

Party Hat

(for a 25th birthday)

For 8 players

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Suggested instrumentation:

1 Clarinet in Bb
1 Violin
1 Viola
1 Trombone
2 Electric Guitars
2 Saxophones

Instructions:

The ensemble is encouraged to disperse itself throughout the performance space.

If dynamics and articulations are not specified, performers may vary them as they feel fit. Variation in tone-colour, texture is encouraged throughout the piece.

In the first section, progression through the written material may be quite slow and free, as long as the order of bars is maintained intact.

Program Notes:

This is a birthday present for myself, on occasion of my 25th birthday – maybe the first time I've experienced a nostalgia for the past. I wanted to explore this nostalgia through the development of two musical quotes: a four note sequence from the final section of Jim O'Rourke's *The Workplace*, and the rhythmic musical motif found throughout Morton Feldman's *Madame Press died last night at ninety*. These quotes have always struck me as mindful of the bittersweet nature of passing time, and I envision their combination in this piece as reminiscent of a stylized, slow motion party-blowout whistle.

Party Hat (for a 25th birthday)

Score
Adam Basanta

Instructions: Keep track of other players, you may not play a bar until all previous bars have been played. The written figures may be played in different transpositions, dynamics and articulation, unless otherwise specified. Rests between bars may be added by players. Arrows indicate a guide for sustaining of last note. Overall dynamic should be around a *mp*. Swing 8ths slightly.

i

in slow motion, freely ♩ = 60

The musical score is arranged in a vertical staff format with the following instruments and parts:

- Guitar 1:** Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). Starts with a melodic line in the first bar, followed by a sustained chord in the second bar, and another melodic line in the third bar. Ends with a rest labeled "silence".
- Sax. 1:** Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F#C#). Starts with a melodic line in the first bar, followed by a sustained chord in the second bar, and another melodic line in the third bar. Ends with a rest labeled "silence".
- Trombone:** Bass clef. Starts with a sustained chord in the first bar, followed by a sustained chord in the second bar, and a melodic line in the third bar. Ends with a rest labeled "silence".
- Clarinet in Bb:** Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F#C#). Starts with a melodic line in the first bar, followed by a triplet of eighth notes in the second bar, and a melodic line in the third bar. Ends with a rest labeled "silence".
- Viola:** Bass clef. Starts with a melodic line in the first bar, followed by a sustained chord in the second bar, and another melodic line in the third bar. Ends with a rest labeled "silence".
- Sax. 2:** Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F#C#). Starts with a melodic line in the first bar, followed by a sustained chord in the second bar, and another melodic line in the third bar. Ends with a rest labeled "silence".
- Guitar 2:** Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). Starts with a melodic line in the first bar, followed by a sustained chord in the second bar, and another melodic line in the third bar. Ends with a rest labeled "silence".
- Violin:** Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). Starts with a melodic line in the first bar, followed by a sustained chord in the second bar, and another melodic line in the third bar. Ends with a rest labeled "silence".

Dynamic markings (*mp*) are present at the beginning of each instrument's part. Arrows above the notes indicate sustained notes. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a "3" above it in the Clarinet part. The Violin part ends with a triplet of eighth notes marked with a "3" below it, with "pizz." and "arco" markings above the notes.

Party Hat (for a 25th birthday)

14

Gtr. 1

create textural rhythms using material in boxes, displace as necessary

p n

Sax. 1

14

Tbn.

14

B♭ Cl.

create textural rhythms using material in boxes, displace as necessary

p n

Vla.

14

Sax. 2

14

Gtr. 2

create textural rhythms using material in boxes, displace as necessary

p n

Vln.

