

Flailing Trees and Assailing Weeds

(2018)

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PROGRAMME NOTE

Flailing Trees and Assailing Weeds was composed and produced, using MIDI orchestral instruments, in approximately 2-days as part of a demo for that little known developer/publisher, Team17... Working to a piece of concept art, which presented a forest scene with shadowy trees and shrubbery some of this vegetation, in more foregrounded positions, looked primed and ready to attack or waiting to be sparked into life by some nearby prey. On reflection, it is unsurprising that my demo was turned down by them, the work is not at all in the style of classic Team17 soundtracks and is not really structured as a video-game composition. Instead, it is more suitable as a compact concert work with the production seeking that kind of orchestral concert performance vibe as well.

The instrumentation for this piece is single woodwinds: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet (doubling Bass Clarinet) and Bassoon; a pair of brass: French Horn and Trumpet; Percussion and Timpani; String Orchestra, within which I was curious to test out the effectiveness of solo and sectional strings in the context of a mocked-up/MIDI orchestral performance. Comprising a basic primary theme, akin to "A Teddy Bear's Picnic" (not deliberate). I use simple means of extending this material for the work, such as placing the two 8-bar units: antecedent and consequent into counterpoint with one another. I also provide a secondary theme that is eventually, albeit briefly, thrown into the same mix, in counterpoint with the other melodies, in the "finale" of the work.

5 6 7 8 rit.

Vln. (solo)

Vln. II (solo)

Vla. (solo)

Vc. (solo)

Vc.

pp (half desks) *mp*

rit.



A with mischief $\text{♩} = 92$ 10 11 12 rit. a tempo $\text{♩} = 92$

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Vln. (solo)

Vln. II (solo)

Vla. (solo)

Vc.

poco p *p*



13 14 15 16

B. Cl.

Bsn.

17

18

19

20

B. Cl. *subito f* *p*

Bsn. *subito f* *p*

Timp.

Perc. *p* *f*

Vla. *pizz.* *f*

Vc. (solo) *pizz.* *p* *(tutti)* *subito f*

Vc. *pizz. (tutti)* *subito f*

Cb. (solo) *pizz.* *p* *(tutti)* *subito f*

Cb. *pizz. (tutti)* *subito f*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 17 through 20. It features eight staves: B. Cl., Bsn., Timp., Perc., Vla., Vc. (solo), Vc., Cb. (solo), and Cb. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 17 and 18 show the woodwinds and strings playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. In measure 19, there is a dynamic shift to *subito f* for the woodwinds and a *pizz.* *f* for the strings. In measure 20, the woodwinds play *p* and the strings play *pizz. (tutti)* *subito f*. The percussion part has a *p* dynamic in measure 18 and a *f* dynamic in measure 19.

21 22 23 To Cl. 24

B. Cl. *p* *subito f*

Bsn. *subito f* *p*

Timp.

Perc.

Vla. pizz. *f*

Vc. (solo) *p* *subito f* (tutti)

Vc. *subito f* (tutti)

Cb. (solo) *p* *subito f* (tutti)

Cb. *subito f* (tutti)

25 26 27 28

B. Cl. *sempre pp*

Bsn. *sempre pp*

Vc. *sempre pp*

Cb. *sempre pp*

29 30 31 32 33

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

B. Cl. *To Cl.*

Bsn.

Vln. II *open*

Vla. *arco p*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

34 35 36 37

Fl. *2*

Ob. *2*

B. Cl. *Clarinet in Bb*

Bsn. *p mf*

Tpt. *straight mute*

Vln. II *sim.*

Vla. *mp sim.*

Vc. *2*

Cb. *2*

38 39 40

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, covering measures 38, 39, and 40. The instruments listed are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute and Oboe parts feature melodic lines with slurs and accents. The Clarinet part has a more active line with slurs. The Violin II part consists of rhythmic patterns. The Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns.

B with a bounce 42 43 44 45

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Tpt.
Xyl.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

p *f* *p* *p* *p* *p* *tr* *pp* *arco* *p*

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of a musical score, covering measures 42, 43, 44, and 45. The instruments listed are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute and Oboe parts have dynamic markings of *p* and *f*. The Clarinet part has a *p* marking. The Bassoon part has a *p* marking. The Trumpet part has a *p* marking. The Xylophone part has a *p* marking. The Violin I part has trills and a *pp* marking. The Violin II part has a *pp* marking and is marked *arco*. The Viola part has a *p* marking. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts have *p* markings. The section is titled "B with a bounce".

