

From God's Back 40

for Clarinet, Viola, and Piano



Bill Robinson

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June 22—October 7, 2017

Duration: ~28 minutes

In June 2017, clarinetist Fred Jacobowitz and pianist Carl Banner, director of Washington Musica Viva, asked me to write a trio for clarinet, viola, and piano. I had just moved to the little town of Cleveland, North Carolina, in rural western Rowan County, nestled in the bucolic Piedmont about an hour drive from the nearest big cities. I had lived in Raleigh since 2001, and retired in May after seven years teaching physics at NCSU.

So I settled in with an old friend who had some extra space in his home, where I had time to do what I like and take care of my health. I couldn't compose during my final months in Raleigh, but the new environment proved fertile for creativity. After two years, in 2019, I moved back to the Raleigh area (Garner) to rent-assisted senior housing; it took a couple of years on the wait list.

The first movement is based on various tetrachords, which is very common in my music—not from some theoretical plan, but just because that seems to be how things work out and sound right. I have written a piece before titled *Diatonic Phrygian Tetrachord*, which was more specific about that particular type. There is a somewhat baroque flavor to this section, as I came up with the basic ideas after listening to Bach violin concertos.

The second movement is "Yet Another Waltz", as I have written altogether too many already. I wouldn't recommend trying to dance to this one.

The third movement has a touch of country roots music to it; I am trying my hand at old fiddle tunes, and it was well-suited to the rural surroundings.

The finale is a big fast ending, inspired by my inspiration of albuterol as an inhaled medication for bronchiectasis. One of the main problems of this disease (as well as my arthritis) is extreme fatigue; albuterol is a potent stimulant, as well as helping breathing.

This trio is the basis for *Symphony No. 2: From God's Back 40* for full orchestra. The orchestration in 2023 resulted in a long list of corrections, adjustments, and a few improvements for this fourth edition.

Performance notes

My usual style of piano playing is heavy on the sostenuto pedal; the indicated pedal marks are really required, but please use freely. Notes that do not have dots are not short. Individual movements may be performed by themselves or in any combination.

It is fine with me if the viola is either amplified or electric, such as an electric 5 string violin.

The score is available in either legal- or letter-size formats. Parts are either conventional in letter format, or in a special edition for electronic music readers, with the part full size and the rest of the score included in reduced size.

Cover photo: "Country Boy" from Jim McGuire's studio, 1997, Charlotte NC.

Bill Robinson

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From God's Back 40

I. Gimme that Old-Time Tetrachord [7:40]

Bill Robinson

Don't Be Shy (♩ = 94-100)

Clarinet in B $\flat$ *ff* *mf*

Viola *ff* *mf*

Piano *ff* *mf*

6 *f*

6 *f*

13

13

19 *f* *cresc.*

19 *f* *cresc.*

19 *f* *cresc.*

25

ff *ff*

8va

31

mp *pp* *dolce* *dolce* *dolce*

pp

40

mp *mp* *mp*

46

cresc. p. a p. *cresc. p. a p.* *(mf)* *(mf)*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

51

f

f

p

Leo

Leo

Leo

Leo

Leo

*

56

mp

pp

mp

pp

mp

pp

Leo

*

61

cresc. p. a p.

(mp)

cresc. p. a p.

(mp)

Leo

*

67

f

cresc.

ff

(mf)

f

ff

(mf)

f

ff

Leo

*

4

72

mf *cresc.* *mp*

ff *mf* *mp*

79

mf *cresc.* *mp*

ff *mf* *mp*

85

mp *cresc.* *ff*

ff *mf* *mp*

91

mf *cresc.* *mp*

ff *mf* *mp*

96

p

ff *mf* *p*

101

non stacc.

p

107

non stacc.

non stacc.

non stacc.

p

114

p cresc.

p cresc.

p cresc.

