

STEVEN BRYANT

Dusk

4-voice Flexible Ensemble

Duration: ca. 6'

Version: 1.0

If you discover errors or have questions, please contact me at info@stevenbryant.com.

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Score is in C. *Dusk* has been arranged for four voices, and parts are included in C, Bb, Eb, F, and Treble, Bass, and Alto clefs, as well as octave transpositions for every part. I encourage you to refer to my original band and orchestra versions* for instrumentation ideas based on the players you have available to you. Feel free to assign solo moments and adjust orchestration as warranted. I hope you experiment freely in rehearsal and invite your players to make suggestions, switch parts, etc., to gain a deeper understanding of the impact instrumentation, octave placement, and density have on our experience of music. My goal with this adaptation is for the conductor and players to gain deeper insight into how music is put together, and how their intentional decisions are critical in all of their performances.

It's about MUCH more than the notes!

I wish you all the best.

Steven Bryant

June, 2020, Eberschwang, Austria.

* Free perusal PDFs of *Dusk* are available at www.stevenbryant.com

Program Note

This simple, chorale-like work captures the reflective calm of dusk, paradoxically illuminated by the fiery hues of sunset. I'm always struck by the dual nature of this experience, as if witnessing an event of epic proportions silently occurring in slow motion. *Dusk* is intended as a short, passionate evocation of this moment of dramatic stillness.

Dusk is part of a three-work "night cycle," continuing with *The Marbled Midnight Mile*, and concluding with *First Light*.

Performance Tips

The work should be warm, slow, and extremely legato, with natural rubato. The biggest challenges are intonation (because of the sustained tones, and the cluster chords), and endurance at the marked tempo. Vibrato should be kept to an absolute minimum, especially wherever there are chord clusters. In particular, the flutes should minimize their natural tendency toward vibrato. The climax of the work should not rush - there's no *accelerando* from m. 36 to m. 42. M. 42 should be the loudest point, and there must be no breath at the end of m. 41 - sustain the chord and push into m. 42. Staggered breathing is required in many places - use as necessary.

There's more interpretive and background material about the piece on my website: www.stevenbryant.com.

Dusk

4-voice Flexible Ensemble Part Assignment Guide

Here's an initial part assignment guide to get you started with this flexible version of *Dusk*. While all players may simply play their parts as written, I encourage you to experiment with the orchestration, particularly if you have more than the minimum four voices available to you. Feel free to assign certain melodic phrases as solos, using the original band or orchestra versions of the piece as a guide, or even try some things that are counterintuitive: for example, give the opening solo line in measures 2-3 in Part III to various instruments in the ensemble, from Flute to Tuba, and see how it affects the music. Do the same with the Part II line in measure 4. Consider how the two relate to each other, and how the instrument choices for one affects the other.

I intend for this version of *Dusk* to be an experimental playground and a vehicle for you and your ensemble (of whatever size and instrumental combination) to learn how music is far more than the notes on the page. I hope that through this exercise, the musicians will gain a deeper understanding of the impact of their choices on how we hear a piece of music, and ultimately that they transfer this awareness to their future musical performances.

Recommended part assignments. Start here if you aren't sure where to begin, and reassign as necessary.

NOTE: **C TC I** = C Treble Clef part I, **Bb BC IV** = Bb Bass Clef part IV, etc.

Flute	C TC I
Oboe	C TC I
Clarinet	Bb TC II
Bass Clarinet	Bb TC III
Bassoon	C BC III, IV
Alto Saxophone	Eb Alto/Bari Saxophone I, II
Tenor Saxophone	Bb TC III
Baritone Saxophone	Eb Alto/Bari Saxophone III, IV
Trumpet	Bb TC I, II
Horn	Horn in F III, IV (yes, start with parts III and IV, and only use I and II if necessary/desired)
Trombone	C BC III, IV
Baritone/Euphonium	C BC III, IV
Tuba	Tuba IV
Piano, Percussion, and Strings	standard parts as named

Dusk

PARTS LIST

Set includes the following parts. The percussion and Piano/Guitar parts are optional.

