

# Stephen Mitton

## *Talking Points for Chamber Winds and Fixed Media*



*Duration: Approx. 4' 15"*

1 Flute  
1 Oboe  
1 Bassoon  
1 Clarinet in Bb  
1 Alto Saxophone

1 Horn in F  
1 Trumpet in C  
1 Trombone  
1 Euphonium  
1 Tuba

Harp

1 Percussion:  
Hi-Hat, Vibraslap, Woodblock,  
Bass Drum, Triangle

***About this piece:***

*Talking Points* is my second piece centered on the topic of political discourse. It was written just after the disastrous first presidential debate on September 29, 2020, and much of the material for the accompanying fixed media tracks is sourced from that event.

I frequently find myself thinking about the correlations between verbal discourse and musical counterpoint, with ideas about conversation and turn-taking translating naturally into motivic development and musical form. In this piece, those ideas break down as I juxtapose a percussive, additive rhythmic pattern (which is heard in the first three measures) with a meandering theme first played by the low brass. These two themes become the basis for the rest of the piece, with the first repeatedly interrupting the second with only slight variations each time.

In our modern political discourse, we are constantly being fed carefully crafted talking points through social media, radio, and television. We hear them over and over again with only slight variations each time. For me, this awareness comes with a desire to cut through the noise and think for myself rather than let the talking points do the thinking for me.

***Performance notes:***

There are cues to start four fixed media tracks at mm. 1, 54, and 104. The media files that come with the performance materials are labeled with the appropriate measure numbers. Someone with the score should be designated to start these clips during performance at a signal from the conductor. While the media is meant to run alongside the performance at approximately those measures, the sonic events represented in the media files do not necessarily correlate to precise musical events in the score, with the exception of the entrance of the ensemble at m. 2. Care should be taken to time the ensemble's entrance at around 15" from the start of the piece.

# Talking Points

for Chamber Winds and Fixed Media

Start fixed media 15"

Animated! ♩ = 120

Stephen Mitton (2020)

The score is for a chamber ensemble and fixed media. It consists of the following parts:

- Flute**: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Starts with a rest, then plays a melodic line with accents and triplets.
- Oboe**: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Similar to the flute part.
- Bassoon**: Bass clef, 4/4 time. Similar to the flute part.
- Clarinet in B♭**: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Similar to the flute part.
- Alto Sax**: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Similar to the flute part.
- Horn in F**: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Similar to the flute part.
- Trumpet in C**: Treble clef, 4/4 time. Similar to the flute part.
- Trombone**: Bass clef, 4/4 time. Plays a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *fp*, *f*, and *mf*.
- Euphonium**: Bass clef, 4/4 time. Similar to the trombone part.
- Tuba**: Bass clef, 4/4 time. Similar to the euphonium part.
- Harp**: Treble and Bass clefs, 4/4 time. Plays chords with dynamics *f* and triplets.
- Percussion**: Includes Hi-Hat, Vibraslap, Woodblock, Bass Drum, and Triangle. Plays rhythmic patterns with dynamics *f* and triplets.

2+2+3      2+3      2+2+3      2+3

Fl. *f mp* *f*

Ob. *f mp* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *f mf* *f*

B♭ Cl. *mp* *f mf* *f mp* *f* *mf*

A. Sx. *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Hn. *mp* *f mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

C Tpt. *f* *mf*

Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tuba *f*

Hp. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Perc. *mf*

6      7      8      9      10

Fl. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

Ob. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

Bsn. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

B♭ Cl. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

A. Sx. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

Hn. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

C Tpt. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

Tbn. *mf* *f* *ff*

Euph. *mf* *f* *ff*

Tuba *mf* *f* *ff*

Hp. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup>

Perc. *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff* to Vibraslap

*mp* 11 *mf* 12 *f* *ff* 13

A

Fl. *mp* *mf* *f*

Ob. *mp* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *mf* *f*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

A. Sx. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

C Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Euph. *mf* *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Hp.

