

Lynne Plowman

Water Break-Its-Neck

for wind quintet

Score (transposed)

2010

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for wind quintet:

flute
oboe/ cor anglais
clarinet in B \flat
horn in F
bassoon

Commissioned by Presteigne Festival of Music and the Arts for a premiere by the Galliard Ensemble on 30th August 2010 in Presteigne, Powys, Wales.

The festival commissioned five composers to each write a short piece for wind quintet, with a very specific brief. Each composer focussed on one instrument from the ensemble as a soloist, like a mini-concerto. Each composer was given a particular place in the Presteigne area to use as inspiration - mine was a waterfall at Llanfihangel Nant Melan in Radnorshire - Water Break-Its-Neck is the name of the waterfall. And every composer used the same Welsh folk-song, Y Fwyalchen (The Blackbird) in some way, to link the pieces together.

I imagined approaching the waterfall from a distance through the woods - the song of a blackbird, a gently winding river, the sudden chaotic rush of the waterfall itself and a quote from the folksong at the end...

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Birdsong: $\text{♩} = c60$; very free

The score is divided into two systems. The first system features three Flute (Fl.) staves. The top staff begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and contains a complex melodic line with triplets and 5:4 rhythms. The middle staff is marked *p (echo)* and contains a sustained chord. The bottom staff mirrors the top staff's melodic line. The second system is marked with a box 'A' and includes five woodwind staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in A (C. A.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn), and Bassoon (Bsn). The Flute staff starts with *f* and has a triplet. The woodwind staves (C. A., Cl., Hn, Bsn) are marked *p (warm)* and feature sustained notes with 5:4 rhythms. The third system continues the woodwind parts, with the Flute staff marked *f* and containing a triplet. The woodwind staves continue with sustained notes and 5:4 rhythms.

B Flowing

Fl. *mp* *p* *mp*

C. A.

Cl. *mp* *p* *mp*

Hn

Bsn

Fl. *free: independent*

C. A. *mp*

Cl. *più f*

Hn *mp*

Bsn *mp*

Fl. *f*

C. A. *mf*

Cl. *f, expressive, flexible*

Hn *mf*

Bsn *mf*

Fl. 

C. A. *f, expressive, flexible* 

Cl. 

Hn 

Bsn 

pp *f, expressive, flexible*

C Relaxed, independent lines

each phrase (between the dotted bar-lines) should be repeated in quick succession, the number of times indicated, before moving immediately on to the next phrase. Each instrument is rhythmically independent - metronome marks are given as a rough guide, the oboe being slightly slower than the flute and clarinet. The result should be an intense, rushing, waterfall effect

Fl. *f*  *accel. poco a poco*

C. A. *f*  take oboe

Cl. *f (rhythmic, pulsing)*  Repeat until D. At D cut straight to new material.

Hn *f*  Repeat until D. At D cut straight to new material.

Bsn *f*  Repeat until D. At D cut straight to new material.

D (♩ = c.104)

Fl. *ff* forceful, with ferocious energy 

Oboe *f*  *ff* forceful, with ferocious energy

Cl. *ff* forceful, with ferocious energy  Very free, independent lines, ♩ = c.104 (like bubbles rising to the surface)

Hn *f*  Repeat until D. At D cut straight to new material.

Bsn *f* 

Fl. *ff* *forceful, with ferocious energy*

Ob. *ff* *forceful, with ferocious energy*

Cl. *ff* *forceful, with ferocious energy*

Hn

Bsn

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn

Bsn

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Hn

Bsn

Fl. *x 3*

Ob. *x 2*

Cl. *x 3*

Hn *6*

Bsn *5*

Fl. *x 3*

Ob. *x 2*

Cl. *x 2*

Hn *5*

Bsn *6*

E $\text{♩} = 116$

Fl. (breath where necessary - stagger breaths)

Ob. *x 2* (breath where necessary - stagger breaths)

Cl. (breath where necessary - stagger breaths)

Hn

Bsn *fff*

hold until everyone is still

Fl. *ff* *ff* *ff* *f*

Ob. *ff* *ff* *f* 5:4

Cl. *ff* *ff* *ff*

Hn. *pp*

Bsn. *f*

Measures 1-4 of the score. Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet play rapid sixteenth-note passages with triplets and accents. Horns play sustained notes, and Bassoon has a few notes at the end.

Fl. *ff* *ff* *ff* *f* *mf*

Ob. *ff* *ff* *ff* *f* *mf*

Cl. *ff* *ff* *ff* *f* *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Measures 5-8. Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet continue with similar patterns, ending with a *mf* dynamic. Horns play sustained notes, and Bassoon has a few notes.

Fl. *f* *f* *f* *mf* *mp*

Ob. *f* *mp* (solo)

Cl. *f* *f* *f* *mf* *(mp) f* 5:3 5:3

Hn. *mf* *p*

Bsn.

Measures 9-12. Flute, Oboe, and Clarinet play with varying dynamics. Clarinet has 5:3 trills. Horns play sustained notes, and Bassoon is silent.

F (♩ = c.104) x 2

Fl. *ff* (ferocious)

(♩ = c.96)

Ob. *ff* (ferocious)

(♩ = c.104)

Cl. *ff* (ferocious)

Hn

Bsn

Fl. *mf* (more relaxed)

Ob. *mf* (more relaxed)

Cl. *mf* (more relaxed)

Hn

Bsn

Fl. *p*

Ob.

Cl. *p*

Hn

Bsn

Fl. *x 2*

Ob.

Cl.

Hn

Bsn *p*

G (independent)

Fl. *x 3*

Flowing $\text{♩} = c.60$

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp* *p* *mp*

Hn *mp* *p*

Bsn

Fl. *x 3* *x 2* (fade into clarinet)

Ob.

Cl. *più f*

Hn

Bsn

free; independent

H

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-3. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The time signature is 4/2. The Flute part begins with a melodic line featuring triplets and a fermata. The Oboe, Horn, and Bassoon parts are mostly silent, with the Horn and Bassoon parts showing a *p* dynamic marking. The Clarinet part has a long melodic line with multiple triplet markings.

Musical score for the second system, measures 4-6. The Flute part continues with a melodic line, marked *mf*. The Oboe part has a melodic line with a triplet, marked *mf*. The Clarinet part has a long melodic line with a fermata. The Horn and Bassoon parts are mostly silent. The time signature changes to 3/4 in measure 6. A tempo marking $(\text{♩} = c.116, \text{independent})$ is present.

Musical score for the third system, measures 7-9. The Flute part has a complex melodic line with triplets and a 5:4 ratio, marked *f*. The Oboe part has a melodic line with a triplet. The Clarinet, Horn, and Bassoon parts are mostly silent. The time signature is 3/4.