

E Pluribus Unum



**For Two Horns
and Strings
Bill Robinson**

E Pluribus Unum

for Two Horns and Strings

September 29–December 23, 2012

Duration: about 20 minutes

Chris Caudill and Rachel Niketopoulos are a couple living here in Raleigh who are hornists in the North Carolina Symphony. I have admired their playing for some time, which got me to thinking of something to write for them. I had a chance to meet Rachel at their home, festooned with innumerable cats, at a gathering of Alexander Technique people, where I went at the invitation of Eric Pritchard, my long-time collaborator.

In 1990 I wrote a series of pieces for consideration by the Air Force band musicians at Warner Robins AFB, as my friend Fred Robinson (no relation) worked as a composer and arranger there. The largest piece was the **Munster Variations** for concert band, based on trash TV themes from the '60s. (Perfectly legal due to parody usage; see the many lawsuits about Barbie-based art that Mattel cannot stop.) However this piece was abandoned after one disastrous read-through and never performed. I took one of the variations as the theme for the middle movement of this work, and used some of the few good ideas much altered in the variations.

The opening of the last movement is not derived from Smetana's *Dance of the Comedians*. That's my story, and I'm sticking to it.

This work is designed to be performed either with two horns and string orchestra, or with two horns, string quartet, and double bass. I usually find that the textures are entirely thick enough without divisi, and I use this as an excuse for simplicity. Certain passages, especially in the last movement, are much easier to play with a conductor.

The premiere performance was by Chris and Rachel, along with the Ciompi Quartet, joined by bassist Robbie Link, at the NC Museum of Art, March 6, 2016.

Performance notes

The two horns should be spaced somewhat apart from each other, left and right, to accentuate the frequent antiphonal effects. (In practice, this is much more practical with a string orchestra and conductor than with a chamber ensemble.)

Accidentals hold through the measure and not beyond, and do not refer to other octaves. Sometimes I include courtesy accidentals to avoid confusion.

Bill Robinson

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billrobinsonmusic.com

E Pluribus Unum for Two Horns and Strings

[6:20]

Adagio alexandria (♩ = 50)

1. The Harmonic Series

Bill Robinson

This musical score is for the first movement, 'The Harmonic Series', of the piece 'E Pluribus Unum' for Two Horns and Strings by Bill Robinson. The tempo is 'Adagio alexandria' with a metronome marking of 50 quarter notes per minute. The score is written for two horns (Horn 1 and Horn 2, both in F) and a string quartet (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass). The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or E-flat minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1 through 12. The second system covers measures 13 through 24. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *ff* (fortissimo). The string section plays a continuous harmonic series pattern, while the horns play a melodic line. The Double Bass part includes a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) marking in measure 1. The score is marked with a '4' at the beginning of the second system, indicating a fourth ending or a specific measure count.

Horn 1 in F
Horn 2 in F
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello
Double Bass
Hn 1
Hn 2
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
D.B.

mp *mf* *f*
mp *mf* *f*
mp *mf*
mp *mf*
mp *mf*
mp *mf*
f *ff*
f *ff*
f *ff*
f *ff*
f *ff*

pizz.
4

11

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

p

mp

mf

pizz.

17

Hn 1 *mf* *f* *cresc.*

Hn 2 *mf* *f* *cresc.*

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mf* *f* *cresc.*

D.B. 17 *mf* *f* *arco* *f* *f₊*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 17 through 20. The score is written for six parts: Horn 1, Horn 2, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello/Double Bass. Measures 17 and 18 are in 4/4 time. In measure 17, Horn 1 and 2 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, starting at *mf* and increasing to *f* in measure 18. Violin I and II play a similar pattern, with Violin I starting at *f* and Violin II at *mf*. Viola and Violoncello also play eighth notes, with Viola at *mf* and Violoncello at *mf*. The Double Bass part starts at measure 17 with a half note, then plays eighth notes in measure 18, and is marked *arco* in measure 19. Measures 19 and 20 are in 3/4 time. Horn 1 and 2 play a melodic line, marked *cresc.* in measure 19. Violin I and II play a melodic line, with Violin I marked *f* in measure 19. Viola and Violoncello play a melodic line, with Viola marked *f* in measure 19. The Double Bass part continues with eighth notes, marked *f* in measure 19 and *f₊* in measure 20.

