

Breaking the Asymptote

A Concerto for Semi-Chamber Orchestra

Alexander Lau

Instrumentation

1 Flute, Piccolo
1 Oboe
1 Clarinet in B \flat
1 Bassoon

1 Horn in F
1 Trumpet in C
1 Trombone

Percussion (1 player):

- Cymbals
- Suspended Cymbals
- Claves
- Ratchet
- Glockenspiel
- Temple Blocks
- Cowbell
- Timpani
- Xylophone
- Bongos
- Tam-tam

1 Drum Kit

1 Harp
1 Piano

4-6 Violin I
4-6 Violin II
3-5 Viola
2-4 Cello
1 Double Bass

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A Concerto for Semi-Chamber Orchestra

Alexander Lau (2020)

Presto: Effervescent Quasi-Aphrodisia ♩ = 168

Flute *f marc.*

Oboe *f marc.*

Clarinet in Bb *f mf*

Bassoon *f mf*

Horn in F *f mf p f*

Trumpet in C *mf p mf*

Trombone *f p f*

Cymbals *mf* To Sus. Cym.

Drum Set *f*

Harp *ff* D C B# | E# F G A

Piano *ff con forza*

Presto: Effervescent Quasi-Aphrodisia ♩ = 168

Violin I *f furioso* div. uni.

Violin II *f furioso* div. uni.

Viola *f furioso* div. uni. *mf*

Violoncello *f furioso* div. uni. *mf*

Contrabass *ff* pizz. arco *ff*

8

Fl. *f* *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Ob. *f* *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Cl. *mf* *p* *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Bsn. *mf* *p* *ff*

Hn. *mp* *p* *f*

C Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *f*

Dr. *f*

Hp. *ff* *fff* *ff*

Pno.

Vln. I *f* *div.* *f* *uni. e pizz.*

Vln. II *f* *div.* *f* *uni. e pizz.*

Vla. *tutti* *f* *div.* *mp*

Vc. *tutti* *f* *div.* *mp*

Cb. *pizz.* *arco* *ff* *mp*

13

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Dr.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

f

mf

f

f

fff

Reo.

div. e arco

uni. e pizz.

f

f

f

mp

f

mp

ff

mp

18

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Dr.

marimba mallets

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp poco marc.

mp poco marc.

fp cresc poco a poco

fp cresc poco a poco

fp cresc poco a poco

pp *mf*

p sempre cresc. e senza ped.

tutti. *p* cresc. poco a poco

tutti. *mp* cresc. poco a poco

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

23

Fl. *mf poco marc.*

Ob. *mf poco marc.*

Cl. *mf cresc.*

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Dr. *drum sticks*
ppp sempre cresc.

Pno. *Red.*

Vln. I *arco*
f

Vln. II *tutti. e arco*
mf cresc.
f

Vla.

Vc.

Cb. *p cresc. poco a poco*

28

Fl. *mf cresc.*

Ob. *mf cresc.*

Cl. *mf cresc.*

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Cym. *pp molto cresc.* To Clv.

Dr.

Pno.

Vln. I *cresc.*

Vln. II *cresc.*

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Meno mosso ♩ = 152
To Picc.

9

31

Fl. *sfz*

Ob. *sfz*

Cl. *sfz* *mp*

Bsn. *sfz* *mp*

Hn. *sfz* *mp*

C Tpt. *sfz*

Tbn. *sfz*

Cym. Claves *mp* *p*

Pno. *sfz* *sfz*

Meno mosso ♩ = 152

Vln. I *sfz*

Vln. II *sfz*

Vla. *sfz mp* *sim.*

Vc. *sfz mp* *sim.*

Cb. *sfz*

39

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Clv.

Pno.

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mf con spirito

pp senza ped.

div.

mp

pizz.

mp

46

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Clv.

Dr.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

To Vs.
cresc.

p cresc.

sim.

ff bright

f

f

f

solo

50

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Clv.

Dr.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Vibraslap

mf

mp

p

f

f

mf

Hit near the edge of double bass body

Red

55

Piccolo

13

Fl.

Cl.

C Tpt.

Vs.

To Glock.

