

Almost, Tango

For Flute – Bb Clarinet – Violin – Cello – Percussion – Piano

By Kristian de Leon

Foreward & Performance Notes

Almost, Tango was originally a duet for flute and marimba that I submitted as my final project in composition class. After rediscovering the piece while searching through old laptop folders, I decided I would re-orchestrate the piece for a larger ensemble. In the middle of this re-orchestration project, I found myself running further and away from the original piece and eventually ended up with a new chamber work.

This piece is inspired by the drunken chatter, gossip, and chaos of a small social gathering. You watch and enjoy the crowd until eventually joining the sea of incoherent partygoers. After a confusing and surprising mix of events, the details of the evening are eventually lost and you are left with a swirling cloud of half-memories that are not necessarily what they seem.

The performance of this piece should capture the energy of idle chatter in a room full of strangers. The first section is light and unserious, hearing glimpses of different conversations as you walk around a party. The second section becomes increasingly more wild and unrefined as inhibitions drop and affairs become more exciting. The final section is hazy and dreamlike, as fragments of the night's events swim in and out of your conscience and eventually fade.

Almost, Tango

for Flute - Clarinet - Violin - Cello - Percussion - Piano

Kristian de Leon

light and funny (♩ = 128)

2

3

4

5

6

The musical score is arranged in a system of seven staves. The top six staves are for Flute, Clarinet in Bb, Violin, Violoncello, Wood Blocks, and Marimba. The bottom staff is for Piano. The key signature is Bb and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked 'light and funny' with a quarter note equal to 128 beats per minute. The score is divided into six measures. Measures 1-4 are mostly rests for all instruments. In measure 5, the Marimba and Piano parts begin. The Marimba part is marked 'muted' and the Piano part is marked 'mute string'. In measure 6, the Marimba part is marked 'pp' and the Piano part is marked 'open' and 'p'. The Piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes in both hands.

7 8 9 10 11 12

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

pizz

p

cresc. poco à poco

Mar.

p

Pno.

cresc. poco à poco

(mp)

mf <

18 19 20 21

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Mar.

Pno.

mp

tongued gliss.

arco

arco

5

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a chamber ensemble. It features six staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Maracas (Mar.), and Piano (Pno.). The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The score is divided into four measures. Measure 18 shows the Flute and Clarinet starting with rests, while the Violin and Viola play eighth-note patterns. Measure 19 continues these patterns. Measure 20 shows the Flute and Clarinet playing eighth-note figures. Measure 21 features a 'tongued gliss.' in the Flute and a '5' (finger number) in the Clarinet. The Violin and Viola are marked 'arco' and play a sustained note. The Maracas and Piano provide rhythmic accompaniment. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mp* with a hairpin. The page number '5' is in the top right corner.

percussive syllables into flute

26 27 28 29

Fl. *mp*
s tch s tch s tch tch s tch tch s tch s tch s tch tch s tch tch s tch flutter tongue

Cl. *mf* *fp*

Vln. pizz.

Vc. solo *mp*

Mar.

Pno. *p*

C

Fl. *f* 34 35 36 37

Musical staff for Flute (Fl.) in G major, starting at measure 34. The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5, with a fermata over the final C5. The staff includes measure numbers 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Cl. *f*

Musical staff for Clarinet (Cl.) in G major, starting at measure 34. The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5, with a fermata over the final C5. The staff includes measure numbers 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Vln. *f*

Musical staff for Violin (Vln.) in G major, starting at measure 34. The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5, with a fermata over the final C5. The staff includes measure numbers 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Vc. *f* arco

Musical staff for Violoncello (Vc.) in G major, starting at measure 34. The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and is marked *arco*. The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5, with a fermata over the final C5. The staff includes measure numbers 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Mar. *f*

Musical staff for Mandolin (Mar.) in G major, starting at measure 34. The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5, with a fermata over the final C5. The staff includes measure numbers 34, 35, 36, and 37.

