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Creative Altruism

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Thomas L. Wilson

Creative Altruism
String Quartet

2019

Duration: 4'

Instrumentation:

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello

Performance Instructions:

Harmonics are to be played as evenly as possible.

Quarter-tone flats are to be played as the lowered third "blue" note.

Program Notes:

The 50th anniversary of the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama occurred the summer of 2013. To commemorate the four young African American girls who lost their lives alongside more than twenty who were injured, the Alys Stephens Center in coordination with ArtPlay held a music festival entitled "A More Convenient Season." The composer was fortunately selected to create for his hometown with mentor by the resident composer Yotam Haber over the duration of that summer.

Creative Altruism reflects on the terrible acts by offering a way forward, one argued by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In one of his late sermons, he reflects: Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism or in the darkness of destructive selfishness.

The work spins out of the hymn "Amazing Grace" through harmonic spheres of light. Revising the piece in 2019, the composer inserted a middle section to divide the hymn with sixteen instances of sixteen rhythmic patterns appear for reflection. In addition, the key is borrowed from President Barack Obama's singing of "Amazing Grace."

Every man must decide whether he will walk in the light of creative altruism
or in the darkness of destructive selfishness. - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Creative Altruism

Thomas L. Wilson

Active, ♩ = 144

The musical score is arranged in four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The piece is marked 'Active' with a tempo of ♩ = 144. The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-6) features a dynamic range from *f* to *ff*. The second system (measures 7-16) features a dynamic range from *p* to *f*. The Viola and Cello parts include complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and quintuplets. A 'No Vib.' instruction is present above the Violin I staff in measure 10. The score concludes with a *mf* to *mp* dynamic marking in measure 16.

Creative Altruism – Score

11

Musical score for measures 11-16. The score is written for four staves: Treble (top), Treble (middle), Bass (bottom), and Bass (bottom). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4, then 2/4, 3/4, 2/4, 3/4, and finally 4/4. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, *n*, and *mp*. There are slurs and accents throughout. A 'No Vib.' instruction is present above the second staff.

17

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score is written for four staves: Treble (top), Treble (middle), Bass (bottom), and Bass (bottom). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4, then 4/4, 5/4, and finally 4/4. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *f*, *mf*, *fp*, *p*, *f*, and *mp*. There are slurs and accents throughout. A 'No Vib.' instruction is present above the second staff, and an *8va* instruction is present above the top staff.

21 ^(8^{va})

n *mp* *mf* *f*

No Vib.

28 ^(8^{va}) Reflective, ♩ = 96 No Vib.

ff *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

No Vib.

36

pp sempre

pp mp pp sempre

pp sempre

No Vib.

pp < mp > pp < mp > pp < mp > pp sempre

45

Sul Tasto

mf ff mf

With Vib. Sul Tasto

mf ff mf

pizz.

With Vib. arco

mf ff mf

mf cresc.

50

ff *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

ff *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

mf *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

ff *mf* *ff* *dim.*

8va *pizz.*

53

ff *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

mf *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

ff *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

ff *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

With Vib. *p* *mf* *ff* *mf*

6 Retroactive Creative Altruism - Score

56

mf *f* *n* *f*

ff *mf* *n* *mf* *f* *mf*

fff *mf* *mp*

pizz. Sul Tasto arco arco With Vib. arco

61

ppp *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

p *pp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

mp *ppp* *ppp*

pizz. arco No Vib. arco

Creative Altruism – Score

69

No Vib. *mf* *pizz.* *fp* *f* *mp*

No Vib. *mf* *fp* *f* *mp*

No Vib. *mf* *fp* *f* *mp*

mf *fp* *f* *mp*

80

f *p* *mf* *mp*

f *n* *mp* *pizz.*

f *n* *mp* *pizz.*

f *mp* *pizz.*

8 Creative Altruism - Score

87 *molto accel.* (♩ = 120)

pp *mf* *f* *ff*

arco *pizz.* *ff* *ff*

mf *pizz.* *ff* *ff*

ff

93 *arco* *rit.* *Optimistic,* ♩ = 144

f *mp* *Optimistic,* ♩ = 144

arco *rit.* *mp* *mp* *f* *f*

arco *fp* *n* *mp* *mp* *f* *f*

arco *fp* *n* *mp* *mp* *f* *f*

fp *n* *mp* *mp* *f* *f*

99

Musical score for measures 99-103. The score is in B-flat major and features a complex rhythmic structure with changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. It includes four staves: two treble clefs, one bass clef, and a fourth staff with a wavy line. Dynamics range from *f* to *mf*. The first two staves feature triplets and slurs. The third staff has a wavy line and triplets. The fourth staff has a triplet and a slur.

f *mf* *f* *mf*

mf *p* *mf*

mf *f* *mp*

mf *f*

104

8va

Musical score for measures 104-108. The score continues in B-flat major with a 3/4 time signature. It includes four staves: two treble clefs, one bass clef, and a fourth staff with a wavy line. Dynamics range from *pp* to *fp*. The first two staves feature triplets and slurs. The third staff has a wavy line and triplets. The fourth staff has a quintuplet and a slur.

pp *mf* *fp* *mf* *f*

pp *mf*

pp *f* *mf*

mf *fp*

Creative Altruism – Score

110

8va

>mf *fff* *pp* *mf*

3 3 3 3 3 3

114

mp *f* *pp* *f*

mf *ff* *f*

3 3 3 3 3 3