Perc. *f* **Vibraslap** to Woodblock

14 15 16 17

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bsn. *mf* *f*

B♭ Cl. *f* *mp*

A. Sx. *f* *mf*

Hn. *f*

C Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *mf*

Euph. *mp*

Tuba *mp*

Hp.

Perc. Woodblock

18 19 *mf* 20 21 22

**B**

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

B $\flat$  Cl.

A. Sx.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Hp.

Perc.

to Bass Drum

Bass Drum

23 *ff* 24 25 *f* 26 27



Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *f* with Hp.

B♭ Cl. *mf*

A. Sx.

Hn. *mf*

C Tpt.

Tbn. *mf* *f*

Euph. *mf* *f*

Tuba *mf* *f*

Hp. *f* with Bsn.

Perc. to Hi-Hat

28 29 30 31 32

C

Musical score for orchestral section C, measures 33-37. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Saxophone (A. Sx.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (C Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Euphonium (Euph.), Tuba, Harp (Hp.), and Percussion (Perc.).

Measures 33-34: Flute and Oboe play *mp*. Bassoon and Clarinet play *mp*. Saxophone plays *mf* with Harp. Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba play *mp*. Harp plays *mf* with Saxophone.

Measure 35: Flute and Oboe play *f*. Bassoon and Clarinet play *mf*. Saxophone plays *f*. Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba play *mp*. Harp plays *mf* with Saxophone.

Measure 36: Flute and Oboe play *f*. Bassoon and Clarinet play *f*. Saxophone plays *f*. Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba play *mp*. Harp plays *mf* with Saxophone. Percussion plays *mf* with H.H. (Hand Drums).

Measure 37: Flute and Oboe play *f*. Bassoon and Clarinet play *f*. Saxophone plays *f*. Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Euphonium, and Tuba play *mp*. Harp plays *mf* with Saxophone. Percussion plays *mf* with H.H. (Hand Drums).

2+2+3

Fl. *ff* *p* *mf* *f*

Ob. *ff* *p* *mp* *f*

Bsn. *ff* *f*

B♭ Cl. *ff* *p* *mf* *f*

A. Sx. *ff* *p* *mp* *f*

Hn. *f* *f*

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

Tbn. *f* *mp* *f*

Euph. *f* *mp* *f*

Tuba *f* *mp* *f*

Hp. *mf* *f*

Perc. *f* *mf* *f*

38 39 40 41 42

with Bsn.

Fl. *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Ob. *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

Bsn. *p* *mp* *p*

with Hp.

B♭ Cl. *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

A. Sx. *p* *pp*

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn. *p*

Euph. *p* *mf*

Tuba *p*

Hp. *mf* *mp* with Bsn.

Perc. *mp*

43 44 45 46 47 48

2+3      **E** ♩ = 72      Start fixed media

*rit.*

Fl. *mf* *mp*

Ob. *mf* *mp* *mp*

Bsn. *mf* *mp* *p*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

A. Sx. *mf* *p*

Hn. *mp* *p* *pp*

C Tpt. *mp* *p* *pp*

Tbn. *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

Euph. *mp* *p* *pp*

Tuba *mp* *p* *pp*

Hp.

Perc. to Triangle      Triangle      to Hi-Hat

49      50      51      52      *mp* 53      54      55

Subdued

Fl. *mf* *p* *mp*

Ob. *mf* *p* *mp* *p*

Bsn. *mp* *p*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *mp solo espr.*

A. Sx.

Hn. *p* *mp*

C Tpt.

Tbn. *mf* *p* *mp*

Euph. *mf* *p*

Tuba

Hp. *mf*

Perc.

56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63

*rit.* ..... ♩ = 54

Fl. *p* *mp* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *mp* *mf*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

A. Sx. *mp solo espr.* *mp* *mf*

Hn. *mp* *mf*

C Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *mp* *mf*

Euph. *mp* *mf*

Tuba *mf*

Hp. *mp solo espr.* *mf*

Perc.

64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

*poco a poco accel.*

**F** Tempo I

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl.

A. Sx.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Hp.

Perc.

H.H.