46 47 48

Fl. *p* *f*

Ob. *p* *f*

Cl. *f* *p* *f*

Bsn. *f* *f*

Tpt. *p* *p*

Timp. *f*

Xyl. *p* *f*

Vln. I *p* *tr*

Vln. II

Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco*

Vc. *f* *p* *f* *arco*

Cb. *f* *p* *f* *arco*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 46, 47, and 48. The music is in 6/8 time. The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) and strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass) play a melodic line that starts in measure 46, continues through 47, and concludes in 48. The flute and oboe parts are marked *p* in measure 46 and *f* in measure 48. The clarinet part is marked *f* in measure 46, *p* in measure 47, and *f* in measure 48. The bassoon part is marked *f* in measures 46 and 48. The trumpet part is marked *p* in measures 46 and 48. The timpani part has a *f* dynamic in measure 46. The xylophone part is marked *p* in measure 46 and *f* in measure 48. The violin I part features a *p* dynamic in measure 46 and a trill in measure 48. The violin II part has a steady accompaniment. The viola part is marked *pizz.* and *arco* in measures 46 and 48, with a *f* dynamic in measure 48. The violoncello and contrabass parts are marked *f* in measures 46 and 48, and *p* in measure 47. The cello part is marked *arco* in measure 48.

Musical score for measures 49-52. The score includes parts for Tpt., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Cb. Measure 49 shows the beginning of the section with a trill in Vln. I. Measure 50 features a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*) in Vln. II. Measure 51 includes a quartet (*4*) in Vln. II and Vc. Measure 52 shows a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic in Vln. II and Vc.



Musical score for measures 53-56. The score includes parts for Fl., Ob., Cl., Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Cb. Measure 53 shows a piano (*p*) dynamic in Fl. and Ob. Measure 54 features a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc.*) in Vln. I. Measure 55 includes a quartet (*4*) in Vln. I and Vln. II. Measure 56 shows a piano (*p*) dynamic in Fl. and Ob.

57 58 59 60

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

p

Vln. I

mf

Vln. II

Vla.

61 62 63 64

Vln. I

mf

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f *p*

C with resilience
open

66 67 68

Tpt.

mf

Timp.

pp

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

69 70 71 72

Hn. *mf*

Timp. *f* *mf*

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vc. (solo) *mf* solo - arco

Cb. *mf*

73 74 75 76

Bsn. *mf*

Vln. I sul pont. *f*

Vln. II sul pont. *f*

Vla. sul pont. *f*

Vc. (solo) *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. (solo) solo - arco *mf*

Cb. *f*

77 78 79 80

Bsn. *v*

Hn.

Timp.

Vln. I *sul pont.* *p*

Vln. II *sul pont.*

Vla. *sul pont.* *p*

Vc. (solo) *p* *p*

Cb. (solo) *f* *p*

Cb. *f* *p*

81 82 83 84

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Hn. *f*

Tpt. *f* *p*

Timp. *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vln. (solo) *pp* solo - 3 div.

Vla.

85 86 87 88

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *pp*

Tpt. *f*

Timp.

Vln. (solo) *pp*

Vln. I *p* tutti, uni. - sul tasto

Vln. II *p* sul tasto

Vla.

Vc. *p* pizz.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 85 to 88. The instruments are arranged in a standard orchestral layout. Measures 85 and 86 feature a soft (*pp*) melodic line in the Flute, Oboe, and Bassoon, with a dynamic crescendo. The Clarinet and Trumpet have specific rhythmic patterns. The Timpani provides harmonic support with chords. The Violin soloist plays a sustained chord. In measure 88, the Violin I and II parts play a melodic phrase on the strings (*sul tasto*), while the Violoncello plays a pizzicato accompaniment.

89

90

91

92

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

Bsn. *f* 4

Timp. *f*

Vln. I nat. 2 subito *f* sul tasto nat. 2 subito *f* *p* *f*

Vln. II *p* *f*

Vla. *f* 2 nat. *f* 2 *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* arco *f*

Cb. *f* 4 *f* 4 *f*

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Vln. I

p *sim.* *2*

Vln. II

p *f* *p* *f*

Vla.

p *p* *f* *p* *p* *f*

Vc.

p *f* *p* *f* *arco*

Cb.

f

97 98 99 100

rit.