C

Pno. *f*

Musical staff for Piano (Pno.) in G major, starting at measure 34. The music begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The notes are G4, A4, B4, and C5, with a fermata over the final C5. The staff includes measure numbers 34, 35, 36, and 37.

Fl. *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *f* gliss.

Vln. *mp* *mf* *f* sul G SP → ST gliss.

Vc. *mp* *mf* *f* sul C SP → ST gliss.

Mar. *mp*

Pno. *p* *f*

change pressure while bowing

5/4

48

49

Fl. *mp* *cresc.*

Cl. *mp* *cresc.*

Vln.

Vc.

Mar. *mp* *p* to WB

Pno. *p* *mp*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a chamber ensemble. The score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Maracas (Mar.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute and Clarinet parts are the most active, both starting at measure 48 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*) marking. The Flute part features eighth-note patterns with slurs, while the Clarinet part has a similar but more rhythmic eighth-note pattern. The Violin and Viola parts are silent, indicated by a horizontal bar across the staves. The Maracas part begins at measure 48 with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a piano (*p*) dynamic, playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Piano part is active throughout, playing a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the bass clef, starting at a piano (*p*) dynamic and moving to mezzo-piano (*mp*) by measure 49. A rehearsal mark '48' is placed above the first measure of the Flute and Clarinet parts, and '49' is placed above the first measure of the Flute part in the second system. The page number '13' is in the top right corner. The Maracas part has a 'to WB' instruction above it in the second system.

54 55 56

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

W.B.

Pno.

f

(7)

This musical score is for a chamber ensemble consisting of Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Wood Bass (W.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The music is in the key of D major (indicated by four sharps) and is divided into three measures. Measure 54 features the Flute and Clarinet playing eighth-note patterns, while the Violin and Viola are silent. Measure 55 continues the eighth-note patterns for Flute and Clarinet. Measure 56 is marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and features a more complex rhythmic pattern for the Flute and Clarinet, with the Violin and Viola also playing eighth notes. The Piano part provides a steady eighth-note accompaniment throughout. A fermata is present over the final note of the Clarinet in measure 56, with a circled number 7 below it. A hairpin crescendo is shown under the Viola and Wood Bass staves in measures 55 and 56.

60 61 62

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

W.B.

Pno.

(to marimba!) *n*

This musical score page contains measures 60, 61, and 62. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The Flute (Fl.) part is mostly silent, with rests in all three measures. The Clarinet (Cl.) part begins in measure 60 with a triplet of eighth notes (F#, G#, A) followed by a half note (B). A slur covers the next two measures, containing a half note (B) and a half note (A). In measure 62, the Clarinet plays a half note (G#) and a half note (F#). The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with slurs and accents. The Wood Bass (W.B.) part plays a series of chords and single notes, with a slur and an accent (*n*) over the final two notes in measure 62. The Piano (Pno.) part is silent throughout.

growing lost (♩ = ♩)

Fl. *mf* *f* molto cresc.

Cl. *mf* *f* molto cresc.

Vln. *mp* *f* molto cresc.

Vc. *f* molto cresc.

Mar. *mf* *f* molto cresc.

Pno. *mf* *cresc.* *f* molto cresc.

heavy!

heavy!

heavy!

heavy!

F

76

21

placid and imperfect (♩ = ♪)

77

78

79

Fl.

Cl.

Vln. *testa sul pont.*
p

Vc.

Mar.