Glockenspiel

Dr.

mp

pp

Hp.

f

Pno.

sim.

sub. p

Cb.

sub. p

60

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

C Tpt.

Glock.

Pno.

Cb.

65 To Fl. Flute

Picc. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp* *f*

Hn. *p*

C Tpt. *p*

Tbn. *p*

Dr. *p cresc.*

Pno. *mf* *gliss.*

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *mf* *div.*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *tutti* *mf* *div.* *mp*

Cb. *mf*

65 To Fl. Flute

Picc. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp* *f*

Hn. *p*

C Tpt. *p*

Tbn. *p*

Dr. *p cresc.*

Pno. *mf* *gliss.*

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *mf* *div.*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *tutti* *mf* *div.* *mp*

Cb. *mf*

69

Fl. *f* *mf*

Ob. *f* *mf*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

C Tpt. *f* *f* *cup mute* *f*

Tbn. *f* *f*

T. Bl. *hard mallets* *f*

Dr. *f* *mp* *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *f*

Vln. I *ff-mf*

Vln. II *uni.* *ff-mf*

Vla. *ff-mf*

Vc. *uni.* *ff-mf*

Cb.

77

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. *p leggiero*

C Tpt. *p leggiero*

Tbn. *p leggiero*

T. Bl. *mp* To Cow. Cowbell

Dr. *mp*

Hp. *mf* *fff*

Pno. *f*

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f* pizz.

Cb. *f* pizz.

83 To Picc.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Cow.

Dr.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

senza sord

mf cresc.

senza sord

mf cresc.

mp cresc.

To Cym.

p cresc.

p cresc.

mf

p cresc.

Ed.

div.

p cresc.

div.

pp cresc.

div.

pp cresc.

mp cresc.

mp cresc.

91

Fl.

Ob.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Cow.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*f*³ clear

*f*³ clear

Cymbals

To Timp.

mf

uni.

f bright

mp

f bright

mp

f bright

mp

arco e div.

mf

mp sim.

arco

mf

mp sim.

98

Fl.

Ob.

Hn.

Dr.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f

pp

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 98 to 102. The key signature has three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be 4/4.
 - Flute (Fl.): Measures 98-101 have a melodic line with slurs and ties. Measure 102 has a triplet of eighth notes.
 - Oboe (Ob.): Similar to the flute, with a melodic line and a triplet in measure 102.
 - Horn (Hn.): Measures 98-101 are mostly rests. Measure 102 has a triplet of eighth notes starting on a low note, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic.
 - Drums (Dr.): Measures 98-101 are rests. Measure 102 has a drum roll (sixteenth notes) marked with a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic.
 - Violin I (Vln. I): Measures 98-101 have a melodic line. Measure 102 has a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a melodic line.
 - Violin II (Vln. II): Measures 98-101 have a melodic line. Measure 102 has a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a melodic line.
 - Viola (Vla.): Measures 98-101 have a melodic line. Measure 102 has a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a melodic line.
 - Violoncello (Vc.): Measures 98-101 have a melodic line. Measure 102 has a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a melodic line.
 - Contrabass (Cb.): Measures 98-101 have a melodic line. Measure 102 has a crescendo (*cresc.*) and a melodic line.

Poco meno mosso $\text{♩} = 138$

poco accel.

104

Fl. *p precise* *cresc.*

Ob. *p precise* *cresc.*

Cl. *p precise* *cresc.*

Bsn. *fp precise* *cresc.*

Hn. *fff precise* *cresc.*

Tbn. *fff precise* *cresc.*

Timpani *pp cresc.*

Dr. *mf*

Pno. *p cresc. e senza ped.*

Vln. I *mp marc.*

Vln. II *mp marc.*

Vla. *p marc.* *cresc.*

Vc. *p marc.* *cresc.*

Cb.

109

Fl. *più ff*

Ob. *più ff*

Cl. *più ff*

Bsn. *più ff*

Hn. *mf marc.* *più f*

C Tpt. *più f*

Tbn. *f*

Timp. *f*

Dr. *f*

Pno. *più ff*

Vln. I *cresc.* *più ff*

Vln. II *cresc.* *più ff*

Vla. *più ff*

Vc. *più ff*

Cb. *più ff*

♩ = 152

div.

