



Commonplace Common Tones

Tucker Johnson

composed for the
Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta

2021

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Commonplace Common Tones [2021]

sinfonietta | 8 minutes

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[Program Notes]

Commonplace Common Tones explores relationships between overlapping groups, or groups which share elements. These relationships are present as subdivisions of the ensemble, collections of pitches, and rhythmic patterns. The piece contains 3 ‘kinds’ of music. The first is scattered in nature – utilizing varieties of sparse instrumental combinations, the second is chordal, and the third is driving and rhythmic. These are arranged across 6 sections each using a different combination of 2 overlapping pitch collections. I originally came up with the title *Commonplace Common Tones* in reference to an isomorphism between common tones in collections of pitches and common places in rhythmic patterns, but it could also refer to the diatonic familiarity of the pitch collections themselves, or to the communality of ensemble music.

[Instrumentation]

flute

oboe

bass clarinet in B♭

bassoon

horn in F

trumpet in B♭

trombone

tuba

percussion 1 {crotale, chimes, low tom, hi-hat, brake drum, bass drum}

percussion 2 {vibraphone, woodblock, tambourine, medium tom, bass drum}

harp

piano

2 violins

viola

cello

bass

Commonplace Common Tones

for the Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta

transposed score

Tucker Johnson

scattered, but as smooth as possible ($\text{♩} = 90$)

flute

oboe

bass clarinet in B \flat

bassoon

horn in F

trumpet in B \flat

trombone

tuba

percussion 1

vibraphone
percussion 2

harp

piano

violin 1

violin 2

viola

cello

bass

8

6 fl
ob
b cl
bsn

hn
tpt
tbn
tba

perc 1
perc 2 *mp*

hp

pf *p* *f* *mp*
8va *8vb* *8vb* *8vb*

vln 1 *p* *mp* *f* *p* *mp* *p*

vln 2

vla *mf* *p*

vc *pp*

db

11

fl *mp*

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt *mf*

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2 *p* *mf*

hp

pf *f* *p* *mp* *mf*

vln 1 *mf* *p* *mp*

vln 2

vla *p*

vc

db

15

Musical score page 16, featuring 16 measures of music for various instruments. The score includes parts for flute (fl), oboe (ob), bassoon (bsn), b clarinet (b cl), trumpet (tpt), tuba (tbn), bass tuba (tba), first percussion (perc 1), second percussion (perc 2), harp (hp), piano (pf), violin 1 (vln 1), violin 2 (vln 2), viola (vla), cello (vc), and double bass (db). Measure 1: Flute and Oboe play eighth notes. Bassoon has a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *p*, *p*, and *mp*. Measures 2-3: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 4-5: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 6-7: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 8-9: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 10-11: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 12-13: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 14-15: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 16-17: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 18-19: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 20-21: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 22-23: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 24-25: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 26-27: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 28-29: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 30-31: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 32-33: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 34-35: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 36-37: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 38-39: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 40-41: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 42-43: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 44-45: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 46-47: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 48-49: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 50-51: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 52-53: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 54-55: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 56-57: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 58-59: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 60-61: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 62-63: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 64-65: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 66-67: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 68-69: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 70-71: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 72-73: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 74-75: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 76-77: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 78-79: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 80-81: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 82-83: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 84-85: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 86-87: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 88-89: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 90-91: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 92-93: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 94-95: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 96-97: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 98-99: Bassoon continues its melodic line. Measures 100-101: Bassoon continues its melodic line.

21

22

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

8va

8vb

mp

p

mf

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

pizz.

mp

mf

vc

db

Musical score page 29, measures 26-29. The score includes parts for flute (fl), oboe (ob), bassoon (bsn), horn (hn), trumpet (tpt), tuba (tbn), double bass (tba), percussion 1 (perc 1), percussion 2 (perc 2), harp (hp), piano (pf), violin 1 (vln 1), violin 2 (vln 2), cello (vc), and double bass (db). Measure 26: Flute has a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *mf*. Measures 27-28: Various woodwind and brass instruments play sustained notes. Measure 29: Harp and piano play rhythmic patterns. Violin 1 has a dynamic *p* followed by *f*, then *mp*. Violin 2 has *p* and *mp*. Cello has *p* and *mp*. Double bass has *pizz.* and *mf*.

