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Mountain Air

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Jordan Kuspa

Mountain Air

for oboe, violin, viola, and cello



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I wrote Mountain Air for the Atlantic Music Festival, where I was privileged to spend a month as a Resident Artist Fellow, presenting my work, meeting incredible musicians, and enjoying the beauty of both Colby College and the Maine landscape. But this piece was inspired by my time at the Aspen Music Festival years before, where the stunning scenery was merely a backdrop to meeting some of the best musicians and friends I've ever known.

Musically, the piece is concerned with the idea of a long line, which first arches over an accompaniment of itself, simply played at slightly different rates. The lines coalesce into a rhythmic figure in the strings, leading to an oboe cadenza. Out of this cadenza, a related line emerges, played over a skittering texture derived from the rhythmic motif. Again, the rhythmic unisons achieve a moment of clarity, before the original tune returns, now played in canon with itself at two different tempi.

—Jordan Kuspa

Mountain Air

for oboe, violin, viola, and cello

Jordan Kuspa

Expansive $\text{♩} = 52$
sinuous, expressive

Oboe: Dynamics p , pp . Articulation: *burbling, but rhythmically clear*.

Violin: Dynamics pp . Articulation: *burbling, but rhythmically clear*.

Viola: Dynamics pp . Articulation: *burbling, but rhythmically clear*.

Cello: Dynamics pp . Articulation: *burbling, but rhythmically clear*.

(5)

Ob.: Dynamics pp , mp , p *cresc. poco a poco*.

Vn.: Dynamics pp , mp , p *cresc. poco a poco*.

Va.: Dynamics pp , mp , p *cresc. poco a poco*.

Vc.: Dynamics pp , mp , p *cresc. poco a poco*.

(9)

Ob.: Dynamics p .

Vn.: Dynamics p , mp , p *cresc. poco a poco*.

Va.: Dynamics p , mp , p *cresc. poco a poco*.

Vc.: Dynamics p , mp , p *cresc. poco a poco*.

Kuspa – Mountain Air

(13)

Ob. (mp)

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

5

(17)

Ob. (mf)

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

5 3

(21)

Ob. f

Vn. 3 f 5

Va. 5 5

Vc. f 5 5

Kuspa – Mountain Air

3

(24)

Ob. Vn. Va. Vc.

Measure 24: Oboe plays eighth-note pairs. Violin, Cello, and Bassoon play sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 25: Violin, Cello, and Bassoon continue their sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 26: Violin, Cello, and Bassoon continue their sixteenth-note patterns.

(27)

Ob. Vn. Va. Vc.

Measure 27: Oboe plays eighth-note pairs. Violin, Cello, and Bassoon play sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 28: Violin, Cello, and Bassoon continue their sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 29: Violin, Cello, and Bassoon continue their sixteenth-note patterns.

(33)

Ob. Vn. Va. Vc.

Measure 33: Oboe rests. Violin, Cello, and Bassoon play sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 34: Violin, Cello, and Bassoon continue their sixteenth-note patterns. Measure 35: Violin, Cello, and Bassoon continue their sixteenth-note patterns.

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(37)

Ob. [Empty staff]

Vn. *mfp* *mf sfp* *f*

Va. *mp* *mf sfp* *f*

Vc. *mp* *mf sfp* *f*

(42)

Ob. *p* *mp* *p*

Vn. *pp*

Va. *pp*

Vc. *tr* *pp*

(47)

Ob. *mf* *>p* *mf*

Vn. [Empty staff]

Va. [Empty staff]

Vc. [Empty staff]

Kuspa – Mountain Air

5

(50) *tr*

Ob. *f* *mf* *p* *pp*

Vn. *floating*

Va.

Vc. *gentle, but precise*

pp 3 6 5

gentle, but precise

pp 5

gentle, but precise

pp

(55)

Ob.

Vn. *3* 3 5 3 5 6

Va. *3* 3 5 3 5 3

Vc. *3* 5 3 3 5 3

(58)

Ob. *p* *pp*

Vn. 5 3 3 5 3

Va. 3 5 3 5 3

Vc. 3 5 3 3 5 3

Kuspa – Mountain Air

(61)

Ob.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

(63)

Ob.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

(65)

Ob.

Vn.

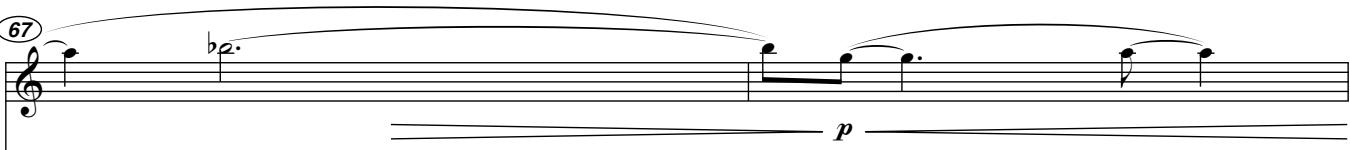
Va.

