

Commonplace Common Tones

Tucker Johnson

composed for the
Eastman Graduate Composers' Sinfonietta

2021

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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.

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Instrumentation

flute
oboe
bass clarinet in B♭
bassoon

horn in F
trumpet in B♭
trombone
tuba

percussion 1 {crotales, chimes, low tom, hi-hat, brake drum, bass drum}
percussion 2 {vibraphone, woodblock, tambourine, medium tom, bass drum}

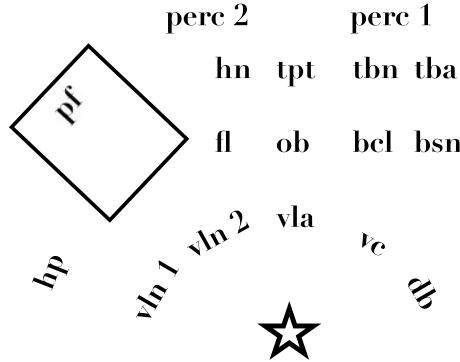
harp
piano

2 violins
viola
cello
bass

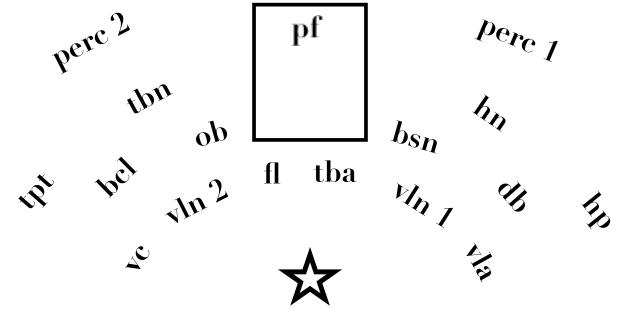
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Set-up Diagrams

option 1



option 2



Option 1 is a standard sinfonietta setup. If other pieces on the concert program are for the same or similar ensembles, this option may be the best choice.

Option 2 is unusual, but it offers an antiphonal experience. Orchestrational groups are separated into left and right sides of the stage, with the shared instruments (flute, tuba, and piano) in the middle.

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 *sul E*

db

15

Musical score page 16, featuring 16 measures of music for a full orchestra. 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, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet, Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 2: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet (mf), Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 3: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 4: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (mp), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 5: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 6: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 7: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 8: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 9: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 10: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 11: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 12: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 13: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 14: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 15: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass. Measure 16: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, B Clarinet, Trumpet (p), Tuba, Bass Tuba, Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Harp, Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, Double Bass.

21

22

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

8va↑

8vb↓

mp

mf

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

pizz.

mp

mf

vc

db

- 7 -

31

fl ob b cl bsn

hn tpt tbn tba

perc 1 perc 2

hp pf

vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

mf

p

mp

mf

f

mp

8va

f

mp

mf

mp

p

mf

arco sul A

mp

36

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

p *mp* *mf* *f*
mp *mf* *f* *mf*
mf
mp *mf* *f* *mf*
mp *p* *mf* *p*
mp *p* *mf* *f*
mp *p* *mf* *f*
mp *p* *mf* *f*
pp *mf* *pizz.* *f*

8vb *15ma* *8vb*
8vb *f*

41

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

8vb

8va

pf

mf

p

sul A

vln 1

mp

mf

mp

vln 2

vla

mp

pizz.

f

vc

arco

mf

mp

db

mp

46

50

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

mp — **p**

mp

f

mp

p

mf

8va 1

mf

8va 1

mf

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

mf *f* *mp*

p *mf*

p *mf*

56

57

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

crotales

mp

p

mf

8va

mp

f

p

8vb

pizz.

mf

mf

mf

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mf

61

64

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

chimes

crotales

hp

mf

pf

f

mf

vln 1

vln 2

pizz.

vla

mf

vc

pizz.

mp

db

arco

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* tba *mf* perc 1 *mp* perc 2 *mf*
 hp *p* pf *p* *mf* 8va--- 8vb--- 8va--- 8vb---
 vln 1 vln 2 *f* vla vcl vc db arco
mf 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