31

fl ob bsn b cl

hn tpt tbn tba

perc 1 perc 2

hp pf

vln 1 vln 2

vla vc

db

mf

mf — *p*

mp

mf

f

mp

8va — *f*

mp

mf

mp

mf

arco sul A

mp

36

fl
ob
bsn
b cl
hn
tpt
tbn
tba
perc 1
perc 2
hp
pf
vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

p *mp* *mf* *f*
mp *mf* *f* *mp*
mp *mf* *p* *mf*
8vb *15ma* *8vb*
mp *p* *mf* *f*
p *mp* *mf* *mf*
pp *arco* *mf* *pizz.*
pp *p* *mf* *f*

43

43

This figure shows a page from a musical score, numbered 43. The score is written for a large orchestra with the following parts:

- Woodwinds:** Flute (fl), Oboe (ob), Bassoon (bsn), Clarinet (b cl), Bassoon (bsn), Horn (hn).
- Brass:** Trumpet (tpt), Trombone (tbn), Tuba (tba).
- Percussion:** Percussion 1 (perc 1), Percussion 2 (perc 2).
- String Instruments:** Double Bass (db), Cello (vc), Double Bassoon (vla), Violin 1 (vln 1), Violin 2 (vln 2).
- Keyboard:** Piano (pf).

The music is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Dynamic markings include *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and *f*. Performance instructions such as "sul A" (on the A string) for the violin and "pizz." (pizzicato) for the cello are also present. The score uses a standard musical notation with stems and beams to indicate pitch and rhythm.

46

fl ob b cl bsn

mp *p* *mp*

hn tpt tbn tba

mp

perc 1 perc 2

mf

hp

8va *mf*

pf

mp *mf*

vln 1 vln 2

mf *f* *mf*

vla

vc

mf

db

50

51

fl
ob
bsn
b cl
hn
tpt
tbn
tba
perc 1
perc 2
hp
pf
vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

p *mp* *p*
mp *f* *mp* *mf* *mp > p*

p *mf* *f* *p*

f

f

8va *8va*
mp

p *mf*

p *mf*

56

57

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

8va

pf

8vb

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

crotales

pizz.

mf

p

mp

mf

p

mp

mf

f

p

mf

p

mf

pizz.

mf

mf

pizz.

mf

61

64

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

chimes

crotales

hp

mf

pf

f

mf

pizz.

vln 1

vln 2

vla

mf

vc

pizz.

mp

arco

db

mf

mf

66

fl *mp* *mf* — *mp* *p*

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt *p* *mf*

tbn *p*

tba

perc 1

perc 2 *mp* *mp* *p*

hp

pf *mp* *mf* *f* *mp* *p*

vln 1

vln 2 *p* *f* — *mp* *mf*

vla

vc

db

71

fl
ob
bsn
hn
tpt
tbn
tba
perc 1
perc 2
hp
pf
vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

p *mf*
mp *mf*
f
mf
mp *mf*
f
p
mf
mp *f*
p
arco *mp* *mf* *f*
p

76 fl *mp* ob *mp* b cl *mf* bsn *f*
 hn tpt tbn *p* perc 1 *mp* perc 2 *mf*
 tba *mf* hp *p* pf *p* *mf*
 vln 1 vln 2 *f* vla vcl db
mf vcl *pizz.* *mf* pizz. *mf*

81

fl
ob
b cl
bsn
hn
tpt
tbn
tba
perc 1
perc 2
hp
pf
vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

chimes
crotales

8va

mp *mf* *f* *ff*
p *mp* *mf* *mf*
mf
mp *f*
mp *mf* *mf*
mp *mf*
mp

arco
ff
f
f
f
f

86 intense, non-dim ($\text{d} = 90$)

fl
ob
b cl
bsn
hn
tpt
tbn
tba
erc 1
erc 2
hp
pf
vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

bass drum
med tom woodblock

91

fl
ob
bsn
b cl
hn
tpt
tbn
tba
perc 1
perc 2
hp
pf
vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