21

Hn 1 *ff*

Hn 2 *ff*

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *f₊* *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

D.B. 21 *ff*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 21 through 24. The score is written for six parts: Horn 1, Horn 2, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello/Double Bass. Measures 21 and 22 are in 4/4 time. In measure 21, Horn 1 and 2 play a melodic line, marked *ff*. Violin I and II play a melodic line, with Violin I marked *ff* and Violin II marked *f₊*. Viola and Violoncello play a melodic line, with Viola marked *ff* and Violoncello marked *ff*. The Double Bass part starts at measure 21 with a half note, then plays eighth notes in measure 22, and is marked *ff* in measure 23. Measures 23 and 24 are in 3/4 time. Horn 1 and 2 play a melodic line, marked *ff* in measure 23. Violin I and II play a melodic line, with Violin I marked *ff* in measure 23. Viola and Violoncello play a melodic line, with Viola marked *ff* in measure 23. The Double Bass part continues with eighth notes, marked *ff* in measure 23.

26

Hn 1 *ff* *p* *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)*

Hn 2 *f* *p* *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)*

Vln. I *ff* *p* *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)*

Vln. II *ff* *mp* *cresc.* *(mf)*

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

Vc. *ff* *f* *p* *cresc.* *(mp)* *(mf)*

D.B. 26 *f* *p* *mf*

30

Hn 1 *f* *ff* *f*

Hn 2 *f* *ff* *f*

Vln. I *f* *ff* *f*

Vln. II *f* *ff*

Vla. *f* *ff* *f*

Vc. *f* *ff* *f*

D.B. 30 *ff* *f*

37

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

37

f

f

f

p

f

f

f

pp

pp

pp

pp

48

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

48

D.B.

rit.

mp

mf

p

p

mf

f

p

p

mf

p

[illegible]

67

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

67

ff

ff

ff

f+

f+

ff

ff

f

f

f

f

[illegible]

81

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

81

D.B.

2. Completely Legal Theme and Three Variations

[6:40]

11

Theme

Largo con video (♩ = 100)

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system includes staves for Horn 1 in F, Horn 2 in F, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The second system includes staves for Horn 1, Horn 2, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 8/8. The tempo is marked 'Largo con video' with a note indicating a quarter note equals 100 beats. The score features a variety of musical notations, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, with many measures containing rests. Dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) are present in the first system. The first system spans measures 1 through 7, and the second system spans measures 8 through 14. The Violin I and Viola parts in the first system have a melodic line with many slurs and ties, while the other instruments are mostly silent.

Horn 1 in F

Horn 2 in F

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

15 *rit.* ----- Variation I (♩ = 88)

Hn 1 *G.P.* *ff*

Hn 2 *G.P.* *ff*

Vln. I *G.P.*

Vln. II *G.P.* *ff*

Vla. *G.P.* *ff*

Vc. *G.P.* *ff*

D.B. 15 *G.P.* *ff*

20

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B. 20

23 *non stacc.*

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

23

26

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

26

30

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

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

34

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

ff

non stacc.

37

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

37

40

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

40

43

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

(♩. = 100)

Variation II

46

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

pizz. *mp*

pizz. *mp*

pizz. *mp*

52

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

52

62

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

62

77

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

77

83

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

83

93

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

93

arco

mf

mp

mf

mp

mf

mp

mf

101

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

f *ff* *f* *ff*

109

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

f *mf* *mp* *f* *mf* *mp* *mp* *f* *pizz.* *f* *mp* *pizz.* *mp*

119

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

f

This system contains measures 119 through 127. The Horns, Violins, and Viola are silent throughout. The Violoncello and Double Bass play a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. A forte (*f*) dynamic is indicated at the start of measure 119.

128

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

128

This system contains measures 128 through 136. All instruments are active. The Horns and Violins play sustained notes or short phrases. The Viola and lower strings provide harmonic support with sustained notes and rhythmic patterns. A measure number '128' is written above the Double Bass staff at the beginning of the system.