8va

Red.

21

113 poco rit.

Fl. poco rit.

Ob.

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f* *p darker*

C Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *mf* *p darker*

Timp. *mf* *p* To Xyl.

Dr. *mf* *p*

Pno. *mf* *p darker* poco rit.

Vln. I

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f* *mp darker*

Vc. *f* *mp darker*

Cb. *f* *mp darker*

Red. *sim.*

119

Cl. *mp* playful

Hn.

Tbn.

Pno.

Allegro Moderato: Intermezzo ♩ = 138

Vla. *p*

Vc. *pizz.* *p*

Cb. *pizz.* *p*

==

125

Cl. *pp*

Xylophone
soft mallets

Timp. *pp*

Hp. *mp*

Vln. II *p* non div. e pizz.

Vla. *p*

Vc. *non div.*

Cb.

131

Cl.

p cresc.

mf

Bsn.

p cresc.

mf

Hn.

mp

Tbn.

mp

gliss.

f

mp

Xyl.

To Bongos

Dr.

with brushes

mp dim.

Hp.

mp

f

Vln. I

p

mf

Vln. II

Vla.

mf

Vc.

mf

arco e div.

Cb.

div.

138

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

Hn.

C Tpt. *mp* *fp* *mf* *mp* *fp*

Tbn. *p* *sempre marc.*

Xyl. Bongos *mp*

Dr. *mp*

Vln. I non div. e pizz. *mf*

Vln. II non div. e pizz. *mf*

Vla. col legno battuto *mf*

Vc. col legno battuto e uni. *mf*

Cb. *mp*

144

Ob. *p*

Cl. arco *mf* molto cresc.

Bsn. *p* molto cresc.

Hn. *p*

C Tpt. *più mf* *p*

Tbn.

Bongos *fp*

Dr.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. nat. e uni *mp* molto cresc.

Vc. nat. *p* molto cresc.

Cb. arco

148

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Bongos

Dr.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

tr

mf bright

mf bright

mf bright

fp

fp

f molto cresc.

f molto cresc.

mp

mf bright

fp

mf bright

fp

ppp

marimba mallets

ppp

f

ff

f senza ped.

arco

f molto cresc.

non div.

f bright

arco

mf molto cresc.

non div.

f bright

div.

f

div.

f

ff

8va

152

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff* *f* *fp*

Cl. *f* *fp*

Bsn. *fff* fanatically

Hn. *f* *fp* *f* crazed, sempre marc.

C Tpt. *f* *fp* *f* crazed, sempre marc.

Tbn. *f* crazed, sempre marc.

Bongos *ff* fanatically

Pno. *ff*

Vln. I *ff* crazed, sempre marc.

Vln. II *ff* crazed, sempre marc. div.

Vla. *fff* fanatically uni.

Vc. *fff* fanatically uni.

Cb. *fff* fanatically

157

Fl. *ff* crazed

Ob. *ff* crazed

Cl. *ff* crazed

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn. *gliss.*

Bongos

Vln. I *gliss.*

Vln. II *gliss.* *gliss.*

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

161

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Bongos

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

ff

fp

f

mf

f dim.

div.

f

ff

f

f

ff dim.

166

Fl. *rit.* *p dim.*

Ob. *f* *p dim.*

Cl. *mf* *f* *mp*

Bsn. *mf* *mp* *p dim.*

Hn. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *p dim.*

C Tpt. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Tbn. *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Bongos *To Timp.*

Pno. *Ped.*

Vln. I *rit.*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f* *f* *mp* *p*

Vc. *f* *uni.* *div.* *mp* *p*

Cb. *p*

[illegible]

190 **rit.** **A tempo**
 Bongos Timpani
ppp
A tempo

Vln. I **rit.** **pp** 3 senza sord.
 Vln. II **pp** 3 solo e senza sord.
 Vla. **p** 3 **pp** solo **pp** senza sord.
 Vc. **pp** solo e senza sord.

