

dylan fitzhenry

the veil is thin,
and sometimes is plaid.

for saxophone quartet and *Metal Bucket*

6'00

a very serious piece of music

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Program Note:

Greetings, how are you? That's good. How's the weather? Did you know that we're all going to die one day? Haha, yeah. One day you'll be doing your thing, then you'll kick the bucket and wind up six feet under. Sounds pretty permanent and irreversible and seems like a pretty serious topic. I would never try to take a serious topic so lightly as to write a piece of music purely out of comedic value around it. So, this piece is **not** about death, okay?

This piece **is** about the ridiculousness of the philosophy of life, and the belief popularized by Rene Descartes that there is no proof that anything is real besides one's own thoughts. If one's own perception is the only thing that exists, and that which is being perceived is nothing more than a celestial prank, then what truly separates "life" from "death"? A thin veil of experiences and lies that could get pulled away to reveal what's truly behind it. So, I ask you, what does this thin veil between reality and illusion itself look like? It's probably plaid, I think.

This piece is written as series of variations on two contrasting themes. One theme is a melody of my own creation, lightly inspired by the Gregorian *Dies Irae* (for no particular reason). The second theme is plaid. Of course, this is a humoresque theme taking a well known melody, *Scotland the Brave*, to represent what it has become known for in popular culture over the last two decades: ridiculously overexaggerated comedic characters. These two themes of seriousness and ridiculousness alternate back and forth through a series of stylistic variations, ranging from a postmodern tango with intermittent cluster chords, to a familiar romantic sinfonietta, and a chilling yet soothing lullaby.

I should probably mention the elephant in the room: the bucket. But I won't.

Performance Note:

Hello performers! I will now talk about the bucket, but it should remain vague and surprising to the audience when reading the program note. The entire point of this piece is to feel distracted, surprising, and to get a reaction from the audience. I attempt to accomplish this in two ways:

- the heavy contrast within the music, creating unexpected stylistic shifts, and...
- the bucket.

The bucket is meant to be a humoristic representation of death itself. A well-known metaphor for dying is “kicking the bucket,” so I thought to be as ridiculous as possible, that phrase should be taken as literally as possible.

Ideally, this piece should be performed with a galvanized steel bucket, ranging from 8 to 15 litres (2 to 4 gallons), to create the intended sound. If that is unavailable to you, it can be replaced by a plastic or wooden bucket of roughly the same size, though it should have no recognizable logos or features on it, as that would distract from the theme of the music. The tenor saxophone player will also need a blanket to be kept off-stage, or mostly out of sight, until measure 93, as well as an instrument stand to easily put down and pick up the saxophone during these measures.

Within each part, there are performance directions about what to do with the bucket at certain times. These moments are usually framed around fermatas or elongated rests, to give you ample time. When there is a percussive kick or drop during a fermata, the saxophones should cut off as the bucket hits the ground and leave time for the bucket to come to a stop before continuing. The bucket should not be kicked too hard, because it should not take that long to retrieve. However, the bucket should not be kicked too soft, because it should look like you mean it. I recommend perhaps making use of some form of backboard.

The most important note I can make is this: you four performers need to take what you're doing as seriously as possible, as if this is completely normal behavior. This will create more comedic value from the perspective of the audience.

the veil is thin, and sometimes is plaid.

dylan fitzhenry.

i. Prelude

2

[illegible]