Variation III

(♩. = 68)

138

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

ff

ff

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

pizz.

mp

arco

ff

arco

ff

arco

ff

p

149

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

149

161

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

161

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

This musical score is for measures 171-174 of 'The Swan' from 'The Nutcracker'. The score is written for a full orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Hn 1 (Horn 1):** Measures 171-174. The part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. In measure 172, there is a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a crescendo hairpin. In measure 173, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin.
- Hn 2 (Horn 2):** Measures 171-174. The part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. In measure 172, there is a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a crescendo hairpin. In measure 173, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin.
- Vln. I (Violin I):** Measures 171-174. The part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. In measure 172, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin. In measure 173, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin.
- Vln. II (Violin II):** Measures 171-174. The part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. In measure 172, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin. In measure 173, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin.
- Vla. (Viola):** Measures 171-174. The part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. In measure 172, there is a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a crescendo hairpin. In measure 173, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin.
- Vc. (Violoncello):** Measures 171-174. The part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. In measure 172, there is a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a crescendo hairpin. In measure 173, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin.
- D.B. (Double Bass):** Measures 171-174. The part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note F#4, and then a half note E4. In measure 172, there is a dynamic marking of *ff* (fortissimo) and a crescendo hairpin. In measure 173, there is a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a decrescendo hairpin.

The score is written in 2/4 time and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The measures are numbered 171, 172, 173, and 174.

182

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

mf

mp

mf

mf

193

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mf

mf

mf

204

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

204

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

214

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

214

224

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

224

234

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

234

245

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

ff

ff

ff

ff

255

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

dim. *(mf)* *(mp)* *(p)* *pp*

dim. *(mf)* *(mp)* *(p)* *pp*

pizz. *pp*

pizz. *pp*

pizz. *pp*

dim. *(mf)* *(mp)* *(p)* *pp*

dim. *(mf)* *(mp)* *(p)* *pp*

III. This is the End

[6:30]

Vivace con sanguinamento labbra

ff

Horn 1 in F

Horn 2 in F

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Double Bass

5

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

non stacc.

non stacc.

non stacc.

5

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a piece titled 'III. This is the End' with a duration of 6:30. The tempo is 'Vivace con sanguinamento labbra'. The score is for a full orchestra, including Horns 1 and 2 in F, Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system shows the initial measures, with a forte (ff) dynamic. The second system starts at measure 5 and continues with various musical notations, including slurs, accents, and the instruction 'non stacc.' (non staccato). The Double Bass part also starts at measure 5. The score is written for a conductor and includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

8

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

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

12

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

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

16

Hn 1

mf *p*

Hn 2

mf *p*

Vln. I

p

Vln. II

mf

Vla.

mf *mp*

Vc.

mf *p* *mf*

D.B.

16 *p*

23

Hn 1

f *ff*

Hn 2

f *ff*

Vln. I

f *ff*

Vln. II

f *ff*

Vla.

f *ff*

Vc.

f *ff*

D.B.

23 *f* *ff*

36

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

36

mf

ff

mf

ff

mf

ff

mf

ff

45

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

45

D.B.

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

50

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

50

D.B.

54

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

54

D.B.

ff

ff

ff

ff

p

ff

p

ff

p

60 *poco rit.* *a tempo*

Hn 1 *mp*

Hn 2 *mp*

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *pp* *mp*

Vla. *pp* *mp*

Vc. *pp*

D.B. *pp*

69

Hn 1 *mf* *f*

Hn 2 *mf* *f*

Vln. I *mf* *f*

Vln. II *mf* *f*

Vla. *mf* *f*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *f*

D.B. *mp* *mf* *f*

85

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

85

D.B.

90

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

90

non stacc.

non stacc.

93

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

93

non stacc.

96

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

96

99

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

99

ff

ff

ff

ff

102

Hn 1 *p*

Hn 2 *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p* *mp*

D.B. 102 *p*

106

Hn 1 *mp*

Hn 2 *mp*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *mp*

Vc. 106

D.B. *mp*

109

Hn 1

ff *f*

Hn 2

ff *f*

Vln. I

ff *f*

Vln. II

ff *f*

Vla.

ff *f*

Vc.

ff *f*

D.B.

109

ff *f*

114

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

114

119

poco rit. a tempo

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

ff *mf* *mp* *pp*

ff *mf* *mp* *pp*

ff *mf* *mp* *pp*

ff *mf* *mp* *pp*

ff *mf* *mp* *pp*

ff *mf* *mp* *pp*

119

126

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

p *f*

p *f*

p *f*

p *f*

126

134

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mf

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

134

mp

142

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

mp

mp

f

142

150

Hn 1 *f* *ff*

Hn 2 *f* *ff*

Vln. I *f* *ff*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Vc. *f* *ff*

D.B. 150 *f* *ff*

153

Hn 1 *ff* *p*

Hn 2 *ff* *p*

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *ff* *mf*

Vc. *ff* *p*

D.B. 153 *ff* *p*

156

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

159

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

non stacc.

non stacc.

159

164

Hn 1

Hn 2

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

164