

Jay C. Batzner

ELEMENTALS

(2009)

for euphonium, tuba, and optional electronics

UNSAFE BULL MUSIC

Elementals: Program Notes

The piece is in four sections, each touching upon the four main elements: wind, fire, water, and earth. The pre-recorded part is largely ambient and the piece can be performed without it. My interest in mixing the four elements together lies mostly in the moments of transition from one element to another. I promise that there is not a single Earth, Wind, and Fire quote in the piece. I almost put one in, but decided against it at the last minute.

There is a certain subtlety in music for performers and electronics that sometimes bothers me. Very often the instrumentalists are second-class citizens to complicated and abstract electronic processes which take center stage (or crash). This approach works well for some but it really doesn't work for me. My obvious nature is a fault at times, but I don't think it is a fault in this particular piece. To rebel against this stereotypical model I have rendered the euphonium and tuba duo so powerful that they tame the very forces of nature.

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for mysterious reasons...

Elementals

for Gail Robertson and Stacy Baker

Jay C. Batzner

Summoning the wind, $\text{♩} = 60$

The score is written for Euphonium, Tuba, and Tape in 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with a staff for Euphonium, Tuba, and Tape. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 60$. The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The score includes various dynamic markings such as *f*, *ff*, *mf*, and *mp*, as well as performance instructions like "Tape begins (blowing wind)", "Wind through leaves", "Tape fades out", "Tape begins (blowing wind)", "Wind sounds rise", and "Boom!".

System 1 (Measures 1-9): Euphonium and Tuba play a melody with triplets and accents. Dynamics range from *f* to *ff*. Tape begins (blowing wind) at measure 8.

System 2 (Measures 10-20): Euphonium and Tuba continue the melody. Dynamics include *ff*, *f*, and *mf*. Wind through leaves at measure 15. Tape fades out at measure 20.

System 3 (Measures 21-30): Euphonium and Tuba play a more complex melody with triplets. Dynamics range from *mp* to *ff*. Tape begins (blowing wind) at measure 26. Wind sounds rise at measure 29. Boom! at measure 30.

Riding the fire, ♩=88

31 32 33 34 35 36

Euph. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Tba. *mf* *f* *f*

T. Bright fire sounds Boom! then silence

37 38 39 40 41 42

Euph. *f* *mp* *f*

Tba. *mf* *mp* *f*

T.

43 44 45 46 47

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

Tba. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

T. Boom! Fire returns Fire increases intensity, gets deeper sharp clicks

48 49 50 51 52 53

Euph. *f* *ff*

Tba. *f* *ff*

T. Boom! Fire turned to freezing rain

54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69

Singin' in the freezing rain, $\text{♩} = 52$ A little faster, $\text{♩} = 60$

Euph. *pp* *pp* *p* *p*

Tba. *pp* *pp* *p*

T. Tape fades out

70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84

Euph. *f* *mf* *mp* *fp*

Tba. *f* *mf* *mp* *fp*

T. Flowing water fades in Gushing water Bubbles emerge

85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98

Freezing "Rockin' out"

Euph. *mf* *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *f*³

Tba. *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *f*³

T. ice crunch cinder block "pings" Crunchy steps Falling rocks

99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107

Euph. *ff* *f*³ *ff* *f*³ *ff*

Tba. *ff* *f* *ff* *f*³ *ff* *f*

T. Crunchy steps Tape fades out Crunchy steps Tape fades out Falling rocks Small rocks

108 109 110 111 112 113

Euph. *f* *ff* *f*

Tba. *ff* *f*

T. Crunchy steps Cinder block Crunch sounds build up

114 115 116 117 118 119

Euph. *mf* *f* *ff* *sfz*

Tba. *mf* *f* *ff*

T. Falling rocks Tape fades out ending with "small rocks" sound