ii. Tango

ii. Tango

5 6 7

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

mp

pp

8 9 10 11

S. Sax. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

A. Sax. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

12 13 14

S. Sax. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp*

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax. *mp*

15 16 17

S. Sax. *pp* serene *mp*

A. Sax. *pp* serene *mp*

T. Sax. *pp* serene

Bar. Sax. *pp* serene

18 19 20

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

mp

p

mp

3

21 22 23 24

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

pp

pp

pp

pp

f

f

f

f

3

25 26 27 28

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

p

p

p

p

f

f

f

f

3

29 30 31 32

S. Sax. 12/8

A. Sax. 12/8

T. Sax. 12/8

Bar. Sax. 12/8

KICK THE BUCKET

33 34 35

iii. Plaid

S. Sax. 12/8

A. Sax. 12/8

T. Sax. 12/8

Bar. Sax. 12/8

p *mp*

36 37 38

S. Sax. 12/8

A. Sax. 12/8

T. Sax. 12/8

Bar. Sax. 12/8

f

39 40 41

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

42 iv. Lament 43 44 45

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

mf

mf

p *mf*

mp

46 47 48 49 50

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

p

p

pp

pp

Musical score for measures 51-53. The score is for four saxophone parts: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and Bar. Sax. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 51 features a melodic line in S. Sax. and A. Sax. with a slur over measures 51 and 52. Measure 52 has a whole note in S. Sax. and A. Sax. Measure 53 features a melodic line in S. Sax. and A. Sax. with a slur over measures 53 and 54. The T. Sax. part has a melodic line starting in measure 52. The Bar. Sax. part has a rhythmic line starting in measure 52. Dynamics include *f* (forte) in measures 53 and 54.

Spend the next few measures meticulously setting up the bucket in a pleasing way, and doing a couple practice kicks.

Musical score for measures 54-56. The score is for four saxophone parts: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and Bar. Sax. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 54 features a melodic line in S. Sax. and A. Sax. with a slur over measures 54 and 55. Measure 55 has a whole note in S. Sax. and A. Sax. Measure 56 features a melodic line in S. Sax. and A. Sax. with a slur over measures 56 and 57. The T. Sax. part has a melodic line starting in measure 55. The Bar. Sax. part has a rhythmic line starting in measure 55. Dynamics include *f* (forte) in measures 56 and 57.

Musical score for measures 57-59. The score is for four saxophone parts: S. Sax., A. Sax., T. Sax., and Bar. Sax. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). Measure 57 features a melodic line in S. Sax. and A. Sax. with a slur over measures 57 and 58. Measure 58 has a whole note in S. Sax. and A. Sax. Measure 59 features a melodic line in S. Sax. and A. Sax. with a slur over measures 59 and 60. The T. Sax. part has a melodic line starting in measure 58. The Bar. Sax. part has a rhythmic line starting in measure 58. Dynamics include *f* (forte) in measures 59 and 60.

60 61 62

Kick the bucket

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

63 64 65 66

Long

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

mp *f* *p*

67 68 69

Retrieve the bucket and place it lovingly in the center.

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

sub. f *sub. f* *sub. f* *sub. f*

Suddenly Slower (♩ = 84)

vi. Sinfonietta

70 71 72 73 74

S. Sax. *ff* *fp* *mp* *p*

A. Sax. *ff* *fp* *mp* *p*

T. Sax. *ff* *fp* *mp* *p*

Bar. Sax. *ff* *fp* *mp* *p*

75 76 77 78 79 80 81

S. Sax. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

A. Sax. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

T. Sax. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Dancing (♩ = 56)

vii. Sarabande

♩ = ♩

Point at the bucket before
menacingly serenading it.

8va (optional)

82 83 84

S. Sax. *pp* *mp smoothly and hauntingly*

A. Sax. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

T. Sax. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

85 *gva* 86

S. Sax.

A. Sax. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

T. Sax. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf*

87 *gva* 88

S. Sax.

A. Sax. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

T. Sax. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Bar. Sax. *mp*

89 *gva* 90

S. Sax. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

A. Sax. *mf* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

T. Sax. *mf*

Bar. Sax. *mf* *mp*

91 92 93 viii. Lullaby

S. Sax. *mp*

A. Sax. *mp* *pp* *mp*

T. Sax. *mp*

Bar. Sax.

Put your instrument down.
Walk off-stage and grab a blanket.
Return and spend a few moments
covering the bucket, as if tucking it
into bed. You are a loving parent.

Repeat until bucket is tucked in. - - - - -

94 95

S. Sax. *p*

A. Sax. *p*

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax. *p*

96 97

S. Sax. *pp*

A. Sax. *pp*

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax. *pp*

Walk off-stage

ix. Alarm Clock $\text{♩} = 120$
x. March

98 *ff* 99 *p airy* 100 101

S. Sax. *ff* *p airy*

A. Sax. *ff* 7 *p airy*

T. Sax. Run on stage and aggressively kick the bucket away. Pick up instrument.

Bar. Sax. *ff* *mp light*

102 103 104 105 106 107

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax. *f abrasive*

Bar. Sax.

