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Title

Aftershock

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Aftershock {06~12~16}

for reed quintet
(Oboe, B, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto Sax., Bassoon)

Aaron S. Ricucci-Hill

(12/08/2016)

Written for the victims of the Pulse Nightclub Shooting, Orlando, Fl.

Duration: ~5.5 minutes

Program Notes

This piece was really tough on me to set to paper. The subject matter is really personal to me. On June, 12th, 2016, a mass shooting ocured at the Pulse Night Club, a gay club, in Orlando Florida. 49 victims, excluding the gunman who shot himself, were killed and many more were injured. It lasted three hours.

I heard about this while at my parents house and I was shocked. I felt a strange stiring of emotions. I wasn't personally involved in the tragedy, but yet I felt personally affected. It reminded me that despite feeling safe for a long time, that I was comfortable, that the world is really a dangerous place for people who are out publicly in the LGBT community. I, being an out and proud gay man, especially after the 2016 election, was reminded that the world is not particularly safe for me and that we need to continue to work harder to fight discrimination and against violence.

So when I was in La Bolline, France for the Zodiac Music Festival in July 2016, I started to officially put down my own raw emotions and how I was processing it. I chose reed quintet because a friend of mine, Rob Kincade, offered the chance for me to write a reed quintet and I thought it would be intersting to explore unknown musical territory with a piece that very much was about me processing new and complex emotions of my own. This piece was written to show the typical process by how we process news of tragedy.

The beginning is supposed to be the listener processing the news of tragedy, trying to be sure that it is really true. The next is going about day to day life, screaming inside, but trying to appear collected and calm, with many emotions swimming underneath the surface. Finally, in a moment of privacy, you let all of your pent up emotions burst forth, finally allowing yourself to proced with life as normal, but not quite because you will forever be changed. The last few measures emblematic of walking, tentatively, toward an unknown future.

I end these program notes with a quote by Leonard Bernstein at a concert honoring JFK after the shooting, "We musicians, like everyone else, are numb with sorrow at this murder, and with rage at the senselessness of the crime. But this sorrow and rage will not inflame us to seek retribution; rather they will inflame our art. Our music will never again be quite the same. This will be our reply to violence: to make music more intensely, more beautifully, more devotedly than ever before."

To all 49 Victims of the Pulse Night Club massacre, their families, friends, and the survivors.

Aftershock

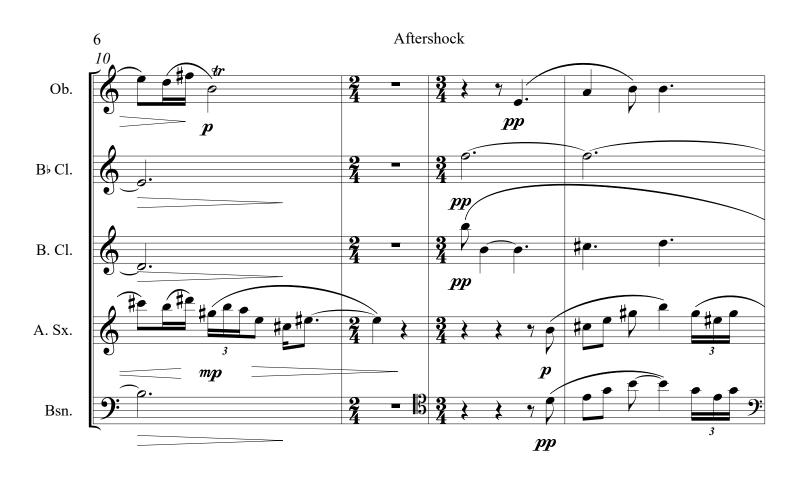
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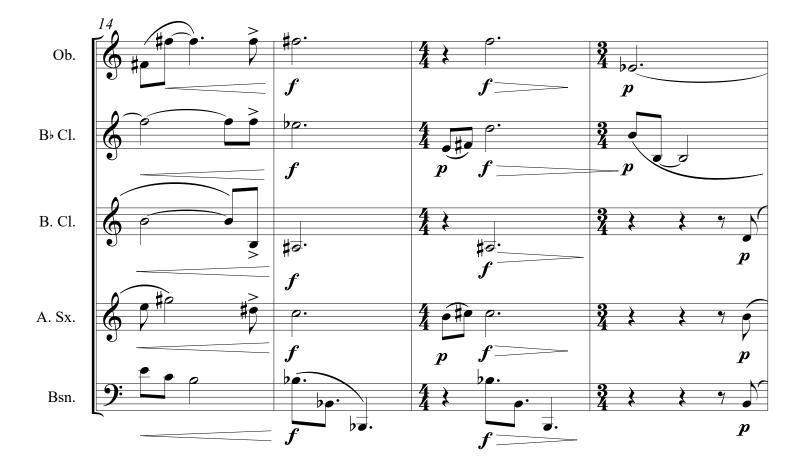
Aaron S. Ricucci-Hill











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