

# BEN STONAKER

## HOLLOW PULSE

*for band*

2011

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### INSTRUMENTATION

Flute

Oboe (optional)

Bassoon (optional)

Clarinets in B-flat 1, 2

Bass Clarinet (optional)

Alto Saxophone

Tenor Saxophone (optional)

Baritone Saxophone (optional)

Trumpets in B-flat 1, 2

Horn in F (doubles Alto Saxophone)

Trombone

Baritone (T.C. & B.C.)

Tuba

Timpani

Melodic Percussion

(Bells, Xylophone, Vibraphone, Crotales  
and/or Marimba may be used)

Percussion 1

(Snare Drum, Bass Drum)

Percussion 2

(Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbals,  
Hi-hat - all optional)

*Additional Parts:* E-flat Contra-alto Clarinet,  
and BB-flat Contrabass Clarinet

*Hollow Pulse* was written in response to a track from Björk's album "Biophilia". The track "Hollow" has a driving pulse that fluctuates in various speeds using pitches from organ pipes while a vocal layer weaves in and out of the texture, often in thick clusters. This gave me an idea for a band piece – particularly a middle school band piece – that would make use of a steady pulse in different tempi. I completed the piece in one sitting (in about three hours). The rhythms and ranges of the parts are not out of reach for a young band. What may be problematic is that there is no sense of melody and accompaniment, which normally helps younger students in finding their way through the music. This will challenge the students to count and play more independently. The piece is written with no key signature. This means that the students will be reading a variety of accidentals, perhaps helping them with sight reading and memorization of enharmonic spellings they are not used to seeing.

The opening introduces two layers – a quarter-note pulse and an opposing long tone that descends a minor second. The quarter-note pulse eventually becomes stacked in minor sevenths – which makes up notes found in the whole-tone scale. An *accelerando* leads into a short fast section that introduces tightly written clusters before returning to the opening tempo. A second *accelerando* leads into a longer section based on the whole-tone scale before a recap of the opening is heard in the new tempo. A final *accelerando* brings the piece to a close as all the parts finally reach unisons and octaves.

#### Performance Notes:

Most of the notes found in this piece have a staccato marking attached. Any note with a staccato marking must be played as short as possible. This is a good way to have a young group practice playing staccato together at different speeds.

The melodic percussion part includes a section where they are asked to play with the stick end of mallets. Performers should be careful to play strictly in tempo and rhythm and are free to play *any* notes in the pattern. If multiple keyboard instruments and performers are available, this parts should be doubled to reinforce the desired effect in this section. Use as many as possible.

The muffled timpani and bass drum parts may be muffled with the hand or some other means of dampening the sound without letting it ring. When the staccato markings are no longer present, the performer may play normally.

At rehearsal 61: clarinets, saxophones, horns, trombones, and baritones are asked to improvise. Each part is given three pitches (six pitches total) and instructed to continue playing quarter notes using any of these pitches in any order. The performers may play these pitches in any order, repeating notes as often as they wish.

Both standard and non-standard doublings of the wind parts has been used. There are a few spots when certain parts are not doubled, but it is only in instrument parts that are not optional. See the instrumentation list on the cover for which parts are optional. The Percussion 2 part is optional, but written in a way where only two performers are needed. If possible, the hi-hat part should be covered. The contra clarinet parts double the tuba, sometimes down an octave.

Duration: 3:30

# Hollow Pulse

for band

Moderately slow ♩ = 84

The score is for a band and is in 4/4 time. The tempo is 'Moderately slow' with a metronome marking of ♩ = 84. The music is divided into two systems. The first system includes Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B♭ Clarinets (1 and 2), Bass Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone. The second system includes Trumpets in B♭ (1 and 2), Horn in F, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, Timpani (G, B♭), Mallet Percussion, Percussion 1 (Bass Drum), and Percussion 2. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. The percussion parts are marked 'muffled'.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

# Hollow Pulse

2

9

*accel.* -----

Fl. *mf* *mf* *f*

Ob. *f*

Bsn.

1 *mf* *f*

2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. *f*

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

9

*accel.* -----

1 *f*

2 *f*

Hn. *f*

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Timp.

Mllt. *mf* *f*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

# Hollow Pulse

21 Very fast ♩ = c.168

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1  
B♭ Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

21 Very fast ♩ = c.168

1  
B♭ Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Timp.

Milt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

ff Snare Drum

ff

Susp. Cym.

p

f

p



36 Fast ♩ = c.132

Hollow Pulse

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

B. Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

36 Fast ♩ = c.132

1

B. Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Timp.

Mllt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Use stick end of mallet.  
Play any notes in this pattern.

*mf*  
on rim >

*p*

# Hollow Pulse

6

45

Musical score for woodwinds and strings, measures 43-50. The instruments listed are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinet 1 (1), Clarinet 2 (2), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sx.). The score begins at measure 43. The Flute and Oboe parts enter at measure 45 with a *p* dynamic. The Bassoon, Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Alto Saxophone, Tenor Saxophone, and Baritone Saxophone parts enter at measure 43 with a *p* dynamic. The woodwinds play a rhythmic pulse of eighth notes, while the strings play a similar pulse. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

45

Musical score for brass instruments, measures 43-50. The instruments listed are Horn 1 (1), Horn 2 (2), Trombone (Tbn.), Baritone (Bar.), and Tuba. The score begins at measure 43. The Horn 1 and Horn 2 parts enter at measure 45 with a *p* dynamic. The Trombone, Baritone, and Tuba parts enter at measure 43 with a *p* dynamic. The brass instruments play a rhythmic pulse of eighth notes, mirroring the woodwinds. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

Musical score for percussion, measures 43-50. The instruments listed are Timpani (Timp.), Milt. (Milt.), Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The score begins at measure 43. The Milt. and Perc. 1 parts enter at measure 43 with a *p* dynamic. The Timp. and Perc. 2 parts are silent throughout. The Milt. and Perc. 1 parts play a rhythmic pulse of eighth notes. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor).

