

PERUSAL SCORE - NOT FOR PERFORMANCE USE

STEVEN BRYANT

The Machine Awakes

FOR BAND + ELECTRONIC ACCOMPANIMENT

Duration: ca. 5'

AVAILABLE AT www.stevenbryant.com

The Machine Awakes requires an audio / PA system capable of producing enough sound to complement a full concert band, as well as monitor speakers for the conductor and band.

The electronic accompaniment is available from www.stevenbryant.com

Program Notes

The Machine Awakes is the sound of something not human (but of humans hands) - something not entirely organic, but most definitely *alive* - waking for the first time. From the opening swirling textures, we sense the first hesitant sparks of thought, attempting to find form and coherence. This new machine - sentient, aware - comes fully awake, possessed of emphatic self-determination and unfathomable purpose.

Performance Notes

The music opens mysteriously and amorphously, with tendrils of trilling sound floating upward. The first two electronics cues do not have to sync precisely with the band – the live Clarinets should blend seamlessly with the recorded ones, so the audience hears a chaotic, swirling, rising texture, without a defined rhythm. CUE 1 and CUE 2 should not be too loud, so that the blend between the band and the electronics is seamless and difficult to discern.

It is vital that the tempo be precisely quarter note = 60, so that when the rhythmic electronic track enters at m. 28 (CUE 3), the band can easily lock into the recorded groove. The electronics should be present and clear – as loud as possible without burying the band.

Since the conductor must “lock” to the groove at this point, and remain in sync with it until the end of the work, the conductor **MUST** have a powerful monitor speaker (usually a wedge). I also suggest that the band, or at least the percussion section, have monitor speakers so that they can hear and sync to the groove. This will also allow them to fully feel a part of the sonic experience.

ELECTRONICS: The electronic accompaniment is **NOT** optional. It is triggered from a computer or portable device (i.e. tablet, phone), using a downloadable program from www.stevenbryant.com. Simply plug the headphone jack or main audio output of your computer, tablet, etc. into your PA system, set up monitors as needed for the conductor and band, and you should be ready to go. In performance, the computer operator will press the CUE number on the keyboard (1, 2, or 3) that corresponds to the CUE as printed in the score. In rehearsal, the electronics may be started at any rehearsal number, so it is not necessary to always start at the beginning of the CUE. I recommend setting up the PA system with the ability for someone in the audience (e.g. at a control/mixing board) to be able to adjust the electronics volume in performance in order to maintain proper balance.

OSSIA PARTS: Select parts contain *optional*, more difficult melodic figures and/or higher ranges. These are notated in small, cue-size notes in the score and parts. The director may assign these notes to particularly strong players at his or her discretion, or may leave them out entirely.

About the Composer

Steven Bryant (b. 1972, Little Rock, Arkansas) is an active composer and conductor, with numerous works for orchestra, band, and chamber and electro-acoustic ensembles. He studied composition with John Corigliano at The Juilliard School, Cindy McTee at the University of North Texas, and Francis McBeth at Ouachita University. More information is available at www.stevenbryant.com.

QUESTIONS about the music and the composer: info@stevenbryant.com

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Score
(transposed)

The Machine Awakes

Steven Bryant
2012

Mysterious ♩ = 60

The score is for a full orchestra and percussion ensemble. The key signature is three flats (B-flat major/D minor) and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'Mysterious' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Flute 1 & 2, Oboe, Clarinet in B-flat 1, 2, and 3, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Alto Saxophone 1 & 2, Tenor Sax, Bari Sax, Trumpet in B-flat 1 & 2, Horn in F 1 & 2, Trombone 1 & 2, Euphonium, and Tuba. The second system includes Electronics, Timpani, Sus Cym, Bass Drum, Glockenspiel, Marimba, Vibraphone, and Tam-tam. The score features various musical notations such as trills (tr), triplets (3), and dynamic markings (pp, ppp, f). A large watermark 'AVAILABLE AT www.stevenbryant.com' is overlaid across the middle of the score.