6

120

f

120

f

120

f

126

f

126

f

131

rit. *a tempo*

p

p

pp

ff

131

p

pp

ff

138

ff

138

8va

8va

145

ff

152

p *mp* *p* *mp*

155

rit. *a tempo*

p *mp* *p* *pp*

159

cresc. p. a p. *(mp)*

8va *cresc. p. a p.* *(mp)*

164

f cresc. ff

(mf) f

164

(mf) non stacc. f ff

170

(mf) f ff

170

175

ff p

175

ff p

180

f

180

f

185

185

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. *

8^{va}

192

192

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped. *

199

199

f *p*

f *p*

204

204

ff

ff

10

209

209

8^{va}

213

213

218

218

pp

pp

pp

223

223

ff

ff

ff

228

228

233

233

239

239

244

244

8va

12

249

8^{va}

(8^{va})

253

253

f

pp

dolce

ff

pp

dolce

258

258

pp

dolce

263

263

cresc.

(mp)

molto rit. ----- *a tempo*

268

f ----- *ff* ----- *ff*

268

f ----- *ff*

268

f ----- *ff*

Reo.

273

273

Reo.

277

mp ----- *pp*

mp ----- *pp*

277

mp ----- *pp*

Reo.

283

283

Anorexia composita (♩ = 170)

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Viola

Piano

8

8

15

15

22

22

30

37

44

51

51

ff

ff

mp

mf

mp

mf

mp

mf

Rev.

*

59

59

65

65

71

71

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

cresc. *f*

77

77

f *p*

f *mp*

85

mp

Ped.

89

Ped.

95

*

101

106

cresc.

106

cresc.

111

ff

f *ff*

111

f *ff*

117

f *ff*

117

123

123

129

129

135

135

145

145

legato

pp *cresc. p. a p.* (*p*)

cresc. p. a p. (*p*)

Reo.

152

152

(*mp*)

(*mp*)

(*mp*)

156

(mf) *f* *ff*

156

(mf) *f* *ff*

8

*

160

160

167

167

174

174

Leg.

Leg.

178

178

*

182

182

ff

187

187

ff

192

192

mp

pizz.

arco

p

legato

p

198

198

202

202

cresc. (mf)

cresc. (mf)

cresc. (mf) RH LH

Ped.

205

205

f ff

f ff

f ff RH LH RH LH

Ped.

208

208

ff

ff

ff RH LH RH LH

Ped.

211

p

p

8va

216

8va

8va

221

mf

p cresc. p. a p.

p cresc. p. a p.

226

cresc.

f

ff

(mf)

f

ff

(mf)

f

ff

232

232

236

236

242

242

8^{va}

248

248

253

256

259

264

Lento (♩. = 46)

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Viola

Piano

mp

mp

8^{va}

7

mp

7

(8^{va})

8^{va}

13

13

8^{va}

19

19

This musical score is for the song "The Rose Tree" from the opera "The Mikado". It is a vocal duet for the characters Nanki-Poo and Katisha. The score is written for voice and piano. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/8. The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 37-40) features a vocal melody in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The second system (measures 41-44) continues the vocal melody and piano accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, accidentals, and dynamic markings like *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo). There are also performance instructions like "8va" (octave up) and "8va" (octave down) indicated by dashed lines. The score is written in a standard musical notation style with a grand staff for the piano and a single staff for the voice.

45

mf *ff*

8va

50

cresc. *p* *cresc.*

Red.

54

f *cresc.*

3

58

ff *cresc.*

*

61

61

64

64

68

68

71

71

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It is divided into two systems. The first system contains two staves: a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (treble clef). The second system contains two staves: a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The music is in 3/8 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The piano accompaniment in the first system starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The piano accompaniment in the second system starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs, indicating a melodic and harmonic composition.

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It is written for voice and piano. The score is divided into two systems. The first system consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in 6/8 time and features a melody with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piano accompaniment is in 6/8 time and features a bass line with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The second system also consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The vocal line is in 6/8 time and features a melody with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The piano accompaniment is in 6/8 time and features a bass line with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and bar lines. The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the vocal line in the first system.

