

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

For Wind Ensemble

(2014)

AUSTIN ALI

Transcribed and revised for

The Plano West Senior High School Wind Ensemble

The Allen High School Band Program

INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
English Horn
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon*

2 Bb Clarinets
Bass Clarinet
Contrabass Clarinet*

Soprano Saxophone
Alto Saxophone
Tenor Saxophone
Baritone Saxophone

3 Bb Trumpets
4 French Horns
2 Tenor Trombones
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba

String Bass*
Piano

Timpani
Percussion I: Toms, Snare Drum
Percussion II: Bass Drum, Tam-tam
Percussion III: Xylophone, Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Marimba

*These three parts are interchangeable (i.e. at minimum, one of the three can be used)

PROGRAM NOTES

Blissful Nightmares began in November 2014, when I remembered a local Austin, TX newspaper advertisement that my aunt gave me earlier that year: “Austin Symphony Orchestra seeks young composers.” With only two weeks until the deadline, I approached my music theory teacher, Akira Sato, for some guidance. He told me he gained his compositional inspiration by taking a walk to clear his mind and recording himself humming a tune. Later, he would take this tune, jot it down, and begin to build a piece from it. I never ended up taking a walk, but later that week I was having trouble going to sleep and had a tune stuck in my head. So, I took out my phone and recorded myself singing it. Unsatisfied and still unable to sleep, I headed to my computer and scored the beginning to *Blissful Nightmares*, a work born literally in my bed—a dream.

Throughout the next week, I tinkered on my new work at school during passing periods and lunch breaks, taking every spare bit of time left to finish the piece. I submitted it to the Austin Symphony within minutes of the 11:59 PM deadline. A month later, to my complete surprise, I was notified that I was the grand prize winner of the ASO’s Texas Young Composer’s contest.

Since then, *Blissful Nightmares* has been performed by the Austin Symphony in January 2015 and April 2015 and the Shepton High School Symphony Orchestra in December 2016. I even had the honor to conduct the wind ensemble transcription of the work at the Plano West Senior High School Spring Concert in 2016.

“Blissful Nightmares” is a symphonic work focused on bipolarity, thus the title is naturally an oxymoron. The piece begins with a rhythmic, percussive section, leading to a fierce brass melody. The strings (saxophones) transition the score to a woodwind feature in the “Flowing” Adagio interlude. The melody then recapitulates in the end with the return of the massive brass sound and 7/8 time signature.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Complex meter groupings are always as follows:

$$\frac{5}{8} = 2 + 3^*$$

$$\frac{7}{8} = 2 + 2 + 3$$

*One exception: in measure 8, the 5/8 bar should be grouped as 3 + 2.

Woodwinds:

Since the saxophones are largely taking over for the strings, they should not be afraid to play out. Clarinet 1 is taking over for the Violin 2 countermelody in measure 86, so this part should be played very strongly.

Brass:

This piece is basically a big brass feature. The horns should jump out of the texture with their rip at measures 24 and 128. Likewise, the trombones should take over the ensemble at 27 and 131 with their melody. This melody should be played very strongly with bell-tone articulation. All trombone glissandi (starting in measure 117) should be very quick and loud. The pitch change should occur near the end of the glissando.

Percussion, string bass, and piano:

In exposed moments like in measure 30, the timpani should play out. In measure 76, the vibraphone should not play over the melody in the oboe.

General:

The “Flowing” section should be played *legato* in regards to style and articulation. In all sections, all *crescendos* should be one dynamic level unless otherwise specified.

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

Score

for Wind Ensemble

Austin Ali

Foreboding (♩=156)

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Piccolo

Flute 1-2

Oboe 1-2

English Horn

Bassoon 1-2

Contrabassoon

Clarinet in B♭ 1

Clarinet in B♭ 2-3

Bass Clarinet

Contrabass Clarinet

Soprano Sax

Alto Sax

Tenor Sax

Baritone Sax

Trumpet in B♭ 1

Trumpet in B♭ 2-3

Horn in F 1-2

Horn in F 3-4

Trombone 1-2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba

Double Bass

Piano

Timpani

Percussion 1
Snare Drum
Toms

Percussion 2
Bass Drum
Tam-tam

Percussion 3
Xylophone
Marimba
Vibraphone
Glockenspiel

1.