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Timp. *pp* *tr*

Perc. *p*

Vln. I *mf* **rit.**

Vln. II *p* *f* *p* *f* *mf*

Vla. *p* *p* *f* *p* *mf*

Vc. *p* *f* *p* *arco*

Cb. *f* *p*

D Powerfully ♩.=92

102

103

104

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn. arco *f*

Hn. *p* *mf*

Tpt. *f*

Timp. (tr) *f*

Perc. *f*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vc. arco *f*

Cb. arco *f*

105 106 107 108

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp *f*

p *mf* *p*

p *mp* *f*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 105 to 108. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Timpani (Timp.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). Measures 105 and 106 feature a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the Flute, Oboe, and Violin parts. Measure 107 introduces a new melodic line for the Clarinet and Viola, marked *mp*, which then crescendos to *f* in measure 108. The Horn part has a dynamic change from *p* to *mf* in measure 105 and returns to *p* in measure 107. The Bassoon and Violoncello parts have a dynamic change from *p* to *f* in measure 107. The Timpani part has a dynamic change from *p* to *f* in measure 107. The Violin I and II parts continue their rhythmic pattern throughout.

109 110 111 112

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. *p* *mf*

Bsn.

Hn. *mf* *sim.*

Tpt. *p* *mf*

Timp. *f*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *sim.*

Vc.

Cb.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 109 to 112. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Timpani (Timp.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute and Oboe parts feature a melodic line with eighth notes and rests. The Clarinet and Trumpet parts play sustained notes with dynamic markings of *p* and *mf*. The Horn part has a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *sim.*. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mf*. The Timpani part plays a rhythmic pattern with a dynamic marking of *f*. The Violin I and II parts play a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mf*. The Viola part has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *sim.*. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts play a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mf*.

113 114 115 116

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.
p *mf* *p*

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.
p *mf* *p*

Timp.
pp

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.
2

Cb.
2

4
f

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 113 to 116. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Timpani (Timp.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score is written in a key signature of two flats and a common time signature. Measures 113 and 114 are marked with a first ending bracket. Measure 115 is marked with a second ending bracket. Measure 116 is marked with a fourth ending bracket. Dynamics include *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *pp* (pianissimo). The Viola part has a *f* (forte) dynamic in measure 116. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts have a '2' marking in measure 115. The Flute, Oboe, and Horn parts have a '2' marking in measure 115. The Bassoon part has a '2' marking in measure 115. The Trumpet part has a '2' marking in measure 115. The Violin I and Violin II parts have a '2' marking in measure 115. The Viola part has a '4' marking in measure 116. The Timpani part has a 'pp' dynamic in measure 116.

E

118 119 120

Fl. *4*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. *mp*

Tpt. *f* *2*

Timp. *f*

Perc. *mf*

Xyl. *f* *2*

Vln. I *4*

Vln. II

Vla. *p* *f* *2*

Vc.

Cb.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 118, 119, and 120. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and the time signature is 6/8. The score is for a full orchestra. The Flute (Fl.) and Violin I (Vln. I) parts feature a prominent melodic line with a four-measure rest in measures 118 and 120. The Oboe (Ob.) and Violin II (Vln. II) parts have a similar melodic line. The Clarinet (Cl.) and Bassoon (Bsn.) parts are mostly silent. The Horn (Hn.) part has a melodic line starting in measure 119. The Trumpet (Tpt.) part has a melodic line starting in measure 119. The Timpani (Timp.) part has a rhythmic pattern. The Percussion (Perc.) part has a rhythmic pattern. The Xylophone (Xyl.) part has a rhythmic pattern. The Viola (Vla.) part has a melodic line starting in measure 119. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Contrabass (Cb.) parts have a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include *mp*, *f*, *mf*, and *p*. There are also markings for *4* and *2* measures of rest.

