Energy Portraits For Flute, Clarinet in B-Flat, Violin, Cello, Piano, And Percussion

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ENERGY PORTRAITS FOR FLUTE,
CLARINET IN B-FLAT, VIOLIN,
CELLO, PIANO, AND
PERCUSSION

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ENERGY PORTRAITS FOR FLUTE,
CLARINET IN B-FLAT, VIOLIN,
CELLO, PIANO, AND
PERCUSSION

A Thesis Project Presented to the Graduate Faculty of the
Meadows School of the Arts
Southern Methodist University
in
Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for the degree of
Master of Music
with a
Major in Composition
by
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May 14, 2022
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This project was only possible thanks to the continuous and invaluable support of my wife Kara Solis, who not only motivated me to do my best, but also premiered this piece performing the piano part. I’m also extremely grateful to my family for always being there when I needed support and my colleagues here at SMU for their willingness to play my piece and bring it to life. Lastly, I want truly thank Dr. Xi Wang and Dr. Robert Frank for guiding me throughout this project and for being the mentors I needed in my journey as a composition major at SMU.
Energy Portraits is a 25-minute work for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion based on the nine Enneagram personality types. The Enneagram system delves into underlying motivations and thought patterns of different people rather than only external behaviors, so this piece incorporates the typical overall energy of each number as a miniature portrait. The movements are not in the same order as the nine types from the Enneagram but are reordered and renamed for musical reasons. This allows the listeners who are not familiarized with the Enneagram to still understand the theme and energy of each movement.

*Flourish* is based on Enneagram 3. Its fast-paced and upbeat feel conveys the energetic, image-conscious, motivated, productive, and ambitious nature of Enneagram 3. “Flourish” refers to both the showy gestures and embellishments, and to the idea of pushing towards one’s highest potential. Syncopation and high rhythmic activity are the main musical elements of this movement, allowing the music to remain high-energy from beginning to end.

*Vigilant* is based on Enneagram 6. This movement highlights the constant pull between loyalty and skepticism, suspicion versus desire for connection and community. The musical energy
is constantly alert, with flurries of “mental traffic” and questions in the undercurrent, conveyed by
chaotic rhythm and non-functional harmonies. This creates an unsettled feeling for much of the
movement, which it is punctuated by more assertive, secure moments, and finally transforming
into a more stable “peaceful vigilance” via simpler rhythms and more consonant harmonies.

*Exhale* is based on Enneagram 9. This movement embodies the peace-loving nature of this
personality through release of tension and avoidance of conflict. The music evades any kind of
drama or “waves,” staying very stable and low-key, like a sigh of relief. The harmonic language
in this movement is very consonant throughout, while sustained chords, arpeggios, and lyrical
melodic lines create a peaceful sound environment that is not interrupted until the end of the
movement.

*Creed* is based on Enneagram 1. It evokes a serious march or crusade, as Enneagram 1
individuals strive unyieldingly to improve the world around them and live up to their own very
high set of standards. Moments of victory in the music are followed immediately by a return to the
quest for something even better. This striving for perfection is depicted by frequent change of
meter, using irregular time signatures, and attempting to convey the perfect rhythmic feeling of a
march while never quite reaching the traditional 4/4 meter.

*Sustain* is based on Enneagram 2. It is in the form of a gentle, lullaby-waltz, conveying the
caring and warm nature of this personality type. This movement has an easy-to-follow melody that
is occasionally interrupted by small sections of unexpected harmonies and textures, representing
the inner conflict that this personality type encounters when balancing its intrinsic desire to always
care for others with its own conflicting needs, motivations, and opinions.
Unveiled is based on Enneagram 4. This personality type is introspective, sensitive, and sincere, with a wide range of quickly shifting emotions and an affinity for finding and sharing deeper meanings and beauty in life. These characteristics are shown in the rhapsodic writing of the movement, which flows through different characters, always emphasizing the emotion and beauty of all the harmonic and melodic elements in a section.

Neverland is based on Enneagram 7. This Enneagram type is playful, fun, and childlike: it is not particularly introspective and doesn’t take itself too seriously but loves adventure and variety. This is reflected in the music by the sudden interruptions of melodies that lead the music to completely different ideas. Bright sounding harmonies, very active rhythm, and emphasis on playful, light melodies are the main musical characteristics of this movement.

Delve is based on Enneagram 5. This movement is more “intellectual,” fugal music, not emotional, and depicts how Enneagram 5 individuals tend to live more intellectually and less in the emotionally. The downward motion and repeated-note pattern of the melody evokes this personality’s constant search for knowledge, like a miner digging in the earth for treasures. This melody goes back and forth between instruments of the ensemble, and it follows a very strict form and logical procedure, evoking traditions of the Baroque and Classical era.

Drive is based on Enneagram 8. This is a very powerful, sometimes abrasive personality—they say what they think and can be brash or confrontational, but also unstoppable in their goals, protective, confident, and hard-working. This movement projects all this energy by using a very rhythmical approach—just like the first movement—however, there is a much stronger percussive element to it. It is strongly inspired by the passionate, forceful feeling of the tango, and Piazzolla’s music in general.
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PERFORMANCE NOTE

Accidentals apply only within the staff or measure where used.
Energy Portraits

1.1 Flourish

Luis A. Solis

Allegro con Anima \( (\text{\ell}=\text{ca.}138) \)

Flute

Clarinet in B♭

Percussion

Violin

Violoncello

Allegro con Anima \( (\text{\ell}=\text{ca.}138) \)

Piano

Snare Drum
1.2 Vigilant

Andante Misterioso (\( \approx \text{ca.69} \))

Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Snare Drum

Subito

mp
1.3 Exhale

Andante Placido (q=ca.72)

Fl.

Cl.

Vibraphone

Vln.

Vc.

Andante Placido (q=ca.72)

Pno.
Marcia Moderato (\(=\text{ca.126}\))

1.4 Creed
1.5 Sustain

Tenderly (q=ca.92)
as quiet as possible

Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

as quiet as possible

pp

pp

pp

\texttt{Bass Drum}

\texttt{pizz.}

\texttt{arco}

pp

pp

pp
1.7 Neverland

Vivo (\texttt{\textasciitilde} ca.108)

\begin{music}
\begin{staff}
\vspace{1cm}
\piano
\vspace{1cm}
\end{staff}
\end{music}
Key Clicks

Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

tap snare drum

tap instrument with fingers

tap instrument with fingers

tap instrument with fingers

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50
1.8 Delve

Tempo Comodo (\(\approx\) ca.80)

Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

Tempo Comodo (\(\approx\) ca.80)

una corda

Pno.
Stomp one foot

Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Stomp one foot

Key Clicks

Snare Drum

flz.

sul pont.
Use palm of the hand