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". It consists of four staves. The top two staves are for the vocal melody, with the first staff in treble clef and the second in bass clef. The bottom two staves are for the piano accompaniment, with the third staff in treble clef and the fourth in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs. A measure number "85" is visible on the left side of the third staff. A dynamic marking "8^{va}" is present above the fourth staff. The overall layout is clean and professional, typical of a printed musical score.

90

p

p

cresc. p. a p.

90 (8va)

p

cresc. p. a p.

3

(no ties)

93

mp+ *cresc. p. a p.* (*mf*) (*f*)

(*mp*) (*mf*) (*f*)

(*mp*) (*mf*) (*f*)

96

ff *ff*

8va-1 8va-1

ff *ff*

100

ff

103

ff

105

105

108

108

114

114

121

121

127

p

133

mp

137

dim.

141

rit.

pp

141

pp

Speedy (♩ = 115)

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Viola

Piano

pp

9

f

9

f

14

cresc.

cresc.

14

cresc.

8^{va}

17

ff

ff

17 (8^{va})

ff

f

22

f

f

24

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

27

ff

ff

ff

30

8va

22

24

27

30

36

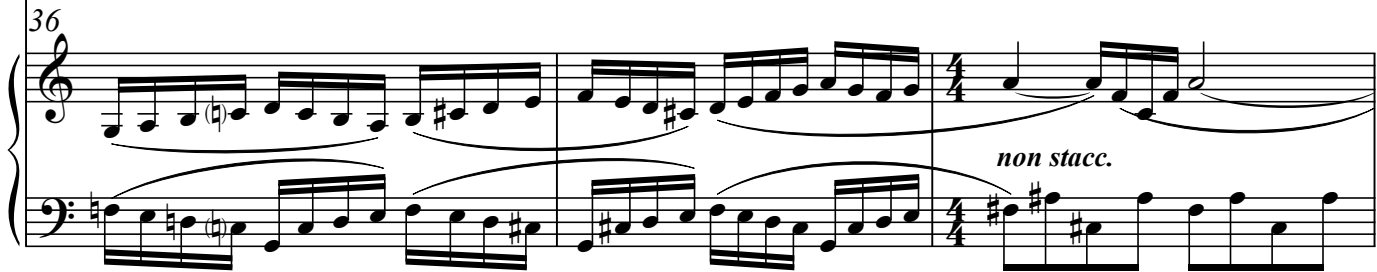
33



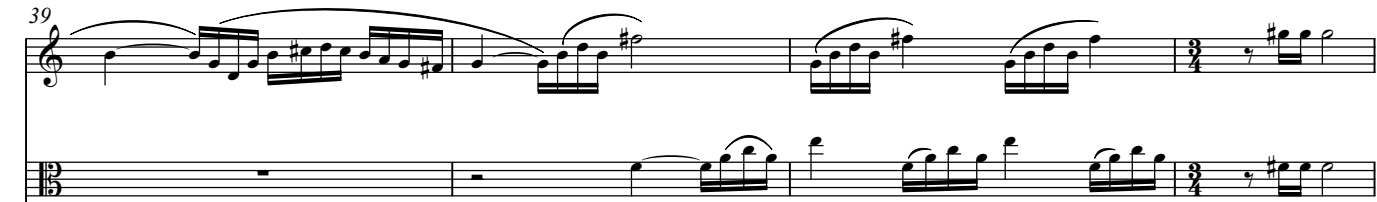
36



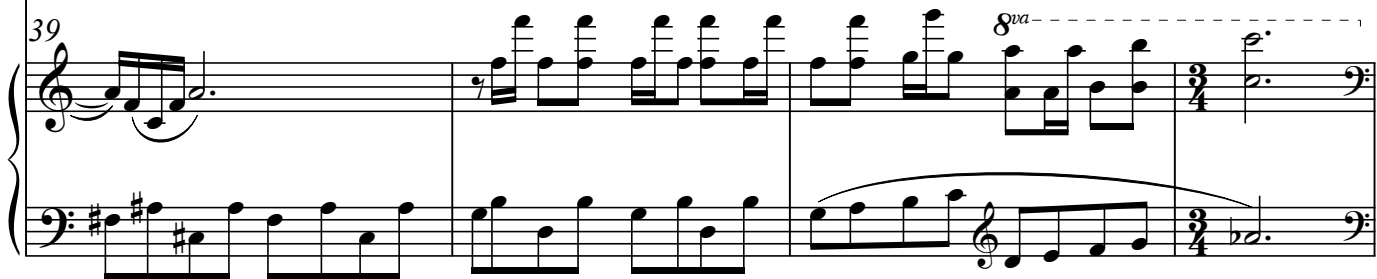
36



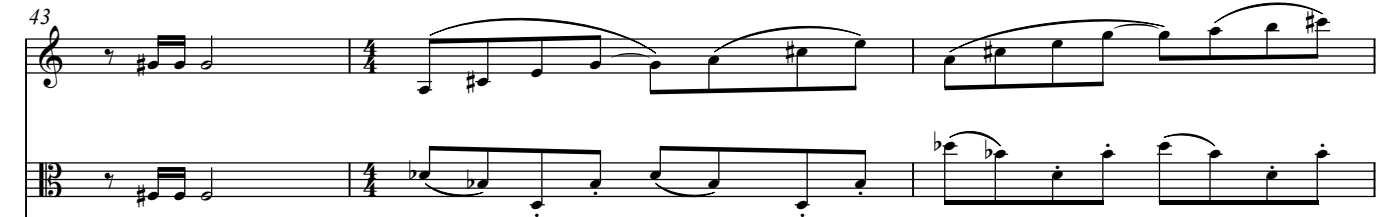
39



39



43



43



46

49

51

53

8va

Fina.

57

57 (8va) ---

ff

60

60

ff

63

63

ff

67

67

ff

Meno Mosso (♩ = 100)

71

71

p

77

77

p

81

Speedy (♩ = 115)

81

pp

pp

pp

ff

87

87

f

f

40

91

Measures 91-92 of the musical score. The system consists of three staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the middle in alto clef, and the bottom in bass clef. Measures 91-92 show a melodic line in the top staff with a slur and an accent, and a more complex rhythmic pattern in the middle and bottom staves.