2.

p

(tuba cues)

pizz.
(tuba cues)

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9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Xyl.

1.

pp

a2.

p

a2.

p

2.

mf

arco

p

XYLOPHONE

mp

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

5

[illegible]

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Xyl.

41 42 44 45 46 47 48

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

(optional lower octave)

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Xyl.

D

S.D.

mf

ff

pp

ossia

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

NO PREVIEW

49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Xyl.

GLOCKENSPIEL

9

This page of the musical score covers measures 57 through 64. The instrumentation includes a wide range of orchestral instruments. The woodwinds (Picc., Fl., Ob., E. Hn., Bsn., C. Bn., B♭ Cl., B♭ Cl. 2-3, B. Cl., Cb. Cl., S. Sx., A. Sx., T. Sx., B. Sx.) and brasses (B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2-3, Hn., Hn. 3-4, Tbn., B. Tbn., Euph., Tuba, D.B.) are primarily playing sustained notes or long tones. The strings (Pno., Timp., Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Glk.) are more active, featuring triplet patterns and rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte) are used throughout to indicate volume. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'PREVIEW' is overlaid across the center of the page.

65 66 68 69 70 72

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

(optional lower octave)

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Mrb.

G

f

3

ff

TAM-TAM

B.D.

GLOCKENSPIEL

fff

f

3

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

The image displays a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony orchestra. The page is numbered 73 at the top left. The title of the piece is "H Flowing (♩=72)" located at the top center. The score is written for various instruments, including Piccolo (Picc.), Flutes (Fl. 1-2), Oboes (Ob. 1-2), Horns (E. Hn.), Bells (Bsn. 1-2), Clarinets (C. Bn.), Bassoons (B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2-3, B. Cl., Cb. Cl.), Saxophones (S. Sx., A. Sx., T. Sx., B. Sx.), Truets (B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2-3), Horns (Hn. 1-2, Hn. 3-4), Trombones (Tbn. 1-2, B. Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba, Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion (Perc. 1, Perc. 2), and Glockenspiel (Glk.). The score includes musical notation, dynamics (e.g., *mf*, *pp*, *f*), and a large "NOT FOR PUBLICATION" watermark. The page is numbered 73 at the top left, and the measures are numbered 73, 74, 76, 77, 78, 79, and 80. The score is written for various instruments, including Piccolo (Picc.), Flutes (Fl. 1-2), Oboes (Ob. 1-2), Horns (E. Hn.), Bells (Bsn. 1-2), Clarinets (C. Bn.), Bassoons (B♭ Cl. 1, B♭ Cl. 2-3, B. Cl., Cb. Cl.), Saxophones (S. Sx., A. Sx., T. Sx., B. Sx.), Truets (B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2-3), Horns (Hn. 1-2, Hn. 3-4), Trombones (Tbn. 1-2, B. Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba, Double Bass (D.B.), Piano (Pno.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion (Perc. 1, Perc. 2), and Glockenspiel (Glk.). The score includes musical notation, dynamics (e.g., *mf*, *pp*, *f*), and a large "NOT FOR PUBLICATION" watermark.

81 82 83 I 85 86 87 88

Picc.

FL. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vib.

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

13

89 90 91 J 93 94 95 96

Molto Rit.

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vib.

97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glk.

GLOCKENSPIEL

mp

Tempo I: Horrific (♩=156)

K

(4)

p

p

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

5

105 106 107 108 109 110 111 L

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

(8) (12)

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glk.

f *mp* *not too soft* *mp* *f* *mf* *pp* *mp* *f* *XYLOPHONE* *f*

113 114 115 116 117 118 119 M

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

(16) (20)

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Xyl.