C Treble Clef I - IV

Bb Treble Clef I - IV

Horn in F I - IV

C Bass Clef I - IV

Tuba I - IV

Eb Alto/Bari Saxophone I - IV

Piano / Guitar

Vibraphone

Timpani

Percussion (Suspended Cymbal, Crash Cymbal, Bass Drum)

- up to 3 players may play this part

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Dusk

4-voice Adaptable Ensemble

Largo, e molto legato

$\text{♩} = 44$

The score is written for four voices and several optional instruments. The tempo is Largo, e molto legato, with a quarter note equal to 44 beats. The music is in C major and consists of five measures. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 4/4, then 3/4, and back to 4/4. The dynamics are marked piano (p). The four voices are Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The optional instruments are Piano or Guitar, Timpani, Percussion, and Vibraphone. The Piano or Guitar part has a melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The Timpani, Percussion, and Vibraphone parts are mostly rests, with the Vibraphone part starting with a half note in the first measure.

I (Soprano)

II (Alto)

III (Tenor)

IV (Bass)

Piano or Guitar (optional)

Timpani (optional)

Percussion (optional)

Vibraphone (optional)

p

p

p

p

motor off, med. mallets

p

PERUSAL SCORE
PDF SCORE + ALL PARTS AVAILABLE AT
www.stevenbryant.com

2

3

4

Dusk
- Score -

5

The musical score is arranged in a system with eight staves. The top four staves are for strings: I (S) in treble clef, II (A) in treble clef, III (T) in bass clef, and IV (B) in bass clef. The fifth and sixth staves are for piano (Pno. and Gtr.) in treble and bass clefs respectively. The seventh staff is for timpani (Timp.) in bass clef. The eighth staff is for vibraphone (Vib.) in treble clef. The score is divided into measures 5 through 9. Measure 5 is in 3/4 time, measure 6 is in 4/4 time, measure 7 is in 4/4 time, measure 8 is in 3/4 time, and measure 9 is in 4/4 time. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The string parts feature melodic lines with slurs and ties. The piano part provides harmonic support with chords and arpeggios. The vibraphone part has a melodic line in measure 5 and rests in the following measures.

I (S)

II (A)

III (T)

IV (B)

Pno.
(Gtr.)

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

5 6 7 8 9

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- Score -

13

10

I (S)

II (A)

III (T)

IV (B)

Pno. (Gtr.)

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

mf

mf

mf

p

mf

mf

10

11

12

13

14

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15

I (S)

II (A)

III (T)

IV (B)

Pno. (Gtr.)

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

mf

15 16 17 18 19 20

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the piece 'Dusk'. The score is written for a string quartet (I (S), II (A), III (T), IV (B)), piano and guitar (Pno. (Gtr.)), timpani (Timp.), percussion (Perc.), and vibraphone (Vib.). The music is in 2/4 time and begins at measure 15. The string parts feature melodic lines with slurs and accents. The piano and guitar part provides harmonic support with chords and arpeggios. The vibraphone part has a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *mf* starting at measure 19. The percussion and timpani parts are mostly silent, indicated by rests. The score is numbered 15 through 20 at the bottom.

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- Score -

21

The musical score is arranged in eight staves. The top four staves are for strings: I (S), II (A), III (T), and IV (B). The fifth and sixth staves are for the piano (Pno. and Gtr.). The seventh staff is for timpani (Timp.), and the eighth is for vibraphone (Vib.). The score begins at measure 21 and ends at measure 26. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand. The timpani part uses soft mallets and plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The vibraphone part provides a harmonic accompaniment with sustained chords.

I (S)

II (A)

III (T)

IV (B)

Pno.
(Gtr.)

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

p

pp

Soft mallets

21 22 23 24 25 26

Dusk

- Score -

27

I (S)

II (A)

III (T)

IV (B)

Pno.
(Gtr.)

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

mf
ped.