*pp*

*mf*

72 73 74 75 76



Fl. *f* *ff* *f*

Ob. *f* *ff* *f*

Bsn. *f*

B♭ Cl. *ff* *mf*

A. Sx. *ff* *mf*

Hn. *f*

C Tpt. *ff* *f*

Tbn. *fp* *mf* *fp*

Euph. *fp* *mf* *fp*

Tuba *fp* *mf* *fp*

Hp.

Perc.

77 78 79 80 81

2+2+3                      2+3    2+2+3

Fl. *ff* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *p* *f*

Ob. *ff* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *p* *f*

Bsn. *ff* *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup>

B♭ Cl. *ff*<sup>3</sup> *mf*<sup>3</sup> *mp* *p* *f*

A. Sx. *ff* *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup>

Hn. *ff* *mp* *mf*<sup>3</sup>

C Tpt. *ff*<sup>3</sup> *mf*<sup>3</sup>

Tbn. *f* *mp* *mp*

Euph. *f* *mp* *mp*

Tuba *f* *mp* *mp*

Hp. *ff*<sup>3</sup> *mp*

Perc. *ff*<sup>3</sup> to Woodblock *W.B.* to Hi-Hat *H.H.* *mp*<sup>3</sup>

82                      83                      84                      85                      86

2+3 2+2+3

Fl. *fp* *f* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

Ob. *fp* *f* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff*

Bsn. *fp* *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

B♭ Cl. *fp* *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

A. Sx. *fp* *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

Hn. *fp* *f* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff* *f*

C Tpt. *fp* *f* *mf*<sup>3</sup> *f* *ff* *f*

Tbn. *mf* *fp* *f* *ff*

Euph. *mf* *fp* *f* *ff* *f*

Tuba *mf* *f* *ff*

Hp. *f* *ff*

Perc. *mf* *+* to Bass Drum B.D. to Woodblock *fp* *ff*

*mf* 87 88 89 *fp* 90 *ff* 91

G

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Bsn. *mf* *mp* *p* *pp*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *mp* *mp*

A. Sx. *mf* *mp* *mp*

Hn. *mf* *mp* *fp* *pp* cup mute

C Tpt. *mf* *ppp*

Tbn. *mp* *fp* *pp*

Euph. *mf* *mp* *fp* *pp*

Tuba

Harp

Perc. **W.B.** *mp*

92 93 94 95 96 97

*rit.*

Expressive ♩ = 72

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl.

A. Sx.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Hp.

Perc.

to Hi-Hat

98 99 100 101 102 103

Start fixed media

*rit.*

**H** Subito Tempo I

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl. (Flute), Ob. (Oboe), Bsn. (Bassoon), B♭ Cl. (B-flat Clarinet), A. Sx. (Alto Saxophone), Hn. (Horn), C Tpt. (Trumpet, marked 'open'), Tbn. (Trombone), Euph. (Euphonium), Tuba, Hp. (Harp), and Perc. (Percussion). The score spans measures 104 to 110. Measure 104 begins with a 'Start fixed media' instruction. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is present above measures 104-107. At measure 108, there is a boxed 'H' followed by 'Subito Tempo I'. Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) for Flute, Oboe, and Horn; *mf* (mezzo-forte) for Horn and Trumpet; and *f* (forte) for Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, and Saxophone. The Percussion part features a complex rhythmic pattern of '+' and 'x' marks with accents, starting at measure 108. A 'p' (piano) marking is at the bottom of measure 108. Measure numbers 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, and 110 are printed at the bottom of the score.

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl.

A. Sax.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Hp.

Perc.

to Bass Drum

111 112 113 114 115 **ff** 116

*molto rit.*

Subito Tempo I

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl.

A. Sx.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Euph.

Tuba

Hp.

Perc.

*mf* *fp* *f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*mf* *fp* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*mf* *fp* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*mf* *fp* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*mf* *fp* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*mf* *fp* *f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*mf* *fp* *f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*fp* *f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*fp* *f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*fp* *f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*mf* *f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*mf* *f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

*f* *ff* *fp* *fff*

B.D.

117 118 119 120 121 122