121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128

Picc. *ff*

Fl. 1-2 *ff*

Ob. 1-2 *ff*

E. Hn. *ff*

Bsn. 1-2 *ff*

C. Bn. *ff*

B♭ Cl. 1 *ff*

B♭ Cl. 2-3 *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Cb. Cl. *ff*

S. Sx. *ff*

A. Sx. *ff*

T. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 1 *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 2-3 *ff*

Hn. 1-2 *mf* *f* *fff*

Hn. 3-4 *mf* *f* *fff*

Tbn. 1-2 *fff* *f* *ff*

B. Tbn. *fff* *f* *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

D.B. *ff*

Pno. (24) *ff*

Timp. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Xyl. *ff*

129 130 N 132 133 134 135 136

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sx.

A. Sx.

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Xyl.

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

137 138 140 141 142 143 144

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glk.

MARIMBA

145 146 148 149 150 151 152

Picc.

Fl. 1-2

Ob. 1-2

E. Hn.

Bsn. 1-2

C. Bn.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2-3

B. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

B. Sax.

B♭ Tpt. 1

B♭ Tpt. 2-3

Hn. 1-2

Hn. 3-4

Tbn. 1-2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

(optional lower octave)

D.B.

Pno.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Glk.

TAM-TAM

GLOCKENSPIEL

BLISSFUL NIGHTMARES

21

This image shows a page from a musical score, likely for a symphony or concert band. The score is written for a large ensemble, including the following instruments:

- Picc. (Piccolo)
- Fl. 1-2 (Flutes)
- Ob. 1-2 (Oboes)
- E. Hn. (English Horn)
- Bsn. 1-2 (Bassoons)
- C. Bn. (Clarinet Bassoon)
- B♭ Cl. 1 (B-flat Clarinet)
- B♭ Cl. 2-3 (B-flat Clarinets)
- B. Cl. (Bass Clarinet)
- Cb. Cl. (C Bass Clarinet)
- S. Sx. (Soprano Saxophone)
- A. Sx. (Alto Saxophone)
- T. Sx. (Tenor Saxophone)
- B. Sx. (Baritone Saxophone)
- B♭ Tpt. 1 (B-flat Trumpet)
- B♭ Tpt. 2-3 (B-flat Trumpets)
- Hn. 1-2 (Horns)
- Hn. 3-4 (Horns)
- Tbn. 1-2 (Trombones)
- B. Tbn. (Baritone Trombone)
- Euph. (Euphonium)
- Tuba
- D.B. (Double Bass)
- Pno. (Piano)
- Timp. (Timpani)
- Perc. 1 (Percussion 1)
- Perc. 2 (Percussion 2)
- Glk. (Glockenspiel)

The score is divided into measures, with measure numbers 153, 154, 156, 157, 159, and 160 visible. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *p* (piano) and *ff* (fortissimo). The score is written in a standard musical notation style, with a large, stylized watermark "Piano" overlaid across the page.

161 162 163

Picc. *p* *fff*

Fl. 1-2 *p* *fff*

Ob. 1-2 *p* *fff*

E. Hn. *p* *fff*

Bsn. 1-2 *p* *fff*

C. Bn. *p* *fff*

B $\flat$ Cl. 1 *p* *ff*

B $\flat$ Cl. 2-3 *p* *fff*

B. Cl. *p* *fff*

Cb. Cl. *p* *ff*

S. Sx. *p* *ff*

A. Sx. *p* *ff*

T. Sx. *p* *ff*

B. Sx. *p* *ff*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1 *p* *ff*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 2-3 *p* *ff*

Hn. 1-2 *p* *ff*

Hn. 3-4 *p* *ff*

Tbn. 1-2 *p* *ff*

B. Tbn. *p* *ff*

Euph. *p* *ff*

Tuba *p* *ff*

D.B. *p* *ff*

Pno. *mp* *fff*

Timp. *mp* *ff*

Perc. 1 *mp* *ff* TAM-TAM

Perc. 2 *p* *ff*

Xyl. *mp* *ff* XYLOPHONE

6