108 109 110 111 112

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

113

S. Sax. *f* *sfz* *f*

A. Sax. *f* *sfz* *f*

T. Sax. *f* *sfz* *f*

Bar. Sax. *f* *sfz* *f*

♩ = 90
y. Finale

115

S. Sax. *f* 6

A. Sax. *f* 6

T. Sax. *f* 6

Bar. Sax. *f* 6

116

S. Sax. 6 3

A. Sax. 6

T. Sax. 6

Bar. Sax. 6

117

S. Sax. 6 6

A. Sax. 6

T. Sax. 6

Bar. Sax. 6

118

S. Sax. *ff* 6

A. Sax. *ff* 6

T. Sax. *ff* 3

Bar. Sax. *ff*

119 120

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

f

121 122

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

ff

PANIC! Go get the bucket!

molto rit. 123 124 125

S. Sax.

A. Sax.

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

pp

Throw it at the ground!

Cut off as bucket hits the ground.

Gradual and irregular fall to silence.

soprano sax

the veil is thin, and sometimes is plaid.

For Saxophone Quartet and *Metal Bucket*

dylan fitzhenry.

$\text{♩} = 60$
i. Prelude

pp mf pp mf pp mf pp mf

$\text{♩} = 120$
5 ii. Tango

pp mf pp mf pp

11

mp

16

pp mp

21

pp f

27

p f

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ 33 iii. Plaid

f

41 iv. Lament

mf

46

p

Spend the next few measures meticulously setting up the bucket in a pleasing way, and doing a couple practice kicks.

52  **6**

61

Kick the bucket

mp *f*

The musical score for 'Kick the bucket' is written on a single staff in 2/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody starts with a whole rest, followed by a quarter note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G. This is followed by another whole rest, then a quarter note F, a quarter note E, and a quarter note D. The melody then continues with a quarter note C, a quarter note B, and a quarter note A. The piece concludes with a final whole rest.

66 Long

66 Long

p *sub. f* 3

This musical score is for measures 66 through 70 of the piece 'The Rose Tree'. It is written for a single melodic line in treble clef. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat). Measure 66 is in 3/4 time and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. It contains three measures of music, each with a half note and a dotted half note. Measure 67 is in 4/4 time and begins with a mezzo-forte (*sub. f*) dynamic. It contains four measures of music, including a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, an eighth note, and a sixteenth note. Measure 68 is in 4/4 time and contains a triplet of eighth notes. Measure 69 is in 4/4 time and contains a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, and a half note. Measure 70 is in 4/4 time and contains a quarter note, a dotted quarter note, and a half note.

70

Suddenly Slower (♩ = 84)
vi. Sinfonietta

ff *fp* *mp* *p*

75

mp *p* *mp* *mf*

81 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ **Dancing** ($\text{♩} = 56$)
 vii. Sarabande
 Point at the bucket before menacingly serenading it.
 8va (optional)
pp
mp smoothly and hauntingly

85 *8va*

The musical notation for measure 85 is written on a single staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. A sharp sign (#) appears before a note. A fermata is placed over a note in the middle of the measure. The measure ends with a double bar line.

89 *8va*

mp *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

93 viii. Lullaby

95 Repeat until bucket is tucked in. -----

ix. Alarm Clock

p *pp* *ff*

99 $\text{♩} = 120$
x. March

p airy

105

111 $\text{♩} = 90$
y. Finale

f *sfz* *f* *f* *f*

116

f *f* *f*

119

123 **molto rit.** -----

Cut off as bucket hits the ground.

Gradual and irregular fall to silence.

pp

alto sax

the veil is thin, and sometimes is plaid.

For Saxophone Quartet and *Metal Bucket*

dylan fitzhenry.