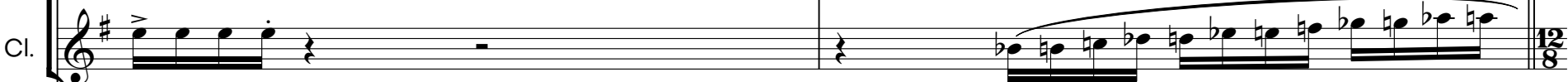
F**placid and imperfect** (♩ = ♪)

Pno. *ppp*

84

85

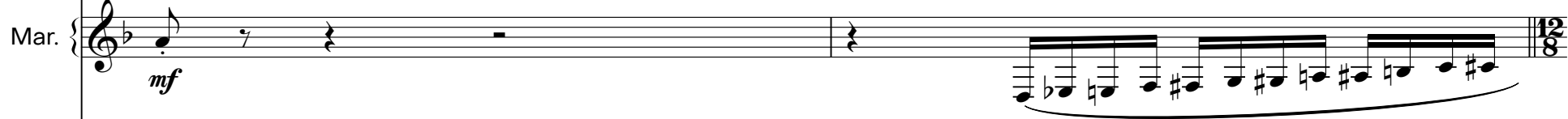
Fl. 

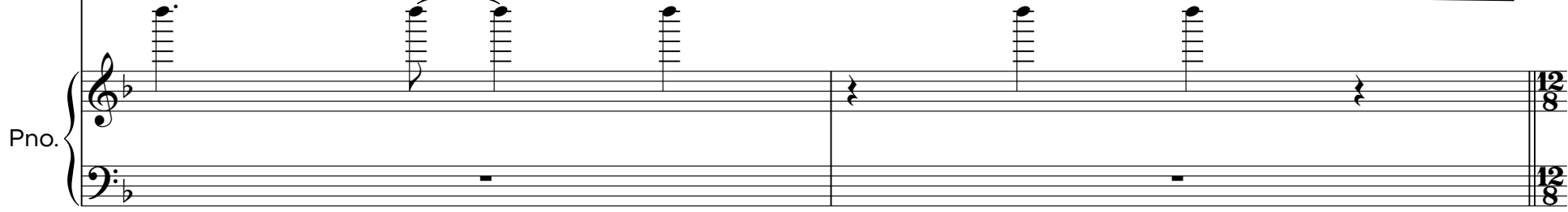
Cl. 

Vln. 

Vc. 

W.B. 

Mar. 

Pno. 

88

89

This musical score page features seven staves. The Flute (Fl.) and Clarinet (Cl.) staves are in treble clef with a key signature of one flat. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) staves are also in treble and bass clefs with one flat. The Wood Bass (W.B.) staff is a single-line staff with a double bar line. The Maracas (Mar.) staff consists of two staves, with the upper one in treble clef and the lower in bass clef, both with one flat. The Piano (Pno.) staff is a grand staff with two staves, both in one flat. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (cresc., sf, f), accents (^), and a 7/8 time signature change between measures 88 and 89.

26 random pitches*⁹⁰

Fl. *ff* c. 5-6"

Cl. *ff* c. 5-6"

Vln. *f* gliss. *ff* normale c. 5-6"

Vc. *f* gliss. *ff* normale c. 5-6"

Mar. *f* *ff* c. 5-6"

Pno. *f* gliss. gliss. *ff* c. 5-6"

28

Fl. 96 97 98 *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Vln.

Vc.

W.B.

Mar. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a chamber ensemble. The score is divided into seven staves. The top two staves are for Flute (Fl.) and Clarinet (Cl.), both in treble clef. The Flute part has measures 96, 97, and 98, with a dynamic marking of *mp* starting in measure 98. The Clarinet part also has measures 96, 97, and 98, with a dynamic marking of *mp* starting in measure 98. The next two staves are for Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.), both in treble clef. The Violin part has a continuous eighth-note pattern with slurs. The Viola part has a similar eighth-note pattern with slurs. The fifth staff is for Wood Bass (W.B.), which is mostly empty with a few rests. The sixth staff is for Maracas (Mar.), in treble clef, with a dynamic marking of *mp* starting in measure 98. The bottom two staves are for Piano (Pno.), in treble and bass clefs, with a dynamic marking of *mp* starting in measure 98. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The page number 28 is in the top left corner.

30



104

unsure (♩ = c. 100)

105

106

107

108

109

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

W.B.

