

Jay C. Bartzner

**Reflections
on the Nature of
Impermanence
(2017)**

**for tenor saxophone and
snare drum**

UNSAFE BULL MUSIC

Program Note

In early 2017 I was experiencing some of the worst burnout I've ever had. Stress from all sides of my life was my only companion. I could only focus on what I needed to do an hour at a time, a minute at a time, a moment at a time. I was struggling with just getting from the beginning of the day to the end of the day. The thought that kept me going was "It hasn't always been like this. It won't always be like this."

At the same time, I kept forgetting what I was writing. Every time I sat down to work on this piece for the Rogue Two duo, I'd have almost no recollection of what I was doing. I channelled my energies into a meditation on impermanence, one of the Buddha's most important teachings, and produced the following piece.

reflections on the nature of impermanence

for Andrew Allen

Jay C. Batzner

I. Senza misura

no vibrato molto vibrato no vibrato

Tenor Sax *pp*

Snare Drum

lay 1 stick on top of drum (rim to rim)
strike this stick, quasi-rim shot, with snares off

f

an indeterminate amount, exaggerate extremes
draw out this gesture for as long as it is necessary

II. Rubato $\text{♩}=52$

snare on

sfz

ppp

ppp

4

w/brushes

an indeterminate amount, exaggerate extremes

mp

6

sim.

w/sticks

pp

2

mp

pp

ppp

pppp

14

buzz

measured

pp

III. Brash, stubborn ♩=120

sfz

sfz

f < sfz

sfz

f < sfz

f <

9

p

f

(for a while...)

sfz

sfz

sfz

f < sfz

sfz

p < ff

in your own time
make no attempt to sync with snare

14

mf

f

mf

19

f

ff

mp

3

ff

mp

3

ff

mp

25

mf

ff

6

mf

f

30 3

50

fp \langle *ff* *fp* \langle *ff* *fp* \langle *ff*

35

in sync

(just a little while)

35

sfz

sfz

IV. Contemplative $\text{♩} = 60$

4/4

snare off

p \langle *p* *p* \langle *p* *p* \langle *p*

7

f *f* *p* \langle *f* *p* \langle *f* *f* \langle *f*

mp \langle *mf* \langle *mf*

14

f *mf* *mp*

snare on

p \langle *f* *pp*

19

pp

V. Final, inexorable ♩=52

The musical score is written for a grand piano in 4/4 time with a tempo of ♩=52. It consists of six systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system (measures 1-4) features a piano introduction with a *ppp* dynamic in the bass staff and a *pp* dynamic in the treble staff. The second system (measures 5-8) continues the piano introduction with a *pp* dynamic. The third system (measures 9-12) includes a section marked "as in first movement" in the bass staff, which is a *fp* fortissimo passage. The fourth system (measures 13-16) features a *pp* dynamic in the treble staff and a *ppp* dynamic in the bass staff. The fifth system (measures 17-20) continues the piano introduction. The sixth system (measures 21-22) features a *fp* fortissimo passage in the bass staff, marked "sim." (similissimo), and includes the instruction "repeat whole movement, if needed, as many times as necessary".