197 **accl.**
 Timp. **mf**
 Hp.
 Pno. *cadenza ad lib.* **f** **p molto cresc.** 3 5 5 8va

199 **A tempo**

Fl. **mp** 12 **mf** **mp**
 Ob. **mp** 12 **mf** **mp**
 Cl. **mp** 12 **mf**
 Hp. **mf**
 Pno. **f** **ff molto grandioso** **ff**

204 **Tempo Primo: Getting Back in the Groove** ♩ = 168

Cl. *pp* *mp poco marc.*

Bsn. *pp* *mp poco marc.*

Hp. *p*

Pno. *p* *p sempre cresc. e senza ped.*

Tempo Primo: Getting Back in the Groove ♩ = 168

Vla. *tutti. e senza sord* *p cresc. poco a poco*

Vc. *tutti. e div. senza sord* *pp* *p cresc. poco a poco*

211

Fl. *mp poco marc.*

Ob. *mp poco marc.*

Cl. *mf*

C Tpt. *mf*

Timp. *p poco cresc.*

Dr. *p poco cresc.*
medium yarn mallets

Pno.

Vln. II *tutti e senza sord.*
mp cresc.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb. *p cresc. poco a poco*

216

Fl. *mf poco marc.*

Ob. *mf poco marc.*

Cl. *mp poco marc.*

Bsn. *mp poco marc.*

Hn. *mp poco marc.*

C Tpt. *mp poco marc.*

Tbn. *mp poco marc.*

Timp. To T.-t. *mp*

Dr. *mp* drum sticks *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Pno. *f* *p sempre cresc.*

Vln. I *mf poco marc.* tutti e senza sord.

Vln. II *mp cresc.*

Vla. *p cresc. poco a poco*

Vc. *p cresc. poco a poco*

Cb. *mp cresc. poco a poco*

221

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tbn.

Dr.

Hp.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

ff

div.

Quasi-Aphrodisia Once More

224

Fl. *ff marc.*

Ob. *ff marc.*

Cl. *ff mf*

Bsn. *ff mf*

Hn. *f mf p f mp*

C Tpt. *f p f*

Tbn. *f p f*

Tam-tam *ff*

Dr. *f*

Hp. *fff*

Pno. *ff con forza*

Quasi-Aphrodisia Once More

Vln. I *ff furioso* div. uni.

Vln. II *ff furioso* div. uni.

Vla. *ff furioso* div. uni. *mf*

Vc. *ff furioso* div. uni. *mf*

Cb. *ff* pizz. arco *ff* pizz. *fff*

232

Fl. *p* *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Ob. *p* *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Cl. *p* *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Bsn. *p* *ff*

Hn. *p* *f*

C Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *f*

T.-t. *ff* To T. Bl.

Dr. *f*

Hp. *ff* *fff* *ff*

Pno.

Vln. I *div.* *ff* *uni. e pizz.*

Vln. II *div.* *ff* *f* *uni. e pizz.*

Vla. *div.* *ff* *mp*

Vc. *div.* *ff* *mp*

Cb. *arco* *p* *ff* *mp*

237

Fl. *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Ob. *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Cl. *più ff* *molto stacc.*

Bsn. *ff*

Hn. *p* *f*

C Tpt. *p* *mf*

Tbn. *p* *f* *mp cresc.*

Dr. *f*

Hp. *fff*

Pno. *Ped.*

Vln. I *div. e arco* *ff* *uni. e pizz.* *f*

Vln. II *div. e arco* *ff* *uni. e pizz.* *f*

Vla. *div.* *ff* *mp*

Vc. *div.* *ff* *mp*

Cb. *p* *ff* *mp*

242

Fl. *mf cresc.* *sfz* *mp*

Ob. *sfz*

Cl. *sfz* *mp*

Bsn. *mf cresc.* *sfz* *mp*

Hn. *mf cresc.* *sfz* *mp*

C Tpt. *mf* *sfz*

Tbn. *sfz*

T.-t. Temple Blocks *p*

Hp. *sfz* *sfz*

Pno. *mf cresc.* *sfz* *sfz* *Red.*

Vln. I *arco* *sfz*

Vln. II *arco* *sfz*

Vla. *sfz* *mp* *sim.*

Vc. *uni.* *sfz* *mp* *sim.*

Cb. *sfz*

Meno mosso ♩ = 152

247

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

T. Bl.

Pno.

