KRISTIAN DE LEON STATE OF ALARM

For wind band and percussion

Performance materials available at Kristian de Leon Music: $\underline{www.kristian deleon.com}$

Contact the composer: kdeleonmusic@gmail.com

A very hefty thanks to Peter B. for standing by my side with a critical ear and supportive words during the creation of this work. Your company and friendship during the many late-night deep dives was inspiring and invaluable, and without that I would never have been able to make this music.

Also, a special thank you to Andrew O. for kickstarting what would become my first piece for wind band.

Instrumentation

Piccolo F Horn 1 - 4 Flute 1 - 2 Bb Trumpet 1 - 4 Oboe 1 - 2 Trombone 1 - 2 English Horn Bass Trombone Bassoon Euphonium 1 - 2 Tuba 1 - 2

Eb Clarinet

Bb Clarinet 1-3 Contrabass

Bb Bass Clarinet

Timpani [5 Drums]

Bb Soprano Saxophone

Eb Alto Saxophone Percussion 1 - 6

Bb Tenor Saxophone

Eb Baritone Saxophone Harp

Piano

Percussion List:

Percussion 1: Percussion 4:

Snare Drum Hi-Hat Large Tam-tam (shared)

Slap Stick (shared) Ride Cymbal Suspended Cymbal Glockenspiel (shared, P. 2) Triangle Crash cymbals (shared, P. 2)

Field Drum Wind Chimes

Percussion 2: Percussion 5:

Glockenspiel Triangle Slap Stick (shared) Xylophone

Vibraphone (shared, P. 6) Toms [4 drums]

Large Tam-tam (shared) Marimba [4.7 oct] (shared, P. 6) Glockenspiel (shared, P. 4) Crash Cymbals (shared, P. 4)

Percussion 3: Percussion 6:

Bass Drum Marimba [4.7 oct] (shared, P. 6] Temple Blocks [2] (shared with P. 6) Temple Blocks [2] (shared with P. 3)

Slap Stick (shared) Cowbell Crash Cymbals Chimes (shared, P. 5)

Slap Stick (shared)

Wind Chimes

Auxiliary equipment:

Bucket or deep bowl of water for dipping rope-suspended Crotales (Percussion 4)

Optional:

Snare drums of any kind placed antiphonally around the performance space, preferably marching band or militarysounding.

Approximate Duration: c. 6'15"

Transposed Score

Performance Notes

General performance notes:

The piece is written without key. Accidentals only carry within the bar, unless marked. Niente decrescendos should release just before the beginning of the next beat.

Technique notes

M. 41 — Percussion 4 (Crotale) — "dip crotale into water to bend pitch"

Tie rope or fishing line through center of crotale so that it hangs vertically and the flat sides of the crotale face outward. Hold the crotale up by hand over a bucket of water, and strike the flat side with the free hand. Dip the crotale in the bucket of water slowly to bend the pitch of the apparent sound, and keep in water until sound dampens. Examples of this technique may be found in Viet Cuong's "Diamond Tide" for wind band.

M. 61 — Fl. 1/Ob 1./Eng Hn/ Eb Cl/Cl 2/S Sax/Tpt 1-2 — "timbral trill (no tongue)"

Trill between two alternate fingerings for the same written pitch in rhythm. Do not tongue rhythm.

M. 98 - 113 — Woodwinds — "flutter tongue into note"

Flutter tongue from silence into the first note marked, as quiet as possible. Flutter tongues may happen just before, exactly when, or just after the principal note. The idea to articulate but cloud the entrance of the sound.

M. 100 — Percussion 4 (Crotale) — Hand vibrato

Hold crotale by hand via the node/dome (the round underside that juts out from the flat of the key). Strike the flat of the crotale and rotate the wrist in a twist-like motion back and forth to create a wide vibrato. Vary speed and width of vibrato ad. lib.

M. 130 - End — Percussion 1 (Field Drum) — Improvised marching cadence

Improvise a marching band-style drum cadence. Start simply and let improvisation evolve to gain in complexity, making sure to keep accented emphasis on principal beats of 1, 2, and 3. Players may also read written material, but improvisation is preferred.

- Antiphonal snare drums of varying size and depth may be used antiphonally to help punctuate the marching cadence. If possible, an outdoor marching snare drum is preferred.

M. 130 - End — Saxes, Eb Cl — "Distant Sirens"

The apparent sound should emulate the Doppler effect of sirens on the road speeding by. The pitches should slowly both stretch in length and lower in microtonal pitch as the figure passes. Beginning m. 138, all figures should be read in time.

M. 132 — Bsn/T Sax — Multi-phonics

Performers may choose to substitute written pitch for any easily accessible multi-phonic that is loud, wide in harmonic range and is very discordant by nature. The apparent sound should sound like traffic honking.

Program Note

State of Alarm was first commissioned by my great friend and gifted tuba player Andrew Ordonez, originally for Tuba quartet. As the piece developed, we both concluded that the work would suit the sounds and performative range of the wind band, which led to the final creation of this work. The piece was composed during the periods of isolation due to the widespread COVID-19 pandemic, as I watched the seemingly-distant world outside of my home begin to undergo numerous changes This piece is an illustration of the tumultuous mix of emotions I, along with friends and colleagues, experienced as a reaction.

The work begins as a musical image of the unending phone notifications from social media, major news sources, and friends sharing updates. News, updates, and conflicting information dominated the airwaves and web pages, causing personal and public unease during yet another "once-in-a-lifetime" event for my generation. Additionally, the political tension of the impending 2020 Presidential election did little but add to the chaos both internally and in the lives of those around me. This section is a helter-skelter dance populated with alarm rings and notification tones that almost argue for dominance in a sea of chaos before finally coalescing into an emergent explosion of energy that finally settles into a moment of less-than-placid solitude.

The second section alludes to a false sense of security that came about from the time spent in social isolation. After a complicated transition from in-person to online working and learning, a new sense of stagnation joined the already present fear and panic set from COVID-19 and mass unemployment. Much smoother than before, this section almost falls into an unresolved but predictable rhythm until it is yet again jarred from its bearings, continuing in a liminal state of in-between until finally arriving at a breaking point.

The final section of the piece is a musical illustration of the Black Lives Matter movement for social and political equality of African American people. On May 25, 2020, an African American man named George Floyd was racially profiled and brutalized by the 4 officers of the Minneapolis Police Department, resulting in his death and catalyzing an international movement against police brutality. This movement, originating in Minneapolis then spreading first across the US and then internationally, began first as a collection of social media tags, gaining momentum and moving to physical demonstrations that were only radicalized and escalated by police forces through the use of riot-control tactics including tear gas and rubber bullets on demonstrating citizens. The music of this final section portrays the contest of will between a quiet, but solid and ever-growing idea of equality and justice against aggressive and oppressive state force. Sirens and alarms ring out as a discordant wall of sonic energy builds, with musical motives and quotes competing for dominance in the foreground. In addition, an ever forward pressing percussive march drives forward against a heavy and thick American theme until all collide into unison, concluding the work.

Transposed Score State of Alarm for wind band & percussion Kristian de Leon Vigorously $\downarrow = 156$ ∭¥ I. Fl. 1 - Fl. Ob. 1 - Ob. A. Cl. 1 - Cl. 3 思 **f** Db C Bb Eb F G Ab → ↓↓++











































