27 28 29 30 31

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for the piece 'Dusk'. The score is written for a string quartet (I (S), II (A), III (T), IV (B)), piano (Pno. (Gtr.)), timpani (Timp.), percussion (Perc.), and vibraphone (Vib.). The music begins at measure 27 and continues through measure 31. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor), and the time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 to 4/4. The string parts (I-IV) feature melodic lines with various rhythmic values and dynamics. The piano part (Pno. (Gtr.)) provides harmonic support with chords and arpeggios. The timpani part (Timp.) plays sustained chords. The percussion part (Perc.) is mostly silent. The vibraphone part (Vib.) plays a melodic line with a tremolo effect. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *ped.* (pedal). The page number 27 is indicated at the top left, and the measure numbers 27, 28, 29, 30, and 31 are marked at the bottom.

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- Score -

32

36

I (S) *f* *p*

II (A) *f* *pp* *mp*

III (T) *f* *pp*

IV (B) *f* *pp*

Pno. (Gtr.) *f* *pp* *p*

Timp. *f* *> p* *pp*

Perc. BASS DRUM *pp*

Vib. *f* *p* *mp*
ped.

32

33

34

35

36

37

Dusk
- Score -

38

I (S)

II (A)

III (T)

IV (B)

Pno. (Gtr.)

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

mf

ff

SUS. CYM.

ff

p <

38 39 40 41

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for 'Dusk'. It contains eight staves. The top four staves are for strings: I (S), II (A), III (T), and IV (B). The fifth and sixth staves are for Piano/Guitar (Pno. (Gtr.)). The seventh staff is for Timpani (Timp.). The eighth staff is for Percussion (Perc.), which includes a suspended cymbal (SUS. CYM.). The ninth staff is for Vibraphone (Vib.). The score is in 3/4 time and changes to 4/4 time at the end of the page. Dynamics range from mezzo-forte (mf) to fortissimo (ff). There are various musical notations including slurs, ties, and accents. The page number 38 is at the top left, and the measure numbers 38, 39, 40, and 41 are at the bottom.

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- Score -

42

The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- I (S)**: Trumpet I, Treble clef, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *fff* (measures 1-3), *f* (measure 4).
- II (A)**: Trumpet II, Treble clef, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *fff* (measures 1-3), *f* (measure 4).
- III (T)**: Trombone, Bass clef, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *fff* (measures 1-3), *f* (measure 4).
- IV (B)**: Bassoon, Bass clef, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *fff* (measures 1-3), *f* (measure 4).
- Pno. (Gtr.)**: Piano/Guitar, Treble and Bass clefs, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *fff* (measures 1-3), *f* (measure 4).
- Timp.**: Timpani, Bass clef, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *fff* with accent (>) in measure 1, rests in measures 2-4.
- Perc.**: Percussion, Treble clef, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *fff* with accent (>) in measure 1, rests in measures 2-4. Includes a **CRASH CYMBAL** marking in measure 1.
- Vib.**: Vibraphone, Treble clef, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, 4/4 time signatures. Dynamics: *fff* in measure 1, rests in measures 2-4.

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46

I (S) *mf*

II (A) *mf*

III (T) *mf*

IV (B) *mf*

Pno. (Gtr.) *mf*

Timp.

Perc.

Vib. *f* *mf*

46 47 48 49 50

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. It features seven staves: I (S) for strings, II (A) for strings, III (T) for strings, IV (B) for strings, Pno. (Gtr.) for piano and guitar, Timp. for timpani, Perc. for percussion, and Vib. for vibraphone. The score begins at measure 46, which is marked with a 2/4 time signature. At measure 47, the time signature changes to 4/4. The dynamics are marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte) for most instruments and *f* (forte) for the vibraphone at the start of measure 46. The score concludes at measure 50.

Dusk

- Score -

53

51

The musical score consists of eight staves. The first four staves (I (S), II (A), III (T), IV (B)) are for string instruments. The fifth staff (Pno. (Gtr.)) is for piano and guitar. The sixth staff (Timp.) is for timpani. The seventh staff (Perc.) is for percussion. The eighth staff (Vib.) is for vibraphone. The score is in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures. The key signature has two flats. The dynamics are marked *p* (piano). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

51

52

53

54

55

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Dusk
- Score -

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I (S)

II (A)

III (T)

IV (B)

Pno.
(Gtr.)

Timp.

Perc.

Vib.

PERUSAL SCORE
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