# Hollow Pulse

Fl.  
Ob.  
Bsn.  
1  
B♭ Cls.  
2  
B. Cl.  
A. Sx.  
T. Sx.  
B. Sx.  
1  
B♭ Tpts.  
2  
Hn.  
Tbn.  
Bar.  
Tuba  
Timp.  
Mllt.  
Perc. 1  
Perc. 2

51 52 53 54 55 56 57

# Hollow Pulse

8

61

(lower notes optional)

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

B♭ Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

*mf*

*f*

Use only E♭, D♯, and C♯

*mf* Continue playing quarter notes using any of these notes in any order.  
Use only C♯, B♭, and A♯

*mf* Continue playing quarter notes using any of these notes in any order.

*mf* Continue playing quarter notes using any of these notes in any order.  
Use only B♭, A♯, and G♯

*mf* Continue playing quarter notes using any of these notes in any order.  
Use only C♯, B♭, and A♯

*mf*

*f*

61

1

B♭ Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Timp.

Mllt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

*mf*

*f*

Use only A♭, G♯, and F♯

*mf* Continue playing quarter notes using any of these notes in any order.  
Use only B♭, A♯, and G♯

*mf* Continue playing quarter notes using any of these notes in any order.  
Use only B♭, A♯, and G♯

*mf*

*f*

use stick end of mallets  
(play both drums at the same time)

*p*

*f*

*mf*

# Hollow Pulse

This page of the musical score, titled "Hollow Pulse", page 9, contains the following parts and measures:

- Fl.** (Flute): Measures 65-70.
- Ob.** (Oboe): Measures 65-70.
- Bsn.** (Bassoon): Measures 65-70.
- B♭ Cls.** (B♭ Clarinets):
  - 1: Measures 65-70.
  - 2: Measures 65-70.
- B. Cl.** (B♭ Clarinet): Measures 65-70.
- A. Sx.** (Alto Saxophone): Measures 65-70.
- T. Sx.** (Tenor Saxophone): Measures 65-70.
- B. Sx.** (Bass Saxophone): Measures 65-70.
- B♭ Tpts.** (B♭ Trumpets):
  - 1: Measures 65-70.
  - 2: Measures 65-70.
- Hn.** (Horn): Measures 65-70.
- Tbn.** (Trombone): Measures 65-70.
- Bar.** (Baritone): Measures 65-70.
- Tuba**: Measures 65-70.
- Timp.** (Timpani): Measures 65-70.
- Mllt.** (Mallets): Measures 65-70.
- Perc. 1**: Measures 65-70.
- Perc. 2**: Measures 65-70.

Measures 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, and 70 are indicated at the bottom of the page.

# Hollow Pulse

10

74

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

2

B $\flat$  Cls.

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

74

1

2

B $\flat$  Tpts.

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

switch to mallet end

Timp.

Mllt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

*p*

*p*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

Hi-hat (closed)

Hollow Pulse

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The top section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and two parts of B♭ Clarinets (B♭ Cls. 1 and 2). The middle section includes B♭ Clarinet (B. Cl.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sx.), Tenor Saxophone (T. Sx.), and Baritone Saxophone (B. Sx.). The bottom section includes two parts of B♭ Trumpets (B♭ Tpts. 1 and 2), Horn (Hn.), Trombone (Tbn.), Baritone (Bar.), and Tuba. The percussion section at the bottom includes Snare Drum (Perc. 1), Cymbals (Timp.), and another Snare Drum (Perc. 2). The score spans five measures, with measure numbers 76, 77, 78, 79, and 80 indicated at the bottom. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The percussion parts feature a consistent rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with the snare drum and cymbals playing a 'Hollow Pulse' motif.

# Hollow Pulse

12

82

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1

B♭ Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

82

1

B♭ Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Timp.

Mllt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Hollow Pulse

90

13

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

1  
B♭ Cls.

2

B. Cl.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

90

1  
B♭ Tpts.

2

Hn.

Tbn.

Bar.

Tuba

Timp.

Mllt.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

# Hollow Pulse

14

The musical score for "Hollow Pulse" is arranged for a large ensemble. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Fl. (Flute):** Features a melodic line with a trill-like figure in the first measure, marked with *mf* and *f* dynamics.
- Ob. (Oboe):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- Bsn. (Bassoon):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- 1 B. Cls. (B-flat Clarinet):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- 2 B. Cls. (B-flat Clarinet):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- B. Cl. (B-flat Clarinet):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- A. Sx. (Alto Saxophone):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- T. Sx. (Tenor Saxophone):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- B. Sx. (Baritone Saxophone):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- 1 B♭ Tpts. (B-flat Trumpet):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- 2 B♭ Tpts. (B-flat Trumpet):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- Hn. (Horn):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- Tbn. (Trombone):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- Bar. (Baritone):** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- Tuba:** Plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment.
- Timp. (Timpani):** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Mllt. (Mallets):** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks indicating mallet strikes.
- Perc. 1 (Percussion 1):** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Perc. 2 (Percussion 2):** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