121 122 123 124

Fl.
Ob.
Cl.
Bsn.
Hn.
Tpt.
Timp.
Perc.
Xyl.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

mf

2

2

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 121 to 124. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Timpani (Timp.), Percussion (Perc.), Xylophone (Xyl.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute, Violin I, and Oboe parts feature complex, rapid sixteenth-note passages. The Bassoon, Violoncello, and Contrabass parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Horn part has a melodic line with a long note in measure 124. The Trumpet part has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Percussion part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Xylophone part has a simple melodic line. The Viola part has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Timpani part has a simple rhythmic pattern. The Violin II part has a melodic line. The Clarinet part has a simple melodic line. The Oboe part has a melodic line. The Flute part has a melodic line. The Bassoon part has a melodic line. The Horn part has a melodic line. The Trumpet part has a melodic line. The Timpani part has a simple rhythmic pattern. The Percussion part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Xylophone part has a simple melodic line. The Viola part has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Violoncello part has a melodic line. The Contrabass part has a melodic line. The Violin I part has a melodic line. The Violin II part has a melodic line. The Flute part has a melodic line. The Oboe part has a melodic line. The Clarinet part has a simple melodic line. The Bassoon part has a melodic line. The Horn part has a melodic line. The Trumpet part has a melodic line. The Timpani part has a simple rhythmic pattern. The Percussion part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Xylophone part has a simple melodic line. The Viola part has a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mf*. The Violoncello part has a melodic line. The Contrabass part has a melodic line.

This musical score page contains measures 125 through 128. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Ob. (Oboe):** Measures 125 and 126 have a quarter note followed by two eighth notes. Measures 127 and 128 are silent.
- Cl. (Clarinet):** Measures 125 and 126 have a quarter note followed by two eighth notes. Measures 127 and 128 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair, and finally a quarter note.
- Bsn. (Bassoon):** Measures 125 and 126 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair. Measures 127 and 128 are silent.
- Hn. (Horn):** Measures 125 and 126 have a quarter note followed by two eighth notes, marked *pp*. Measures 127 and 128 are silent.
- Tpt. (Trumpet):** Measures 125 and 126 have a long note with a slur, marked *pp*. Measures 127 and 128 are silent.
- Timp. (Timpani):** Measures 125, 126, 127, and 128 each have a single eighth note.
- Vln. I (Violin I):** Measures 125 and 126 are silent. Measures 127 and 128 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair, and finally a quarter note.
- Vln. II (Violin II):** Measures 125 and 126 have a quarter note followed by two eighth notes. Measures 127 and 128 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair, and finally a quarter note.
- Vla. (Viola):** Measures 125 and 126 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair, marked *arco*. Measures 127 and 128 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair.
- Vc. (Violoncello):** Measures 125 and 126 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair. Measures 127 and 128 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair.
- Cb. (Cello):** Measures 125 and 126 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair. Measures 127 and 128 have a quarter note followed by an eighth note, then a beamed eighth-note pair.

129

130

131

132

Musical score for measures 129-132. The score includes parts for Clarinet (Cl.), Horn (Hn.), Trumpet (Tpt.), Tympani (Timp.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

- Cl.:** Measures 129-130: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 131: whole rest. Measure 132: whole rest.
- Hn.:** Measure 129: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4. Measure 130: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4. Measure 131: whole rest. Measure 132: whole rest.
- Tpt.:** Measure 129: whole rest. Measure 130: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 131: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 132: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3.
- Timp.:** Measure 129: quarter note G2. Measure 130: quarter note A2. Measure 131: quarter note B2. Measure 132: quarter note C3.
- Vln. I:** Measure 129: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 130: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 131: whole rest. Measure 132: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
- Vln. II:** Measure 129: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 130: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 131: whole rest. Measure 132: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
- Vla.:** Measure 129: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 130: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 131: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 132: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3.
- Vc.:** Measure 129: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 130: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 131: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 132: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3.
- Cb.:** Measure 129: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 130: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 131: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 132: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3.

133

134

135

136

137

Musical score for measures 133-137. The score includes parts for Trumpet (Tpt.), Tympani (Timp.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

- Tpt.:** Measure 133: whole rest. Measure 134: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4. Measure 135: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4. Measure 136: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4. Measure 137: quarter notes G3, A3, B3, C4.
- Timp.:** Measure 133: whole rest. Measure 134: quarter note G2. Measure 135: quarter note A2. Measure 136: quarter note B2. Measure 137: quarter note C3.
- Vln. I:** Measure 133: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 134: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 135: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 136: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 137: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
- Vln. II:** Measure 133: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 134: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 135: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 136: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Measure 137: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5.
- Vla.:** Measure 133: whole rest. Measure 134: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 135: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 136: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 137: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3.
- Vc.:** Measure 133: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 134: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 135: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 136: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 137: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3.
- Cb.:** Measure 133: whole rest. Measure 134: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 135: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 136: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3. Measure 137: quarter notes G2, A2, B2, C3.