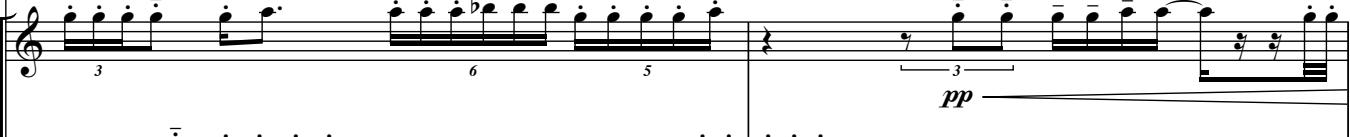
Vc.

Kuspa – Mountain Air

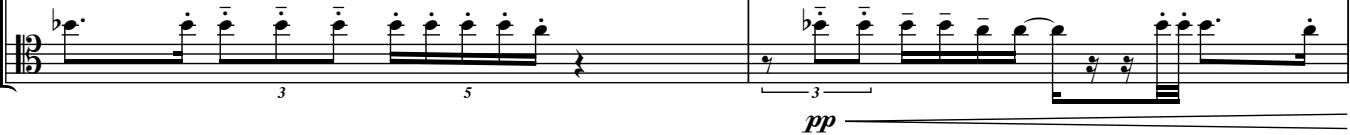
7

(67)

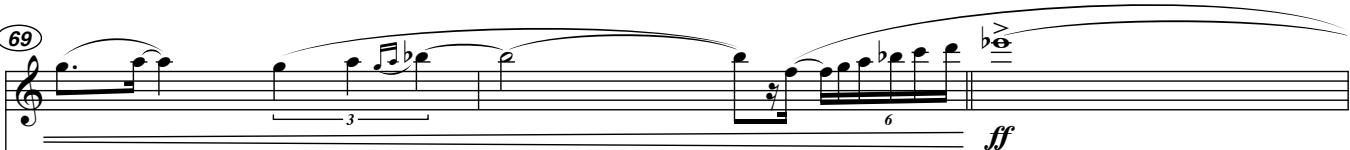
Ob. 

Vn. 

Va. 

Vc. 

(69)

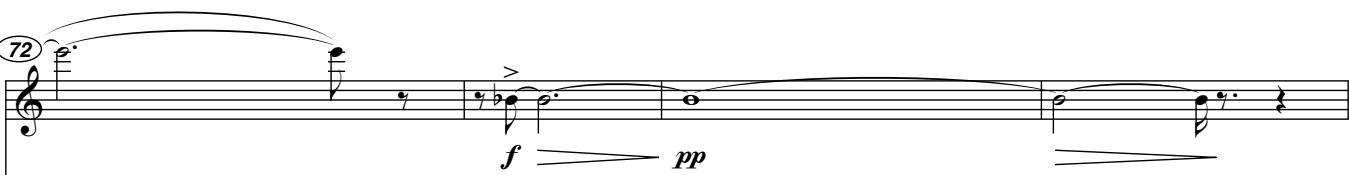
Ob. 

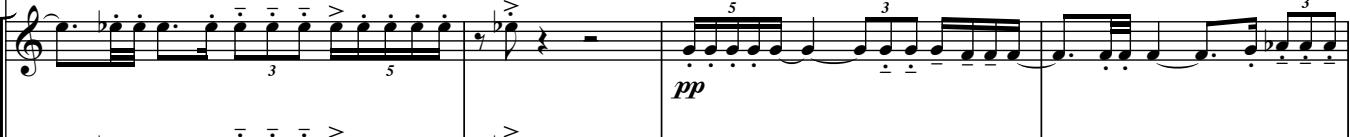
Vn. 

Va. 

Vc. 

(72)

Ob. 

Vn. 

Va. 

Vc. 

Kuspa – Mountain Air

(76)

Ob. *p possible*

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

(80)

Ob. *mf* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *simply* *p*

Vn. *mf* *f*

Va. *mf* *f* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *f* *pp*

(86)

Ob. *p* *mp* *p*

Vn.

Va.

Vc. *p* *pp*

Kuspa – Mountain Air

9

(92) *ad lib.* 5 **Poco animato** ♩ = 56

Ob. *pp*

Vn. *p*

Va. *v* *p*

Vc. *warmly* *p*

(97)

Ob. *cresc. poco a poco*

Vn. *cresc. poco a poco*

Va. *cresc. poco a poco*

Vc. *cresc. poco a poco*

(101)

Ob. 5

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Kuspa – Mountain Air

(105)

Ob. *f*

Vn. *f*

Va. *f*

Vc. *f*

Musical score for measures 105-107. The instrumentation includes Oboe, Violin, Bassoon, and Cello. Measure 105: Oboe plays eighth-note patterns with slurs. Violin and Bassoon play eighth-note patterns with slurs. Cello plays quarter notes. Measure 106: Oboe and Violin play eighth-note patterns with slurs. Bassoon and Cello play quarter notes. Measure 107: Oboe and Violin play eighth-note patterns with slurs. Bassoon and Cello play quarter notes.

(108)

Ob.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

Musical score for measures 108-110. The instrumentation includes Oboe, Violin, Bassoon, and Cello. Dynamics are marked as *ppp*. Measures 108-110 show sustained notes with grace notes above them, followed by sustained notes with grace notes below them.