

it shone bright only for a moment.

for chamber ensemble | kris zaballero | 2022

composed for the ucf
new music ensemble

duration: c. 5 minutes

instrumentation:

- flute
- b-flat clarinet
- glockenspiel (with bow)
- vibraphone
- large suspended cymbal
- piano
- violin
- viola
- cellos (2)
- contrabass

performance notes:

headless notes indicate that the performer should improvise within the key. the rhythm and contour do not have to be followed exactly, but rests and any normal notes should be followed.

lighting effects may be used during the performance. edison bulbs (or any warm temperature light bulbs) can be dispersed among the performers. the light bulbs brighten and dim, following the rhythms and dynamics of the score (piano = dim, forte = bright, silent = dark, etc.). all bulbs flicker at **G**, and all lights (including stage lights) should be sustained at full brightness from **H** to the end of **I**.

program notes:

it shone bright only for a moment was composed for the UCF New Music Ensemble concert, *FREE VERSE*, at UCF Celebrates the Arts. Each composer for the concert wrote a line to a poem, which became the title of their piece.

When I came up with the line “it shone bright only for a moment,” I found two interpretations:

The first is that our lives are nothing but short blips in the timeline of the universe. Yet, to us, our lives are bright and vivid, filled with unique stories and experiences, both good and bad.

The second interpretation was from my friend, Bec, who related it to a specific feeling: you want to experience happiness, but you’re scared it’ll be short-lived, and you’ll return to a dull and sad place. You can try to enjoy the happy moments, but the anxiety of what could be is always there.

For this piece, I took elements of both interpretations, and tried to capture the feeling of trying your hardest to hold onto fleeting moments for as long as you can. I also tried to paint the image of an old light bulb flickering on, only to shine brightly one last time.

score in c

for the ucf new music ensemble

it shone bright only for a moment.

kris zaballero

bleak ♩ = 80

flute
ppp *p* *ppp*

clarinet in Bb
ppp *p* *ppp*

glockenspiel
arco
pp *mf*

vibraphone
ppp *p*

suspended cymbal (large)
4/4

piano
ppp *p* *ppp*
una corda

bleak ♩ = 80

violin
ppp *p* *ppp*

viola
ppp *p* *ppp*

violoncello 1
ppp *p* *ppp*

violoncello 2
ppp *p* *ppp*

contrabass
ppp *p* *ppp*

score in c

2

A

senza vib.

fl. *p* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

cl. *p* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

glock. arco *pp* *mf* arco *pp* *mf* l.v. *ppp*

vib. *p* *mp*

cym. (l)

pno. *p* *ppp* *mp* *p*

A

vln. *p* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

vla. *p* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

vc. 1 *p* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

vc. 2 *p* *ppp* *mp* *p* *ppp*

cb. *p* *ppp* *mp* *p* *ppp*

score in c

4

26 **C**

fl. *mp*

cl. *mp*

glock. *mp*

vib. *mp*

cym. (I)

pno. *mp*

C

vln. *mp*

vla. *mp*

vc. 1 *mp* *mf* solo espressivo

vc. 2 *mp*

cb. *mp*

D with vibrato

fl. ³² *mf*

cl. with vibrato *p*

glock. *mf*

vib. *mp* *p*

cym. (l) *ppp* *p* l.v.

pno. *p*

D

vln. *p*

vla. *p*

vc. 1 *f* *p*

vc. 2 pizz. *p*

cb. *p*

38

fl. *pp* *mf*

cl. *mf* *pp*

glock.

vib. *mf*

cym. (I) *ppp*

pno.

vln. *mf*

vla. *mf*

vc. 1

vc. 2 arco

cb. *p*

E hopeful, determined

42

fl. *mp*

cl. *mp* *mf*

glock. *mf*

vib. *mp*

cym. (l) *mp* l.v.

pno. *p* *delicately*
una corda

E hopeful, determined

vln. *mp*

vla. *mp*

vc. 1 *mp*

vc. 2 *mp*

cb. *mp*

46

fl. *mf* *pp*

cl.

glock.

vib.

cym. (l)

pno.

vln.

vla.

vc. 1

vc. 2

cb.