14

arco

pp

mp

pizz

create textural rhythms using material in boxes, displace as necessary

p n

arco

wait, wait, wait, end.

mp

Detailed description: This page of a musical score for 'Party Hat (for a 25th birthday)' contains eight staves. The instruments are Gtr. 1, Sax. 1, Tbn., B♭ Cl., Vla., Sax. 2, Gtr. 2, and Vln. The score begins at measure 14. The Gtr. 1 and B♭ Cl. parts include specific instructions: 'create textural rhythms using material in boxes, displace as necessary' with arrows pointing to boxed rhythmic patterns. The Vln. part starts with 'arco' and 'pp', then moves to 'mp' and 'pizz' (pizzicato), and ends with 'arco' and 'wait, wait, wait, end.' dynamics. The Vln. part also has a similar instruction to the guitar parts: 'create textural rhythms using material in boxes, displace as necessary' with arrows and a box. The saxophone parts (Sax. 1 and Sax. 2) and the tuba part (Tbn.) have various rhythmic notations and phrasing marks. The music is in 4/4 time.

ii

Instructions: Play as written, though durations and rests may be stretched as necessary. Dashed bar lines indicate a rest and re-synching of ensemble. Improvisation on articulations and tone colour are encouraged. Swing 8ths slightly. Balance dynamics freely unless specified.

with nostalgia ♩ = 100

26

Gtr. 1 *mp*

Sx. 1 *mp* < *f* > n

Tbn. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp* *pp* *ppp*

Vla. *mp* < *f* *pp* > n

Sx. 2 breath/noise *mp* < *p* > n

Gtr. 2 *mp*

Vln. *mp* *p*

Party Hat (for a 25th birthday)

36

Gtr. 1 *mp* *mp*

Sax. 1 *mp*

Tbn. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *mp* *p* *pp* *mp*
only breath, using D# fingering

Vla. *mp* *pp* *mp*

Sax. 2 *mp* *p* *mp*

Gtr. 2 *mp*

Vln. *mp* *p* *mp*

49

Gtr. 1

Sx. 1

Tbn.

B♭ Cl.

Vla.

Sx. 2

Gtr. 2

Vln.

mp *n*

mp *p*

iii

Instructions: Play as written, maintaining synchronicity.
 Dashed bar lines indicate a rest and re-synchronizing of ensemble.
 Improvisation on articulations and tone colour are encouraged.
 Swing 8ths slightly. Balance dynamics freely unless specified.

♩ = 120 with urgency

59

Gtr. 1 *mp*

Sx. 1 *mp*

Tbn. *mp* *p* *ppp*

B♭ Cl. *mp* *p < mp* *p*

Vla. *mp*

Sx. 2 *mp*

Gtr. 2 *mp*

Vln. *mp*

Party Hat (for a 25th birthday)

69

Gtr. 1

Sx. 1

Tbn.

B \flat Cl.

Vla.

Sx. 2

Gtr. 2

Vln.

mp

mp

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 69 through 74. The score is for a band and includes parts for Guitar 1, Saxophone 1, Trombone, B-flat Clarinet, Viola, Saxophone 2, Guitar 2, and Violin. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The score is divided into two systems of four staves each. The first system (measures 69-72) includes a *mp* dynamic marking under the Trombone and B-flat Clarinet parts. The second system (measures 73-74) continues the musical material. The notation includes various note values, rests, and articulation marks.

78

Gtr. 1

Sx. 1

Tbn.

B♭ Cl.

Vla.

Sx. 2

Gtr. 2

Vln.

p *pp* *pp*

p *ppp* *mp* *p* *pp*

solo freely, quietly

breath/noise

p *ppp* *mp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 8, is for a piece titled "Party Hat (for a 25th birthday)". It features eight staves for different instruments: Gtr. 1, Sx. 1, Tbn., B♭ Cl., Vla., Sx. 2, Gtr. 2, and Vln. The music is in 4/4 time and begins at measure 78. The Gtr. 1, Sx. 1, Tbn., and Vla. parts have relatively simple melodic lines with some rests and dynamic markings. The B♭ Cl. part is more active, featuring a crescendo from *p* to *ppp*, a *mp* section, and another crescendo to *pp*. The Sx. 2 part includes a "solo freely, quietly" section with triplets and a "breath/noise" section with a wavy line and scribbles, followed by a *mp* section. The Gtr. 2 and Vln. parts have simple melodic lines with rests.