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Drift

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douglas **knehans**

drift

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score

ae 57

armadillo **edition**

douglas **knehans**

drift

for solo oboe and strings

armadillo **edition**

## Program Note

*drift* was written as a type of experiment with shape and form. I wanted to see if I could better ‘suspend’ time and, in doing so, create a strange unfettered motion that once moves and seems to stay still.

I remembered very vividly my summers, those hot summers, where, as a boy I would lie on the cool grass under the shade of a lumbering Sycamore tree and watch the huge white, brilliantly white clouds move very so slowly across the sea blue sky. As they moved they not only changed position, but also ever so slowly their shape.

This became a very beautiful activity for me as I lay alone with my thoughts staring at this wondrous expanse of summer loveliness.

As I began work on this piece the whole notion of meter and rhythm became quite challenging as did the idea of harmonic rhythm. All of these things so bear on the shape and form of music that, when they are suspended, one can seem to almost lose control of the flow.

The trick for me was to slow into this new time world where drama is not a player and things slowly morph and unfold. I would hope too that the audience can similarly fall into this world where time almost stands still and all that remains is the beautiful sounds of stillness hanging in the air.

My deep thanks to Awadagin Pratt, conductor of WIRED string ensemble for premiering the piece and hearty thanks also to the artistry of Dwight Parry and his numerous and subtle suggestions that helped so much to refine the solo line.

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for Dwight Parry

# drift

Score

for solo oboe and string orchestra

Douglas Knehans

Lento, Obscured, Inexact, Misty ♩ = 46

The first system of the score features six staves: solo oboe, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The solo oboe part begins with a long rest followed by a single note marked *ppp*. The string parts (Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass) all begin with a long rest followed by a single note marked *pp*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

The second system of the score features six staves: oboe, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., and Cb. The oboe part begins with a long rest followed by a note marked *rit.*, then a series of notes marked *p espress.* starting at measure 7. A box labeled 'A' is placed above the oboe staff at the start of this passage. The string parts (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., and Cb.) all begin with a long rest followed by a single note marked *pp*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

rit. a tempo

13

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

19

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

Musical score for measures 25-30. The score includes parts for oboe, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., and Cb. The oboe part features a melodic line with dynamics *ppp*, *p*, *ppp*, and *pp*. The string parts (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., Cb.) are marked *mp* and *pp*. The music is in 4/4 time and includes various articulations and dynamics.

Musical score for measures 31-36. The score includes parts for oboe, Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., and Cb. The oboe part features a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and includes markings for *rit.* and *a tempo*. The string parts (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., Cb.) are marked *pp*. The music is in 4/4 time and includes various articulations and dynamics.



oboe

37

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*pp*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*pp*

oboe

43

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*p espress.*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*pp*



48

oboe

rit.

*a tempo*

*p*

Vln. 1

*p*

*pp*

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

54

oboe

*pp*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.



62

oboe

*p* *pp* *rit.*

Vln. 1

III II III II III IV III sim. IV III IV III IV III IV

*p* *pp*

Vln. 2

III II III IV III IV III IV III IV III IV III IV

*p* *pp*

Vla.

*p* *pp*

Vlc.

*p* *pp*

Cb.

*p* *pp*

66

oobe

*f*

Vln. 1

*mp* *mp*

Vln. 2

*mp* *mp*

Vla.

*mp*

Vlc.

*f* *mf*

Cb.

*mp*

**E**  
*a tempo*

68

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

70

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

F

III IV sim.

IVIII sim.

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

73

ppp

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 73 to 76. The oboe part features a long, sustained note with a hairpin crescendo leading to a *ppp* dynamic. The violin parts (Vln. 1 and Vln. 2) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets and quintuplets. The viola part has a few notes, and the cello and double bass parts play sustained notes.

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

77

rit.

*p* *ppp*

**G**

*a tempo*

*ff*

*f*

*f*

*f*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 77 to 80. Measure 77 includes a *rit.* marking and a dynamic change from *p* to *ppp*. Measure 78 is marked with a box containing the letter 'G' and *a tempo*. The oboe part has a hairpin crescendo from *ppp* to *ff*. The violin parts (Vln. 1 and Vln. 2) play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets and quintuplets. The viola part has a few notes, and the cello and double bass parts play sustained notes.



84 [H]

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

87

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

*ppp* *p*

always as if lagging behind the beat, very slow, languorous, hold each note

Musical score for measures 91-96. The score includes parts for Oboe, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The Oboe part starts with a *rit.* marking and *ppp* dynamic, followed by *a tempo* and *p espress.* dynamics. The string parts (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., Cb.) all begin with *ppp* dynamics. The Oboe part features a melodic line with a *5* (quintuplet) and a *p* dynamic. The string parts provide a harmonic accompaniment with various note values and slurs.

1

Musical score for measures 97-102. The score includes parts for Oboe, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The Oboe part starts with measure 97 and features a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The string parts (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., Cb.) continue with their accompaniment. The Oboe part has a *p* dynamic marking. The string parts continue with various note values and slurs.



104

oboe

*p* *mp* *p*

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

110

oboe

*mp* *p* *pp*

J

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

114

114

114

114

114

114

oboe

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vlc.

Cb.

118

118

118

118

118

118