Mar.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 104-109. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Wood Bass (W.B.), Maracas (Mar.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Fl. and Cl.:** Rests in measures 104-107. In measure 108, they play a melodic line starting on G4 (Fl.) and F4 (Cl.), moving up stepwise to A4. Dynamics: *pp*.
- Vln.:** Rests in measures 104-107. In measure 108, it plays a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to A4. Dynamics: *pp*.
- Vc.:** Rests in measures 104-107. In measure 108, it plays a melodic line starting on G2, moving up stepwise to A2. Dynamics: *pp*. In measure 109, it plays a glissando from G2 to the highest note possible. Dynamics: *mf*.
- W.B.:** Rests in measures 104-109.
- Mar.:** Rests in measures 104-107. In measure 108, it plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamics: *mp*. In measure 109, it rests. Dynamics: *pp*.
- Pno.:** Rests in measures 104-107. In measure 108, it plays a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to A4. Dynamics: *pp*.

Fl. *non vib* 117 *pp* *mp* 118 *pp* *mp* 119 120 *pp* *mp*

Cl. *non vib* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

W.B. *p*

Pno. *cresc. poco à poco*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 117 to 120. The Flute and Clarinet parts feature long, sustained notes with a dynamic range from *pp* to *mp* and are marked *non vib*. The Violin part plays a rhythmic eighth-note pattern with accents, starting at *mf*. The Viola part has a similar eighth-note pattern, also starting at *mf*. The Wood Bass part plays a simple eighth-note accompaniment starting at *p*. The Piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and rests in the left hand, with a *cresc. poco à poco* instruction. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats), and the time signature is 4/4.

125 126 127 128

Fl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vln. *v*

Vc. *v*

W.B.

Pno. *v*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 125 through 128. The score is arranged in six staves. The top two staves are for Flute (Fl.) and Clarinet (Cl.), both in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Flute part starts in measure 125 with a half note G4 (F#) at *mp*. In measure 126, it has a half note G4 (F#) at *pp*, followed by a half note A4 (G#) at *mp*. In measure 127, it has a half note G4 (F#) at *pp*, followed by a half note A4 (G#) at *mp*. In measure 128, it has a half note G4 (F#) at *pp*, followed by a half note A4 (G#) at *mp*. The Clarinet part follows a similar pattern. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts feature eighth-note patterns with accents (*v*). The Wood Bass (W.B.) part has a simple rhythmic accompaniment. The Piano (Pno.) part has a complex accompaniment with many notes and accents.

This musical score page, numbered 36, features six staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Wood Bass (W.B.), and Piano (Pno.). The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature. The Flute part (measures 133-136) consists of quarter notes with slurs and dynamic markings of *mf*, *dim.*, and *f*. The Clarinet part (measures 133-136) includes slurs, a "normal" dynamic marking, a "bend note quarter tone sharp" instruction, and dynamics of *f*, *p*, *f*, and *p*. The Violin part (measures 133-136) features triplets of eighth notes with accents. The Viola part (measures 133-136) has a rhythmic pattern of eighth and quarter notes. The Wood Bass part (measures 133-136) plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Piano part (measures 133-136) provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands.

141 142 143 144

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p* *f* *p*

Vln. *dim.*

Vc.

W.B.

Pno.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 141 to 144. The Flute part (Fl.) has a five-measure rest in measure 141, followed by rests in measures 142, 143, and 144. The Clarinet part (Cl.) begins in measure 141 with a *p* dynamic, playing a melodic line that reaches a *f* dynamic in measure 142 before returning to *p* in measure 143, where it ends with a trill. The Violin part (Vln.) features a *dim.* dynamic and consists of eighth-note triplets in measures 141 and 142, and sixteenth-note triplets in measures 143 and 144. The Viola part (Vc.) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with rests. The Wood Bass part (W.B.) plays a simple melodic line. The Piano part (Pno.) provides harmonic support with a pattern of eighth notes and chords.