mp *mf* *f*

arco *mf*

arco *mp* *mf* *f*

arco *mp* *mf* *f*

mp

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

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

bass drum

med tom **woodblock**

ff **f** **mp** **ff** **mp** **ff**

ff **f** **mp** **ff** **mp** **ff**

ff

ff

ff

ff

91

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

A detailed musical score for orchestra and piano, page 95. The score is arranged in two systems of six measures each. The top system features woodwind instruments (flute, oboe, bassoon) and brass/tubas (horn, trumpet, tuba). The bottom system features percussion (two sets of timpani), harp, piano, and strings (two violins, viola, cello, double bass). Measure 1: Flute, oboe, bassoon play eighth-note patterns. Horn, trumpet, tuba provide harmonic support. Measures 2-3: The woodwinds continue their eighth-note patterns. Measures 4-5: The brass/tubas join in, creating a fuller sound. Measures 6-7: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 8-9: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 10-11: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 12-13: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 14-15: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 16-17: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 18-19: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 20-21: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 22-23: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 24-25: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 26-27: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 28-29: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 30-31: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 32-33: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 34-35: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 36-37: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 38-39: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 40-41: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 42-43: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 44-45: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 46-47: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 48-49: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 50-51: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 52-53: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 54-55: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 56-57: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 58-59: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 60-61: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 62-63: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 64-65: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 66-67: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 68-69: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 70-71: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 72-73: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 74-75: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 76-77: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 78-79: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 80-81: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 82-83: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 84-85: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns. Measures 86-87: The woodwinds and brass/tubas continue their rhythmic patterns.

100
 laid back ($\text{d} = 160$)

fl
 ob
 b cl
 bsn

hn
 tpt
 tbn
 tba

perc 1
 perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1
 vln 2
 vla
 vc
 db

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 of musical notation represents a section of an orchestral score. It is organized into five systems of measures, separated by vertical bar lines. The instrumentation listed on the left side of each system includes: Flute (fl), Oboe (ob), Bassoon (bsn), Bass Clarinet (b cl), 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 1 (measures 1-2) features woodwind entries with dynamics of 'p'. Measures 3-4 show brass entries with dynamics of 'p'. Measure 5 (measures 5-6) features a piano entry. Measures 6-7 show string entries. Measure 8 (measures 7-8) features a double bass entry.

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 six systems of six measures each. Measure 115 starts with a rest for most instruments. Measures 116-117 feature rhythmic patterns in the woodwind section. Measures 118-119 show a transition with eighth-note chords. Measures 120-121 feature sixteenth-note figures in the brass and woodwinds. Measures 122-123 return to eighth-note chords. Measures 124-125 conclude with sixteenth-note figures.

121

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

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*

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

[brake drum]
[low tom]

151

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

156

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

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

mf p mf

p p

chimes vibraphone

mf

mp p

pizz.

mp

166

fl
ob
b cl
bsn

hn
tpt
tbn
tba

perc 1
perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1
vln 2
pizz.
f
arco
vla
vc
db

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

mp

mp

mp

mp

mf

mp

mp

sul E

mf

mp

p

mp

176

fl *mp*

ob

b cl

bsn

hn *mp* *p*

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1 *crotales* *f* *mf* *mp*

perc 2

hp *mf*

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla *mf* *p* *mf*

vc

db

pizz.

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

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn *mp*

tba

perc 1

perc 2 *mp* *p*

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2 *mf*

vla

vc *p*

pizz.

db

189

f

p

mp

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

arco

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*

8va *p* *mf*

arco *mf* *mp*

p *mp*

pizz. *mf*

203

201 fl *f mp*

ob

b cl

bsn *p f*

mfp

hn *mp*

tpt *mp*

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2 *mp*

hp *8va↑*

pf

vln 1 *p*

vln 2

vla *mp*

vc *mf*

pizz.

db *mf*

Musical score page 210. The score includes parts for flute (fl), oboe (ob), bassoon (bsn), 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), double bass (db), and bassoon (b cl). The score features dynamic markings such as *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, *arco*, *pizz.*, and *mf*. Measure 206 begins with a dynamic *mp* followed by *f* for the flute. The bassoon has a dynamic *mp* at the end of the measure. The trumpet and tuba play sustained notes. The piano part consists of eighth-note chords. The strings play eighth-note patterns, with the cello having a dynamic *f* and the double bass having dynamics *arco*, *pizz.*, and *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

mf *p*

216

217

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

221

224

fl

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla

vc

db

p

f

mf

p

f

mf

p

p

mp

f

226

fl ob b cl bsn

hn tpt tbn tba

perc 1 perc 2

hp

pf

vln 1 vln 2 vla vc db

mp

p

mf

mp

p

mp

p

mf

p

p

4va

231

231

fl *mp*

ob

b cl

bsn

hn

tpt

tbn

tba

perc 1

perc 2

hp *mp*

8va 1 *mf*

pf

vln 1

vln 2

vla *mp*

p

mf

p

vc

db

This musical score page contains ten staves of music. The top five staves include Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Horn, and Trombone. The middle section includes Percussion 1, Percussion 2, and Harp. The bottom section includes Piano, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. Various dynamics are indicated throughout, such as *mp*, *f*, and *mf*. The harp staff features a dynamic marking of *8va 1* above it. The viola staff includes a melodic line with specific dynamic markings of *mp*, *p*, and *mf*.

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

238

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

236

237

238

239

240

241

242

243

244

245

246

247

248

241

fl
ob
bsn
b cl
mf
p
mp
f
v.v.

hn
tpt
mf
p

tbn
tba

perc 1
perc 2
mp
f
mf

hp

pf

vln 1
vln 2
vla
vc
db