95

fl ob b cl bsn hn tpt tbn tba perc 1 perc 2 hp pf vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

100
laid back (♩ = 160)

fl
 ob
 b cl
 bsn
 hn
 tpt
 tbn
 tba
 perc 1
 perc 2
 hp
 pf
 vln 1
 vln 2
 vla
 vc
 db

99

fl
 ob
 b cl
 bsn
 hn
 tpt
 tbn
 tba
 perc 1
 perc 2
 hp
 pf
 vln 1
 vln 2
 vla
 vc
 db

99

105

fl
ob
b cl
bsn

hn
tpt
tbn
tba

perc 1
perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

p

p

p

p

110

fl ob b cl bsn hn tpt tbn tba perc 1 perc 2 hp pf vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

This page contains five systems of musical notation, each consisting of five staves. The instruments are grouped into sections: woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Bass Clarinet, Horn), brass (Trumpet, Trombone, Double Bass), percussion (Percussion 1, Percussion 2), harp (Harp), piano (Piano), strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Cello, Double Bass), and bassoon (Double Bass). The music is set in common time at a tempo of 110 BPM. Dynamics such as 'p' (pianissimo) and 'f' (fortissimo) are indicated throughout the score.

115

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 115. The score includes parts for flute (fl), oboe (ob), bassoon (bsn), basset horn (b cl), trumpet (tpt), tuba (tbn), double bass (tba), percussion 1 (perc 1), percussion 2 (perc 2), harp (hp), piano (pf), violin 1 (vln 1), violin 2 (vln 2), viola (vla), cello (vc), and double bass (db). The music consists of eight measures. Measures 1-4 feature woodwind entries (flute, oboe, bassoon) and brass entries (basset horn, trumpet). Measures 5-8 feature sustained notes and eighth-note chords. Measures 9-12 feature sixteenth-note patterns in the woodwinds and brass. Measures 13-16 feature sustained notes and eighth-note chords. Measures 17-20 feature sixteenth-note patterns in the woodwinds and brass.

121

This musical score page contains ten staves of music for various instruments. The top section includes parts for Flute (fl), Oboe (ob), Bassoon (bsn), Bassoon (b cl), and Bassoon (bassoon). The middle section includes parts for Horn (hn), Trumpet (tpt), Trombone (tbn), Tuba (tba), Percussion 1 (perc 1), and Percussion 2 (perc 2). The bottom section includes parts for Harp (hp), Piano (pf), Violin 1 (vln 1), Violin 2 (vln 2), Viola (vla), Cello (vc), and Double Bass (db). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Dynamics such as *p* (piano) and *f* (fortissimo) are indicated above certain measures. Measure 1 consists of rests for most instruments. Measures 2-5 show active melodic lines for the woodwind and brass sections. Measures 6-10 feature rhythmic patterns for the percussion and bassoon sections. Measures 11-15 show melodic lines for the strings and piano. Measures 16-20 conclude with rhythmic patterns for the bassoon and double bass.

126

131

pressing forward

131

fl *mf*

ob *mf*

b cl *mf*

bsn *mf*

hn *f*

tpt *f*

tbn *f*

tba *f*

perc 1 *mf*

perc 2 [bass drum] *f*

hp

pf *mf*

vln 1 *mf*

vln 2 *mf*

vla *mf*

vc *mf*

db *ff*

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136

fl
ob
b cl
bsn

hn
tpt
tbn
tba

perc 1
perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

141

fl ob b cl bsn hn tpt tbn tba perc 1 perc 2 hp pf vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

ff

146

intense, non-dim ($\text{d} = 90$)

146

fl ob b cl bsn

hn tpt tbn tba

perc 1 perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

percussion 1: *brake drum*, *low tom*. Dynamics: *mp*, *ff*, *mp*, *ff*.

percussion 2: Dynamics: *mp*, *ff*, *mp*, *ff*.