50

fl.

cl.

glock.

vib.

cym. (l)

pno.

vln.

vla.

vc. 1

vc. 2

cb.

mf

f

f

f

f

f

54 **F**

fl. *f* *ppp* *mp*

cl. *f* *ppp* *mp*

glock. *f*

vib. *f* *mp*

cym. (l) *choke* *mp*

pno. *mp* *tre corde*

vln. *f* *ppp* *mp*

vla. *mp*

vc. 1 *mp*

vc. 2 *mp*

cb. *mp*

all instruments except glockenspiel: repeat notes in boxes, accelerating rapidly, then evolve into trills and tremolos. performers should not be synchronized.

glockenspiel: play random, disjunct notes in A major pentatonic, accelerating rapidly, then evolve into a tremolo. all notes ring out. do not synchronize with other performers.

10-12"

61

fl. *pp* *fp*

cl. *pp* *fp*

glock. *pp* *fp*

vib. *pp* *fp*

cym. (I) *pp* *fp*

pno. *pp* *fp*

G

vln. *pp* *fp*

vla. *pp* *fp*

vc. 1 *pp* *fp*

vc. 2 *pp* *fp*

cb. *pp* *fp*

H with longing and desperation

63

fl. *f*

cl. *f*

glock. *f*

vib. *f*
improvise continuous 8th notes in D major; contour is optional, but generally follow range

cym. (l) *f* l.v. *pp*

pno. *f*
improvise continuous 16th notes in D major; contour is optional, but generally follow range

H with longing and desperation

improvise continuous 16th notes in D major; contour is optional, but generally follow range
sul ponticello

vln. *f*

vla. *f*
improvise continuous 16th notes in D major; contour is optional, but generally follow range
sul ponticello

vc. 1 *f* *espressivo*

vc. 2 *f*

cb. *f*

score in c

13

[illegible]

score in c

14

I improvise fast runs and patterns in D major. adhering to the exact rhythms and contour is not necessary, but *do* adhere to rests and general range.

fl. *ff*

cl. improvise fast runs and patterns notes in D major. adhering to the exact rhythms and contour is not necessary, but *do* adhere to rests and general range.

glock.

vib. *ff*

cym. (l) l.v. *f* *pp*

pno. *ff*

I

vln. *ff*

vla. *ff*

vc. 1 *ff*

vc. 2 *ff*

cb. *ff*

75

fl.

cl.

glock.

vib.

cym. (l)

pno.

vln.

vla.

vc. 1

vc. 2

cb.

ff

f

pp

mp

1.v.

The musical score is for measures 75 through 78. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The score includes parts for the following instruments: Flute (fl.), Clarinet (cl.), Glockenspiel (glock.), Vibraphone (vib.), Cymbal (cym. (l)), Piano (pno.), Violin (vln.), Viola (vla.), Violoncello 1 (vc. 1), Violoncello 2 (vc. 2), and Contrabass (cb.). Measure 75 features a flute and clarinet melody with a large slur, a glockenspiel playing a rhythmic pattern marked *ff*, a vibraphone playing chords, a cymbal with a single stroke marked *f* and *1.v.*, a piano with chords and a bass line, and strings. Measure 76 continues the flute and clarinet melody, with the glockenspiel and vibraphone continuing their patterns. Measure 77 shows the flute and clarinet melody, with the glockenspiel and vibraphone continuing. Measure 78 concludes the section with a final chord for the piano and strings, and a *mp* marking for the violin.

J despairing ♩ = 60

rall.

fl. *mp* *n* *p* *ppp*

cl. *mp* *n* *p* *ppp*

glock. arco l.v. *ppp*

vib. *mp* *p* *ppp*

cym. (l) l.v. *mp* *ppp*

pno. *mp* *p* *ppp*

una corda

J despairing ♩ = 60

rall.

vln. *n*

vla. sul ponticello *mp* *n* *p* *ppp*

vc. 1 sul ponticello *mp* *n* *p* *ppp*

vc. 2 sul ponticello *mp* *n* *p* *ppp*

cb. solo *mf* *p* *n*
espressivo