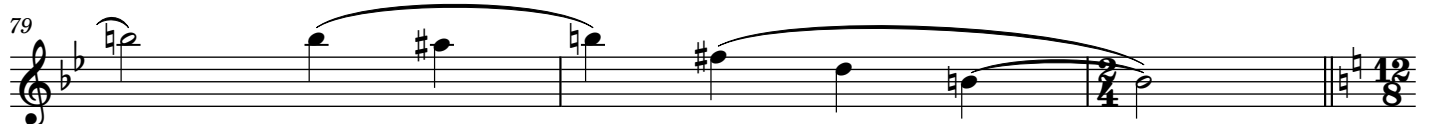
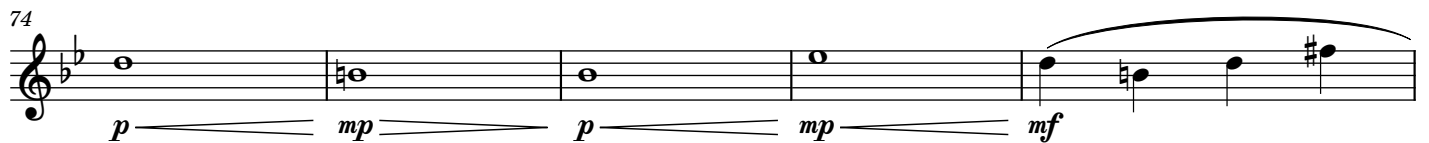
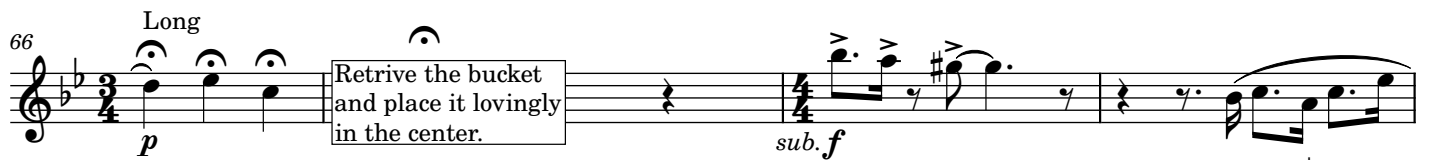
$\text{♩} = 60$
i. Prelude

$\text{♩} = 120$
ii. Tango

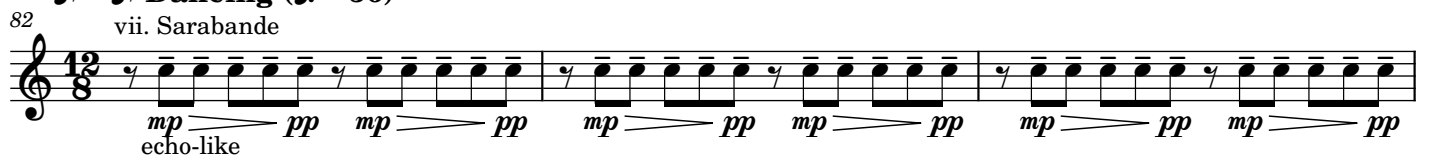
$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$
iii. Plaid

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$
iv. Lament

44



♩ = ♩ **Dancing** (♩ = 56)
vii. Sarabande



the veil - alto sax
viii. Lullaby

3

91

mp *pp* *mp* *p*

95

Repeat until bucket is tucked in. - - - - -

pp

98

ix. Alarm Clock

ff 7

p airy

J = 120
x. March

103

109

113

f *sfz* *f* *f*

J = 90
y. Finale

116

6 6 6 6

ff

119

6 6 6 6

121

PANIC! Go get the bucket!

ff

molto rit. - - -

Throw it at the ground!

pp

Gradual and irregular fall to silence.

tenor sax

the veil is thin, and sometimes is plaid.

For Saxophone Quartet and *Metal Bucket*

dylan fitzhenry.

$\text{♩} = 60$
i. Prelude

$\text{♩} = 120$
ii. Tango

16

21

27

33

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$
iii. Plaid

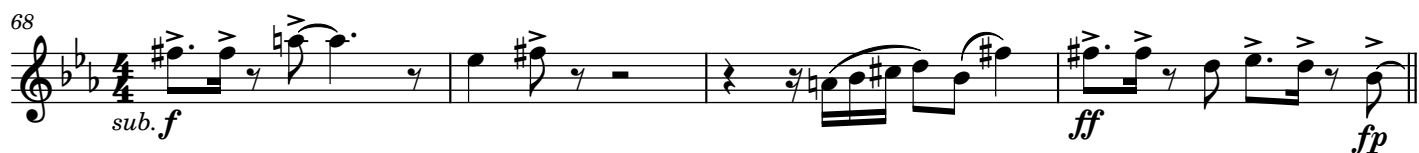
36

40

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$
iv. Lament

44

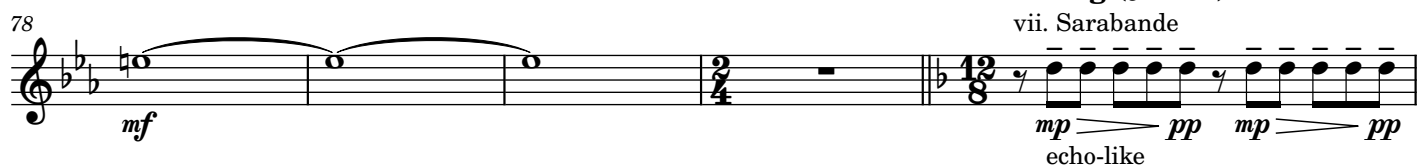
50



Suddenly Slower (♩ = 84)