Vla.

Vc.

p

f

sim.

248

249

250

251

252

Piccolo

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt. *p*

T. Bl.

Hp. *f*

Pno. *ppp* *sim.*

Vla. *p poco marc.*

Vc. *p poco marc.*

Cb. *p poco marc.*

257

Picc. 

Ob. 

Cl. 

Bsn. 

C Tpt. 

T. Bl.  To Timp.

Pno. 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Cb. 

261

Picc. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *mp en dehors*

Hn. *mp en dehors*

C Tpt. *mp*

Tbn. *p*

Dr. *pp*

Hp. *mp*

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *pp poco cresc.*

Vc. *pp poco cresc.* *uni.* *p* *div.*

Cb. *pp poco cresc.*

267

Picc. *mp*

Ob. *mp* *p marc.* *cresc.*

Cl. *mp* *p marc.* *cresc.*

Bsn. *mp en dehors*

Hn. *en dehors* *fpp marc.* *cresc.*

C Tpt.

Tbn. *fpp marc.* *cresc.*

Dr.

Hp.

Pno. *p cresc. poco a poco e senza ped.*

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *p marc*

Vc. *uni. mp* *p marc*

Cb. *fpp cresc. poco a poco*

272

Picc. *mf marc.*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tbn.

T. Bl. *pp cresc. poco a poco*

Pno.

Vln. I *mp marc.*

Vln. II *div. mp marc.*

Vla. *cresc.*

Vc. *cresc.*

Cb.

Measures 272-274. The score includes parts for Piccolo, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trombone, Timpani, Piano, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The score shows various musical notations including rests, eighth notes, quarter notes, and triplets. Dynamics include *mf marc.*, *pp cresc. poco a poco*, *mp marc.*, and *cresc.* There are also performance instructions like "div." for Violin II.

275

Picc. *cresc.*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt. *mf marc.*

Tbn.

Timp.

Hp. *ff*

Pno. *Red.*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

277

Picc. *ff* *p*

Ob. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

C Tpt. *ff* *p*

Tbn. *ff* *p*

Timp. *f* molto cresc. *ff*

Dr. *ff*

Hp.

Pno. *ff* *p* *8va*

Vln. I *ff* cresc. *ff* *p*

Vln. II *ff* cresc. *ff* *p*

Vla. *ff* *p*

Vc. *ff* *p*

Cb. *ff* *p*

Coda: The Asymptote is Broken! ♩ = 144

280

Picc. *fff* maniacal

Ob. *fff* maniacal

Cl. *ff* con forza

Bsn. *fff* con forza

Hn. *ff* con forza

C Tpt. *f* con forza

Tbn. *ff* con forza

Timp. *fff* con forza

Dr. *fff*

Pno. *fff* con forza

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Coda: The Asymptote is Broken! ♩ = 144

Vln. I *fff* maniacal

Vln. II *fff* maniacal

Vla. *fff* maniacal

Vc. *fff* maniacal

Cb. *fff* con forza

285

Picc.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Timp.

Dr.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

sfz

8^{va}

287

Picc. *flz.*
fp

Ob. *flz.*
fp

Cl. *flz.*
fp

Bsn. *flz.*
fp

Hn. *fp*

C Tpt. *fp*

Tbn. *fp*

Timp. *fp*

Dr. *fp*

Hp. *gliss.*

Pno. *gliss.*
8^{va}

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *fp*

Vc. *fp*

Cb. *fp*

289

Picc. *nat.* *fff* *sfz*

Ob. *nat.* *fff* *sfz*

Cl. *nat.* *fff* *sfz*

Bsn. *nat.* *fff* *sfz*

Hn. *fff* *sfz*

C Tpt. *fff* *sfz*

Tbn. *fff* *sfz*

Timp. *fff* *sfz*

Dr. *fff* *sfz*

Hp. *gliss.* *fff* *sfz*

Pno. *gliss.* *fff* *sfz*

Vln. I *fff* *sfz*

Vln. II *fff* *sfz*

Vla. *fff* *sfz*

Vc. *fff* *sfz*

Cb. *fff* *sfz*

8vb

div.

ossia.