

# Perpetuum Mobile

for orchestra

Jordan Nobles

*Perpetuum Mobile is dedicated to Daniel Goode and Ann Snitow*



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## ORCHESTRATION

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bassoon

Percussion 1 - Marimba

Percussion 2 - Vibraphone

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

## ABOUT THE PIECE

- *Perpetuum Mobile* was finished in January 2010 in North Vancouver.
- The duration of the piece is about 8 minutes.

## PROGRAMME NOTES

I've always been fascinated by perpetual motion in music and have long wanted to try my hand at writing a piece that relentlessly chased it's tail from beginning to end. In this work the 16 notes, first introduced by the vibraphone in the beginning, continue non-stop throughout the piece in canons and arpeggios and meandering melodies until finally it is recaptured by the vibraphone. The 16th notes fade in at the beginning and fade out at the end as if the piece wasn't really ending, it was just moving away, perpetually continuing somewhere else.



# Perpetuum Mobile

Commissioned by the Windsor Symphony Orchestra  
Dedicated to Daniel Goode and Ann Snitow

Jordan Nobles

♩ = 60

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bassoon

Marimba

Vibraphone

med. hard mallets, sustain pedal on

*pp*

♩ = 60

Violin I

1st desk only

*pp*

Violin II

1st desk only

3 3 3 3

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass





15

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

**A**

*p*

**A**

**A**

*pizz. (let ring)*

*mp*



19

The musical score consists of ten staves. The top four staves are for woodwinds: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.), all of which are silent in this section. The fifth staff is for the Maracas (Mar.), featuring a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The sixth staff is for the Vibraphone (Vib.), which plays a sustained chord with a 'sustain pedal on' instruction and a dynamic marking of *p*. The seventh staff is for the Violin I (Vln. I), playing a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p*. The eighth staff is for the Violin II (Vln. II), playing a triplet-based rhythmic pattern. The ninth staff is for the Viola (Vla.), playing a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p*. The tenth staff is for the Cello (Vc.), playing a triplet-based rhythmic pattern. The bottom-most staff is for the Double Bass (Db.), which is silent.



27

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar. *mp*

Vib.

Vln. I *mp* TUTTI

Vln. II

Vla. *mp*

Vc.

Db. *mp*





This musical score page, numbered 10, features a variety of instruments. At the top, the Flute (Fl.) part begins at measure 37 with a melodic line of eighth notes, each beamed in a triplet and marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The Clarinet (Cl.) part enters in the second measure of the system with a similar triplet eighth-note melody, also marked *mp*. The Violin I (Vln. I) part plays a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with many notes beamed in triplets. The Violin II (Vln. II) part provides a harmonic accompaniment with sustained notes. The Viola (Vla.) and Cello (Vc.) parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part is mostly silent, with a few notes in the second measure. The Maracas (Mar.) part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with a steady eighth-note pattern. The Double Bass (Db.) part plays a simple bass line with sustained notes.

**C**

40

Fl. *mf*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn. *mf*

**C**

Mar. *mf*

Vib.

**C**

TUTTI

Vln. I *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *mf* DIVISI

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

44

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*mf*

*pizz.*

3

5

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 44, 45, and 46. The score is for a full orchestra. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The strings include Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The percussion section includes Maracas (Mar.) and Vibraphone (Vib.). The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. In measure 44, the Flute and Bassoon are silent. The Oboe and Clarinet play a melodic line starting with a half note F#4, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, and a triplet of C5, D5, E5. The Maracas play a steady eighth-note pattern. The Vibraphone plays a similar eighth-note pattern. The Violin I part features a triplet of quarter notes (F#4, G4, A4) in the first measure, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (B4, C5, D5) in the second measure, and a quintuplet of eighth notes (E5, F#5, G5, A5, B5) in the third measure. The Violin II part plays a sixteenth-note pattern. The Viola part plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts play a steady eighth-note pattern. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is present in the woodwind staves. The instruction *pizz.* (pizzicato) is present in the Violoncello part in measure 46. The page number 44 is written at the top left of the first staff.



This musical score page, numbered 13, features a variety of instruments. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and Maracas (Mar.). The string section consists of Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The percussion part includes Maracas. The score is divided into three measures. The Flute part begins at measure 47 with a triplet of eighth notes. The Bassoon part starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Maracas part provides a rhythmic accompaniment. The Violin I part features complex fingering with 5ths, 3rds, and 7ths. The Violin II and Viola parts play a steady eighth-note pattern. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts play a slower, more melodic line. Dynamics such as *mp* and *mf* are indicated throughout the score.