93

ff

Measures 93-95 of the musical score. The system consists of three staves. Measures 93-95 show a melodic line in the top staff with a slur and an accent, and a more complex rhythmic pattern in the middle and bottom staves. The dynamic marking *ff* is present at the beginning of measure 93.

96

Measures 96-99 of the musical score. The system consists of three staves. Measures 96-99 show a melodic line in the top staff with a slur and an accent, and a more complex rhythmic pattern in the middle and bottom staves. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 in measure 96.

100

Measures 100-103 of the musical score. The system consists of three staves. Measures 100-103 show a melodic line in the top staff with a slur and an accent, and a more complex rhythmic pattern in the middle and bottom staves. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 in measure 100.

104

104

108

108

8va

112

112

115

Meno Mosso (♩ = 100)

115

ff *p* *pp*

pp

42

120

pp

p

125

cresc. *(mp)* *mf*

p *cresc.* *(mp)* *mf*

129

p *cresc.* *(mp)*

p *cresc.* *(mp)*

Speedy (♩ = 115)

134

mf *p* *pp* *ff*

mf *p* *pp* *ff*

8va *8va* *

138

138

140

140

142

142

145

145

Detailed description: This musical score is for measures 138 through 145. It is written for a piano and a vocal line. The piano part is in the lower staves, and the vocal part is in the upper staves. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as eighth notes, sixteenth notes, and rests. There are also dynamic markings like 'f' (forte) and 'p' (piano). The piano part features complex chordal textures and arpeggiated figures. The vocal line is more melodic, with some slurs and accents. The measures are numbered 138, 140, 142, and 145 at the beginning of their respective systems.

150

150

152

152

155

155

159

159

8va