Jay C. Batzner

SONGS MY RADIO TAUGHT ME

(2008)

5 pieces for marimba

UNSAFE BULL MUSIC

Songs my Radio Taught Me: Program Notes

Each of the five movements in this suite were inspired by various pop songs from the early 1980s. I decided to take short, memorable, and in some cases iconic, licks and hooks from these songs and abstract them, mutate them, hide them, and embrace them. For a while in my musical development, I shunned and hid any of my earlier musical tastes. I carried my pop music history with shame as I set out to become more erudite and sophisticated. In recent years, I've realized how wrong it was for me to have that attitude. All my musical tastes, from Spike Jones and the City Slickers to Witold Lutoslawski, from John Luther Adams to Huey Lewis and the News, from Faster Pussycat to Elliott Carter, make up who I am as a composer. The hardest part about writing these pieces was choosing and limiting myself to five songs. Invariably, you the listener will want a different song added to my collection. I can't help that but I can encourage you to take that song and let us hear it synthesized through your years of experience. In other words, go write your own piece! These were tremendous fun to compose and I hope that they are fun to perform and to hear.

Performance Notes:

This work was conceived for a 5-octave marimba. Liberties may be taken with octave placement or eliminating lower notes to fit a marimba with a smaller range. Mallet choices are, as they should be, left to the discretion of the soloist.

for 5-octave marimba

Songs my Radio Taught Me

for Juan Alamo

Jay C. Batzner

1. Come on

Without affect, ♩=100

f p f mp f

p f p f pp f 8va loco

pp mf f p mf f

ff f

mp f p pp

2. Remember

Brisk, ♩=136

f

p

mf

sim.

f

p

f

rit.

a tempo

ff

poco rall.

a tempo

poco rall.

a tempo

fff

mf

ff

dead

rit.

p

ff

3. Careless

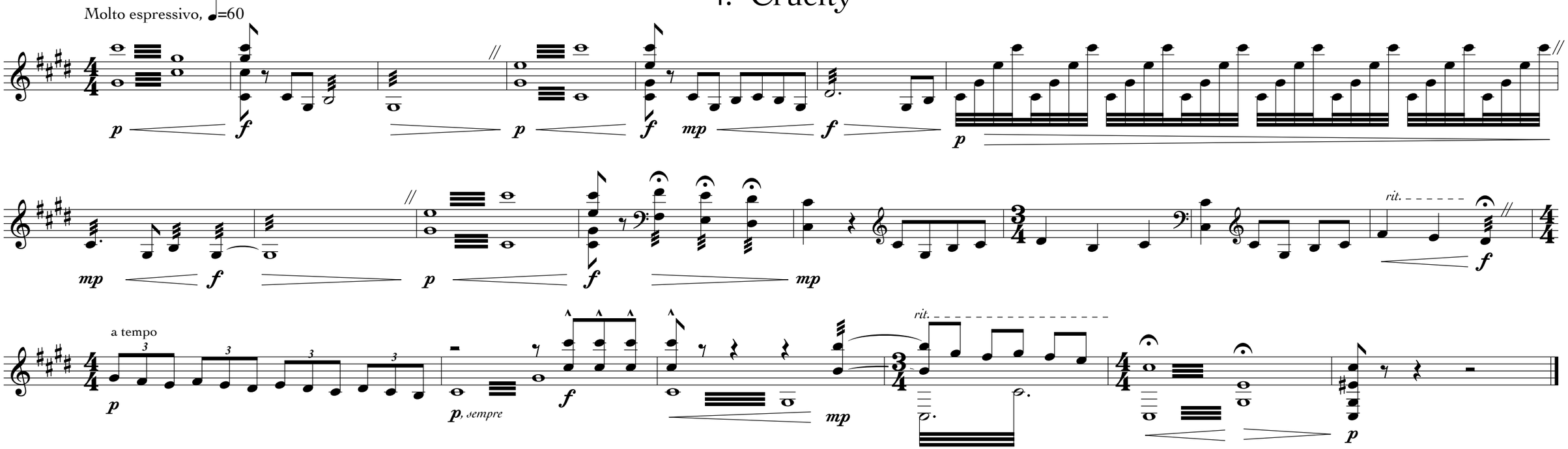
Carefully, 𝅗𝅥.=52

f

like a whisper

p

4. Cruelty


Molto espressivo, ♩=60
p
f
p
f
mp
f
p
mp
f
p
f
mp
rit.
f
a tempo
p
p, sempre
f
mp
rit.
p

5. Taken

Molto rubato, ♩=110

poco rit.

a tempo

motlo rit.

a tempo

a tempo

Suddenly slower, molto accel...

♩=130

Just like you remember it, ♩=160

poco rit.

Tempo I, ♩=110