**D**

50

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl.

Bsn.

**D**

Mar. *mp*

Vib.

**D**

Vln. I *f* DIVISI

Vln. II

Vla. *mf*

Vc. dampen *f* arco *mf*

Db. dampen *f* arco *mf*

53

The image shows a page of a musical score for measures 53, 54, and 55. The score is for a symphony orchestra and includes the following parts: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Maracas (Mar.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 53-55 feature a melodic line starting in measure 53 with a *mf* dynamic. The line is continuous across all three measures.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Measures 53-55 are silent.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Measures 53-55 are silent.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Measures 53-55 feature a melodic line starting in measure 54 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Maracas (Mar.):** Measures 53-55 feature a rhythmic accompaniment starting in measure 54 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Vibraphone (Vib.):** Measures 53-55 are silent.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 53-55 feature a melodic line starting in measure 53 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 53-55 feature a melodic line starting in measure 54 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 53-55 feature a melodic line with triplets starting in measure 53 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 53-55 feature a melodic line with triplets starting in measure 53 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 53-55 feature a melodic line with triplets starting in measure 53 with a *mf* dynamic.

56

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

**E**

*mp sub.*

*mf* 3 3 3 *mp sub.* 3

*mf* *mp sub.*

Mar.

Vib.

**E**

*mp sub.*

*mf* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 *mp sub.* 3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

**E**

*mp sub.*

*mp sub.*

*mp sub.*

*mp sub.*

*mp sub.*

*mp sub.*

59

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 59, 60, and 61. The score is for a full orchestra. The Flute (Fl.) part begins in measure 59 with a melodic line, featuring a trill in measure 60. The Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and Vibraphone (Vib.) parts enter in measure 60 with rhythmic accompaniment. The Maracas (Mar.) part plays a steady eighth-note pattern from measure 59. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) parts enter in measure 60 with a melodic line. The Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.) parts are silent throughout the page. A dynamic marking of *pp* (pianissimo) is present in the Violin II part in measure 60.

62

The image shows a page of a musical score for measures 62, 63, and 64. The score is arranged in a system with ten staves. From top to bottom, the staves are: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Maracas (Mar.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.). The Double Bass (Db.) staff is at the bottom and contains whole rests. The Flute part begins in measure 62 with a melodic line marked *mp*. The Oboe and Clarinet parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The Violin II part also begins in measure 62 with a melodic line marked *mp*. The Viola and Cello parts play a triplet accompaniment. The Maracas and Vibraphone parts are present but do not have visible notation in this section. The score is written in a key signature of one flat and a 3/4 time signature.

65

The image shows a page of a musical score for measures 65 through 68. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Maracas (Mar.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

- Fl.:** Measures 65-68. Measure 65 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 66 has a whole rest. Measure 67 has a whole rest. Measure 68 has a whole rest. Dynamics: *p* in measure 65.
- Ob.:** Measures 65-68. All measures have whole rests.
- Cl.:** Measures 65-68. Measure 65 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 66 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 67 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 68 has a whole rest. Dynamics: *p* in measure 65.
- Bsn.:** Measures 65-68. All measures have whole rests.
- Mar.:** Measures 65-68. All measures have whole rests.
- Vib.:** Measures 65-68. Measure 65 has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measures 66-68 have whole rests.
- Vln. I:** Measures 65-68. Measure 65 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 66 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 67 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 68 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Dynamics: *p* in measure 65, *pp* in measure 68.
- Vln. II:** Measures 65-68. Measure 65 has a whole rest. Measure 66 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 67 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes. Measure 68 has a whole rest. Dynamics: *p* in measure 66.
- Vla.:** Measures 65-68. Measure 65 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes, with triplets marked '3'. Measure 66 has a whole rest. Measure 67 has a whole rest. Measure 68 has a whole rest. Dynamics: *p* in measure 65.
- Vc.:** Measures 65-68. Measure 65 has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by eighth notes, with triplets marked '3'. Measure 66 has a whole rest. Measure 67 has a whole rest. Measure 68 has a whole rest. Dynamics: *p* in measure 65.
- Db.:** Measures 65-68. All measures have whole rests.

**F**

69

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

**F**

Mar.

Vib.