151

fl ob b cl bsn hn tpt tbn tba perc 1 perc 2 hp pf vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 156. The score consists of ten staves of music. The top four staves are woodwind instruments: flute (fl), oboe (ob), bassoon (bsn), and clarinet (b cl). The next four staves are brass and percussion: horn (hn), trumpet (tpt), tuba (tbn), and tuba (tba). The bottom two staves are strings: double bass (db) and cello (vc). The piano part (pf) is located at the bottom left. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including various time signatures (3/4, 2/4, 5/8, 3/4, 4/4) and dynamic markings like *mp*, *ff*, and *p*. Measure numbers 156 through 160 are indicated at the top of each staff.

scattered, but as smooth as possible ($\text{♩} = 90$)

161

fl ob b cl bsn hn tpt tbn tba perc 1 perc 2 hp pf vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

chimes
vibraphone

pizz.

168

fl ob b cl bsn hn tpt tbn tba perc 1 perc 2 hp pf vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

pizz. *f* *mf* *arco* *mf* *mf* *mf* *p*

f

171

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

175

mp

f

mp

mp

mp

mf

mp

sul E

p

mp

mp

176

fl *mp*

ob

b cl

bsn *mf*

hn *mp* *p*

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1 *crotales*
f#
mf
mp

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1 *pizz.*

vln 2

vla *mf*
p
mf

vc

db

181

182

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

f

mf

p

mp

mf

mf

f

f

186

fl *mp*

ob

b cl *v.*

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn *mp*

tba

perc 1

perc 2 *mp* *p*

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2 *mf*

vla

vc *v.*

db

189

f

p

*mp*

pizz.

p

191

fl *mp > p*

ob

b cl *f > mp*

bsn

hn

tpt *mp > p*

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2 *mp* *mf* *f* *p*

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2 *mp > p*

vla

vc *f > mp*

db

pizz. *f*

196

fl ob b cl bsn hn tpt tbn tba perc 1 perc 2 hp pf vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

p *mf* *mp* *mp*

mp *mf* *p*

arco *mf* *mp*

p *mp*

pizz. *mf*

201 fl *f mp*

ob

b cl

bsn *p* *f*

mf

hn *mp*

tpt *mp*

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2 *mp*

hp

pf

vln 1 *p*

vln 2

vla *mp*

mf

vc *mf*

pizz.

db *mf*

206

fl *mp* < *f*

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2 *mf* < *f*

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

210

mp

f

p

f

mp

mp

f

mp

mp

pizz.

arco < *f*

mf

pizz.

p

211

fl
ob
b cl
bsn

hn
tpt
tbn
tba

perc 1
perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db

mf *mp*

mp *mf* *p*

216 fl ob b cl bsn hn tpt tbn tba perc 1 perc 2 hp pf vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

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Commonplace Common Tones

221

224

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

fl	-	q	b	f	p	
ob	-	-	-	-	-	-
b cl	-	-	-	-	-	-
bsn	-	-	-	-	-	-
hn	-	-	-	-	-	-
tpt	-	-	-	-	-	-
tbn	-	-	-	-	-	-
tba	-	-	-	-	-	-
perc 1	-	-	-	-	-	-
perc 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
hp	-	-	-	-	-	-
pf	-	-	-	-	-	-
vln 1	-	q	b	f	p	
vln 2	-	-	-	-	-	-
vla	q	b	f	p		
vc	-	-	-	-	-	-
db	-	-	-	-	-	-

231

231

fl *mp*

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla *mp* *p* *mf*

vc

db

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238

A musical score page featuring ten staves of music. The instruments are as follows:

- Flute (fl)
- Oboe (ob)
- Bassoon (b cl)
- Bassoon (bsn)
- Horn (hn)
- Trombone (tpt)
- Tuba (tbn)
- Tuba (tba)
- Percussion 1 (perc 1)
- Percussion 2 (perc 2)
- Harp (hp)
- Piano (pf)
- Violin 1 (vln 1)
- Violin 2 (vln 2)
- Cello (vla)
- Bass (vc)
- Bass (db)

The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The piano staff shows a melodic line with slurs and grace notes. The bassoon and cello staves also feature melodic lines with slurs and grace notes.

241

fl
ob
bsn
b cl
hn
tpt
tbn
tba
perc 1
perc 2
hp
pf
vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db