4
2

2
3

Vln. I *poco vib.*

Vln. II *f* *poco vib.*

Vla. *f* *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb.

3
2

4
2

4A
4 Building ♩ = 110

3
4

Musical score for woodwinds, brass, and strings. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Piccolo (Picc.), Oboe (Ob.), Cor Anglais (C. A.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horns (Hns.), Trumpets (Tpts.), Trombones (Tbns.), Baritone (B. Tbn.), Tuba (Tba.), Timpani (Timp.), Xylophone (Xyl.), B. Drum (B. D.), S. Drum (S. D.), Cymbals (Cym.), Triangle (T.-t.), Piano (Pno.), Harp (Hp.), and Violin (Vn.). The score features various dynamics such as *p*, *ff*, *fz*, *sfz*, *f*, *mf*, and *p cresc.*. Performance instructions include "niente" for woodwinds and "straight mute" for trumpets. The score is divided into measures 7 through 12.

A

4A
4 Building ♩ = 110

3
4

Musical score for strings, including Violin I (Vn. I), Violin II (Vn. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabasso (Cb.). The score includes performance instructions such as "sempre molto vib." and dynamics like *p*, *f*, *mf*, and *p cresc.*. The score is divided into measures 7 through 12.

3
4

5
4
4

1 Fl. 2 Fl. Picc. 1 Ob. 2 Ob. C. A. 1 Cl. 2 Cl. B. Cl. 1 Bsn. 2 Bsn. 1 Hns. 2 Hns. 3 Hns. 4 Hns. 1 Tpts. 2 Tpts. 3 Tpts. 1 Tbn. 2 Tbn. B. Tbn. Tba. Timp. Xyl. B. D. S. D. Cym. T.-t. Pno. Hp.

3
4

4
4

Vin. I Vin. II Vla. Vc. Cb.

4B
4 Playful

3
4

4
4

5
4

1. Fl. 1 *ff*

2. Fl. 2 *ff*

Picc. *ff*

1. Ob. *ff*

2. Ob. *ff*

C. A. *ff*

1. Cl. *ff*

2. Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

1. Bsn. *ff*

2. Bsn. *ff*

Hns. 1, 2, 3, 4

Tpts. 1, 2, 3

1. Tbn. *ff*

2. Tbn. *ff*

B. Tbn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

Timp. *f*

Xyl.

B. D.

S. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Pno.

Hp.

4B
4 Playful

3
4

4
4

5
4

Vln. *f* *fp* *mf* *mf*

Vln. I *ff mp*

Vln. II *ff mp*

Vla. *ff* *pizz.* *mf*

Vc. *ff* *pizz.* *mf*

Cb. *ff* *pizz.* *mf*

5
4

4
4

1
Fl. 2

Picc.

1
Ob. 2

C. A.

1
Cl. 2

B. Cl.

1
Bsn. 2

1
Hns. 2
3
4

1
Tpts. 2
3

1
Tbns. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Xyl.

B. D.

S. D.

Cym.

T-t.

Pno.

Hp.

5
4

4
4

Vln.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. div. unis.

Vc. div. unis.

Cb.

mf

mp

sfz

ff

mp

ff

straight mute

p

mf

straight mute

p

mf

straight mute

p

mf

To D Tpt.

arco

p

mf

arco

mf

3
4

4
4

3
4

1 *mf*

Fl. 2 *mf*

Picc. *mf*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

C. A.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn. 1 *mp*

Bsn. 2 *mf*

Hns. 1

Hns. 2

Hns. 3

Hns. 4

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Tpts. 3

Tbns. 1 *mp*

Tbns. 2 *mp*

B. Tbn. *mp*

Tba. *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Xyl.

B. D. *mp*

S. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Pno.

Hp.

fluttertongue

fluttertongue

mf

mf

mf

mf

p

f

p

f

3
4

4
4

3
4

col legno

mp

col legno

mp

p

f

p

f

p

f

4D 4a tempo

1
Fl. 2
Picc.
1
Ob. 2
C. A.
1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
1
Bsn. 2
1
Hns. 2
3
4
1
Tpts. 2
3
1
Tbns. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Xyl.
B. D.
S. D.
Cym.
T.-t.
Pno.
Hp.

Vln. *ff* *pizz.* *arco* *mp*

4D 4a tempo

Vln. I *ff* *pizz.* *arco*
Vln. II *ff* *pizz.* *arco*
Vla. *ff* *pizz.* *arco*
Vc. *ff* *pizz.* *arco*
Cb. *ff* *pizz.* *arco*



fluttertongue

fluttertongue

ff

ff

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

p

arco

col legno

col legno

arco

arco

arco

arco

mp

mp

mp

p

p

p

p

f

f

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f

f

6/8 3/8 9/8 12/8

flutertongue

mf

f

ff

7:6

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

C. A.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hns. 1

Hns. 2

Hns. 3

Hns. 4

Tpts. 1

Tpts. 2

Tpts. 3

Trumpet in D

senza sord.