**F**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. DIVISI

Vc.

Db.



72

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

The image shows a page of a musical score for measures 72, 73, and 74. The score is for a full orchestra and includes parts for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Maracas, Vibraphone, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The music is in a minor key and features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is present in the Violin I part at measure 73. The page number 72 is written at the top left of the first staff.





82

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *3*

Vc. *3*

Db. *p*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 82 and 83. The score is for a full orchestra. Measure 82 begins with a rest for the Flute, while the Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, Maracas, Vibraphone, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass all play. The Flute enters in measure 83 with a melodic line marked *mp*. The Oboe and Clarinet continue their patterns, with the Clarinet also marked *mp*. The Bassoon has a whole rest in measure 83. The Maracas, Vibraphone, Violin I, and Violin II parts are consistent across both measures. The Viola and Violoncello parts feature triplet markings (*3*) in both measures. The Double Bass part starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic and features a triplet (*3*) in measure 83. The score is written in a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature.

**H Boldly**

84

Fl. *f* *pp*

Ob. *f* *pp*

Cl. *f* *pp*

Bsn. *f*

**H Boldly**

Mar. *f* *pp*

Vib. *f*

**H Boldly**

TUTTI

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *pp*

Vc. *f* *pp*

Db. *f* *pp*

86

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*mf*

*mf*

*pp*

*f*

*f*

TUTTI

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 86, 87, and 88. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Maracas (Mar.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.). The score is in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. Measure 86 shows the Flute and Oboe with rests, while the Clarinet and Bassoon play rhythmic patterns. The Maracas and Vibraphone are silent. Violin I and II play melodic lines, with the second violin part marked 'TUTTI'. The Viola and Violoncello play a rhythmic accompaniment. Measure 87 continues the patterns, with the Flute and Oboe entering with a melodic line marked 'mf'. Measure 88 features a sustained melodic line in the Flute and Oboe, with the Clarinet and Bassoon continuing their rhythmic accompaniment. The Viola and Violoncello parts are marked 'f'.

89

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

I

92

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

I

SOLO

Mar.

Vib.

I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.



95

The musical score for measures 95-97 of 'Perpetuum Mobile' features the following parts:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 95 and 96 are silent. In measure 97, it plays a melodic line starting on G4, moving through A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The dynamic is *mp*.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Measures 95 and 96 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. In measure 97, the oboe is silent.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Measures 95 and 96 play a whole note chord of G4 and Bb4. In measure 97, the clarinet is silent.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Measures 95 and 96 are silent. In measure 97, it plays a melodic line starting on G2, moving through Ab2, Bb2, C3, Bb2, A2, G2, and ending on a whole note G2. The dynamic is *mp*.
- Mandolin (Mar.):** Measures 95 and 96 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes: G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4. In measure 97, it plays a whole note chord of G4 and Bb4.
- Vibraphone (Vib.):** Measures 95 and 96 play a whole note chord of G4 and Bb4. In measure 97, it plays a whole note chord of G4 and Bb4.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 95 and 96 are silent. In measure 97, it plays a melodic line starting on G4, moving through A4, Bb4, C5, Bb4, A4, G4, and ending on a whole note G4. The dynamic is *p*.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 95, 96, and 97 are silent.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 95, 96, and 97 are silent.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 95, 96, and 97 are silent.
- Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 95 and 96 are silent. In measure 97, it plays a whole note chord of G2 and Bb2.



101

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

J

J

J

*p*

sustain pedal on

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

TUTTI

arco

(pizz., let ring)

*mp*

104

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.  
*pp*

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 104, contains ten staves for various instruments. The Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and Maracas (Mar.) staves are mostly empty, with a *pp* dynamic marking under the Maracas staff. The Vibraphone (Vib.) staff features a continuous eighth-note pattern. Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) play similar eighth-note patterns, with Vln. II including triplet markings. The Viola (Vla.) staff is empty. The Cello (Vc.) staff has a melodic line with some accidentals. The Double Bass (Db.) staff has a few notes, including a half note and a whole note.

108

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 108 to 111. The score is for a full orchestra. The woodwind section (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) and the mallet section (Maracas) are currently silent, indicated by rests. The Vibraphone (Vib.) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) parts feature a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with the Vln. II part including triplet markings. The Viola (Vla.) is silent. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (Db.) parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment, with the Vc. part including some accidentals (flats).

112

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Mar.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.