♩ = ♪ Dancing (♩ = 56)

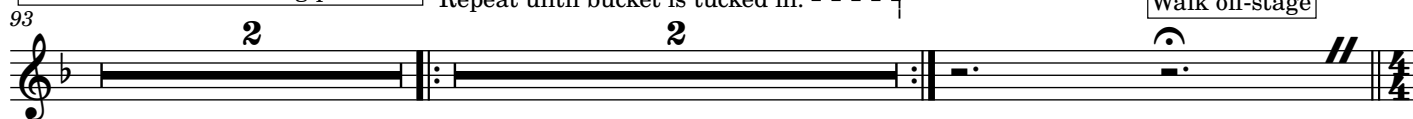


viii. Lullaby

Put your instrument down.
Walk off-stage and grab a blanket.
Return and spend a few moments
covering the bucket, as if tucking it
into bed. You are a loving parent.

Repeat until bucket is tucked in. - - - - 7

Walk off-stage



$\text{♩} = 120$

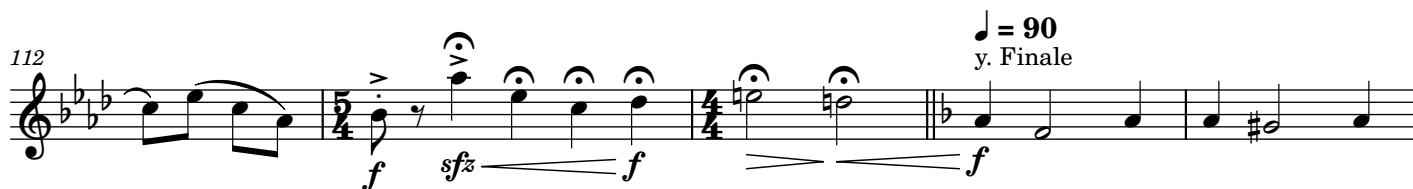
x. March

ix. Alarm Clock

Run on stage and
aggressively kick the
bucket away.

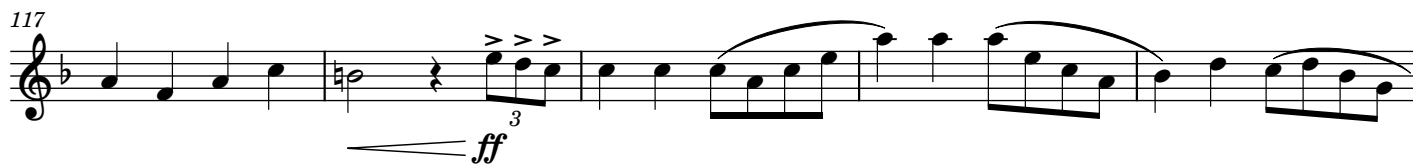
Pick up instrument.

7



$\text{♩} = 90$

y. Finale



molto rit. - - - - - Cut off as bucket
hits the ground.

Gradual and
irregular fall
to silence.



baritone sax

the veil is thin, and sometimes is plaid.

For Saxophone Quartet and *Metal Bucket*

dylan fitzhenry.

$\text{♩} = 60$
i. Prelude

$\text{♩} = 120$
ii. Tango

iii. Plaid

KICK THE BUCKET

$\text{♩} = \text{♩}$

39 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ iv. Lament

44

50 v. Groove

55

59

64 Long

69 **Suddenly Slower** ($\text{♩} = 84$) vi. Sinfonietta

74

80 $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ **Dancing** ($\text{♩} = 56$) vii. Sarabande

85

mf *mp* *mf*

90

viii. Lullaby

mp

95

Repeat until bucket is tucked in.

ix. Alarm Clock

x. March

$\text{♩} = 120$

p *pp* *ff* *mp light*

101

107

113

$\text{♩} = 90$

y. Finale

f *sfz* *f* *f*

118

ff *f*

122

molto rit. - - - - -

Cut off as bucket hits the ground.

Gradual and irregular fall to silence.

pp