Tbns. 1

Tbns. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Xyl.

B. D.

S. D.

Cym.

T.-t.

Pno.

Hp.

Vln. *f*

col legno

ord.

mf

ord.

mf

ord.

mf

ord.

mf

arco

p < f

arco

p < f

47 48 49 50 51



poco rit.

E ♩ = 96

1
Fl. 2
Picc. To A. Fl.
1
Ob. 2
C. A.
1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
1
Bsn. 2
1
Hns. 2
3
4
1
Tpts. senza sord.
2
1
Tbns. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Xyl.
B. D.
S. D.
Cym.
T.-t.
Pno.
Hp.

powerfully

E ♩ = 96

poco rit.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.



89

12

89

1
Fl. 2
Picc.
1
Ob. 2
C. A.
1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
1
Bsn. 2
1
Hns. 2
3
4
1
Tpts. 2
D Tpt.
1
Tbns. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Xyl.
B. D.
S. D.
Cym.
T.-t.
Pno.
Hp.

89

12

89

dolce
powerfully
aggressively
1
Vin. I
1
Vin. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

10
8

12
8

1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
1
Ob. 2
C. A.
1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
1
Bsn. 2
1
Hns. 2
3
4
1
Tpts. 2
D Tpt.
1
Tbns. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Xyl.
B. D.
S. D.
Cym.
T.-t.
Pno.
Hp.
Vln. *misterioso*
10
8
12
8
Vln. I *misterioso, sul tasto*
arco
Vln. II *arco*
Vla. *arco*
Vc. *arco*
Cb. *arco*

mf *mp* niente
mf *mp* niente
mf *mp* niente
f
sfz *+* *sfz* *-* *+* *sfz* *-* *+* *sfz* *-*
mf *mp* *molto espressivo* *mp*
mp
pp *p* *mp*
p
pp *p* *mp*
pp *p* *mp*

71 72 73 74

1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
1
Ob. 2
C. A.
1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
1
Bsn. 2
1
Hns. 2
3
4
1
Tpts. 2
D Tpt.
1
Tbns. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Xyl.
B. D.
S. D.
Cym.
T.-t.
Pno.
Hp.
Vln. *f* *mf* *p* *mp*
Vln. I
Vln. II *p* *mp* *p*
Vla. *p* *mp* *p*
Vc. *p* *mp* *p*
Cb. *p* *mp* *p*

75

76

77

78

89

4/2 F $\text{♩} = 55$

4/2

2/2

1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
1
Ob. 2
C. A.
1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
1
Bsn. 2
1
Hns. 2
3
4
1
Tpts. 2
D Tpt.
1
Tbns. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Xyl.
B. D.
S. D.
Cym.
T.-t.
Pno.
Hp.
Vln.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

mp *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *p* *p* *mp* *p*

79 80 81 82 83

This page of a musical score contains measures 84 through 87. The instrumentation includes woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon), brass (Trumpet, Trombone, Tuba, Timpani, Xylophone, Bells, Cymbals, Triangle), piano, harp, and strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass). The score features a melodic line in the C. A. part starting at measure 84 with the instruction *f espressivo*. The string parts are marked *dolce* and feature dynamic markings *pp*, *mp*, and *p*. The woodwinds and brass parts are mostly silent, indicated by rests. The piano part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The harp part has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The strings play a sustained, melodic line with dynamic markings *pp*, *mp*, and *p*. The woodwinds and brass parts are mostly silent, indicated by rests. The piano part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The harp part has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The strings play a sustained, melodic line with dynamic markings *pp*, *mp*, and *p*.

This page of a musical score covers measures 88 to 93. The instruments are arranged as follows:

- Flutes:** Fl. 1, 2, A. Fl.
- Oboes:** Ob. 1, 2
- Clarinets:** C. A., Cl. 1, 2
- Bassoon:** B. Cl.
- Bassoons:** Bsn. 1, 2
- Horns:** Hns. 1, 2, 3, 4
- Trumpets:** Tpts. 1, 2, D Tpt.
- Trombones:** Tbn. 1, 2, B. Tbn., Tba.
- Timpani:** Timp.
- Percussion:** Xyl., B. D., S. D., Cym., T.-t.
- Piano:** Pno.
- Harps:** Hp.
- Violins:** Vln. I, Vln. II
- Viola:** Vla.
- Violoncello:** Vc.
- Double Bass:** Cb.

Key musical features include:

- Measures 88-90:** A melodic line in the Bassoon (B. Cl.) starting with a *mf* dynamic. The Piano (Pno.) and Harp (Hp.) play chords in the bass register, with the Harp marked *mf* and the Piano *p*.
- Measures 91-93:** The Violin I, II, and Viola parts feature a glissando (*gliss.*) and then a series of notes with dynamics *pp*, *p*, and *ppp*. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (Cb.) parts also feature a glissando and notes with dynamics *ppp*.