CUE 1

Sampled Clarinets, trilling and playing the ascending scale at varying speeds. Do NOT try to synchronize with them; the resultant sound should be a swirling, chaotic, rising mass of Clarinets. Blend so the live and recorded instruments are indistinguishable from one another.

The Machine Awakes

2

8

FL. 1
FL. 2
Ob.
B♭ Cl. 1
B♭ Cl. 2
B♭ Cl. 3
B. Cl.
Bsn
A. Sx. 1/2
T. Sx.
B. Sx.

pp
tr
pp
tr
pp
tr
pp + Alto Clar.
- Alto Clar.
pp
tr

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B♭ Tpt. 1
B♭ Tpt. 2
Hn. 1/2
Tbn. 1/2
Euph.
Tba.

CUE 2

Sampled Clarinets, trilling and playing the ascending scale at varying speeds. Do NOT try to synchronize with them; the resultant sound should be a swirling, chaotic, rising mass of Clarinets. Blend so the live and recorded instruments are indistinguishable from one another.

Elec.
Timp.
SC
BD
Glock.
Mar.
Vibr.
Tam-tam

n
tr
tr
very soft mallets
p
very soft beater
p

13 **Maestoso, molto legato** (♩ = 60)

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl. 1/2, Ob., B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2/3, B. Cl., Bsn, A. Sx. 1/2, T. Sx., B. Sx., B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn. 1/2, Tbn. 1/2, Euph., Tba., Elec., Timp., SC, BD, Glock., Mar., Vibr., and Tam-tam. The score begins with a key signature of two flats (B♭ and E♭) and a 2/4 time signature. The tempo and articulation are marked as 'Maestoso, molto legato' with a quarter note equal to 60 beats per minute. The music features a prominent bassoon part starting with a forte (f) dynamic, and woodwinds (clarinets, saxophones) and brass (trumpets, trombones, euphonium, tuba) parts that enter later in the piece. The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, slurs, and trills. A large watermark 'AVAILABLE AT www.stevenbryant.com' is overlaid across the middle of the page.

The Machine Awakes

4 **18**

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2
3

B. Cl.

Bsn

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn. 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba.

Elec.

Timp.

SC

BD

Glock.

Mar.

Vibr.

Tam-tam

f

ff

a2

Div.

rit.

molto rit.

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28 Sync to electronic groove ♩ = 60

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2
3

B. Cl.

Bsn

A. Sx. 1
2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

p

tr

mp

p + Alto Clar. (3rd Cl.)

mp

mp

p

mp

mp

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B♭ Tpt. 1

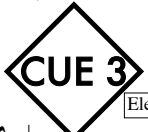
B♭ Tpt. 2

Hn. 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba.



Electronic groove begins...

16th-note groove continues

Elec.

Timp.

SC

BD

Glock.

Mar.

Vibr.

Tam-tam

ff

hard mallets

ff

ff

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1

B \flat Cl. 2
3

B. Cl.

Bsn

A. Sax. 1
2

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn. 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba.

Elec.

Timp.

SC

BD

Glock.

Mar.

Vibr.

Tam-tam

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Hard-driving 16th-note pulse over notated bass line.

The Machine Awakes

62

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

Bb Cl. 1

Bb Cl. 2
3

B. Cl.

Bsn

A. Sx. 1
2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

Bb Tpt. 1

Bb Tpt. 2

Hn. 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba.

Elec.

Timp.

SC

BD

Glock.

Mar.

Vibr.

Tam-tam

ff

tr

a2

ff

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The Machine Awakes

10 **68**

Fl. 1
2

Ob.

B \flat Cl. 1
2

B \flat Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn

A. Sx. 1
2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B \flat Tpt. 1
2

Hn. 1
2

Tbn. 1
2

Euph.

Tba.

Elec.

Timp.

SC

BD

Glock.

Mar.

Vibr.

Tam-tam

AVAILABLE AT www.stevenbryant.com

a2

ff