

Popular Music of Planet X

for Piano Quintet

(chamber version of Symphony No. 1)



Bill Robinson

Popular Music of Planet X for Piano Quintet

(chamber version of *Symphony No. 1*) Duration: about 26'

Composed September 1990; 2004; Feb. 10—May 27, 2015; Nov. 2—Dec. 8, 2023

for Eric Pritchard

In 1990 I wrote several works for my friend Fred Robinson (no relation), who was the composer/arranger at Warner Robins Air Force Base in Georgia. Among these was a work for jazz band, *The Popular Music of Planet X*. The idea was the rather whimsical one that somewhere among the myriad planets there could be a civilization where music like this could actually be commercially successful. Clearly, such a planet must be far, far away. I also wrote some chamber works, including a brass quintet. The Air Force didn't seem to appreciate the effort, and the scores and parts were returned. (When you bomb with the Air Force...you *REALLY BOMB!*)

In 2004 I wrote new versions of these scores, but still could not find performance. Thus in 2015 I started over, this time with *PMPX* as a symphony for concert band. The only surviving movement from the old *PMPX* was the bulk of *Burlesque* (then titled *Bump and Grind*). The first movement was originally from the now-defunct brass quintet of 1990 and 2004. The second movement's opening was from the original *PMPX*, and has a chamber version for piano and woodwind quintet. The third movement was from the *Clarinet Sextet*.

As the piece remained unperformed, I realized it would be better for orchestra as *Symphony No. 1: Popular Music of Planet X*. Orchestral writing is much more to my taste and experience than band. I first composed this piano quintet version to make various improvements, and to get the piece performed and recorded. The third movement is new, inspired by a few bits from the original third movement from 1990. The four movements of the band version of *PMPX* from 2015 are now offered only as separate works.

Considering that this is my personal vision of what music intended for mass consumption could be in a more ideal world, I've allowed the influence of some popular idioms. However, as is true for all of my music, this is in the classical tradition, with no improvisation, and to be treated in the same way as other "serious" art music—even, and perhaps especially, when it's intended to be for fun.

Cover; London casino, 1938

Bill Robinson

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(♩ = 105)

Popular Music of Planet X for Piano Quintet

Giant leaps for mankind

I. Polytonalmodalyodel [7']

Bill Robinson

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Piano

Giant leaps for mankind (♩ = 105)

p *mf* *f*

pizz. *arco*

11

20

f *mf* *mp* *ff*

gliss.

11

20

f *mf* *mp* *ff*

21

ff *dim.* *f*

gliss. *ff* *dim.* *f*

gliss. *ff* *dim.* *f*

21

ff *dim.* *f*

54

58

mf

54

58

60

mp

f

ff

60

67

p

67

72

75

75

mp

mf

81

81

mf

f

8va

87

87

91

ff

8va

92

92

96

98

p *mp*

mp *cresc.*

pizz. *p* *arco* *cresc.* *(mp)* *cresc.*

96

98

p *mp*

102

(mf) *f* *cresc.* *ff* *f*

(mf) *f* *ff* *f*

102

ff *f*

107

110

107

110

111

111

115

117

115

117

This musical score is for a piece titled 'PMPX'. It consists of five systems of staves, each containing a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The score begins at measure 107. The first system (measures 107-110) features a vocal line with eighth-note patterns and a piano accompaniment with a steady eighth-note bass line. The second system (measures 107-110) shows the piano part with more complex, flowing eighth-note figures. The third system (measures 111-114) includes dynamic markings of *ff* (fortissimo) for both parts. The fourth system (measures 111-114) features a piano part with a *f* (forte) dynamic and an 8va (octave) marking for the vocal line. The fifth system (measures 115-117) includes a *cresc.* (crescendo) marking for the vocal line and a *mf* (mezzo-forte) dynamic for the piano part. The score ends at measure 117.

119

119

122

123

126

123

126

129

129

132

137

(mf) *f*

137

f

143

(mf) *mp*

143

mp

148

cresc. *(mf)* *f* *ff*

148

cresc. *(mf)* *f* *ff non stacc.*

152

155

mp

non stacc.

152 *8va*

155 *8va*

mp

159

mf

f

ff

f

mf

f

ff

159

f

mf non stacc.

f

ff

166

168

166

168

172

172

178

178

185

185

189

189

191

191

199 [200] non stacc. non stacc.

199 [200] *f*

209 [211] non stacc. non stacc. gliss. *f*

209 [211] *f*

228

228

Andante (♩ = 46)

233

Tempo I (♩ = 105)

233

233

Tempo I (♩ = 105)

241

241

(no rit.)

Largo (♩ = 40)

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Piano

p

lunga

p

7

lunga

mf

lunga

mf

mp

mf

p

lunga

p

7

lunga

mf

p

8va

Rec.

*

13

16

13 (8va)

16

Rec.

*

19

24

19

24

8va

27

27

34

8va

Red.

*

34

35

34

35

40

42

rit. -----

a tempo

pp

cresc.

(p)

mf

mp

p

pp

cresc.

(p)

mf

mp

mp

p

pp

p

40

42

rit. ----- a tempo

mf

mp

p

[illegible][illegible]

III. Scherzo Affective Disorder

[6:20]

17

S. A. D. (♩. = 60)

Violin 1

mp *cresc.* *mf* *non stacc.*

9

f

17

ff

27

p *cresc.*

27

p *cresc.*

41

43

mp *cresc.* *mf* *f*

41

43

mp *cresc.* *mf* *f*

51

53

f

51

53

f

58

64

ff

58

64

ff

66

ff | *f* *cresc. p. a p.*

ff | *f* *cresc. p. a p.*

ff | *f* *cresc. p. a p.*

66

ff | *f* *cresc. p. a p.*

[illegible]

94

94

104

105

p cresc. *(mf)* *f dim.* *p*

p cresc. *(mf)* *f dim.* *p*

p cresc. *(mf)* *f dim.* *p*

p cresc. *(mf)* *f dim.* *p*

104

105

p cresc. *(mf)* *f dim.* *p*

Rec. *Rec.* *Rec.* *Rec.*

112

113

dolce *mp*

dolce *mp*

dolce *mp*

dolce *mp*

dolce *mp*

112

113

dolce *mp*

mp

121

Four staves of music. Measures 121-125. Dynamics: *mp* *cresc.* (dashed line), *(mf)*, *f*.

121

Two staves of music. Measures 121-125. Dynamics: *mp* *cresc.* (dashed line), *(mf)*, *f*.

130

131

Four staves of music. Measures 130-134. Dynamics: *ff*, *f*, *ff*, *ff*.

130

131

Two staves of music. Measures 130-134. Dynamics: *ff*.

138

141

Four staves of music. Measures 138-141.

138

141

Two staves of music. Measures 138-141.

146

Trio (♩. = 70)

146

Trio (♩. = 70)

Reo.

8va

ff

p

Reo.

*

155

p

cresc. p. a p.

(mf)

p

cresc. p. a p.

(mf)

cresc. p. a p.

(mf)

cresc. p. a p.

(mf)

155

mf

cresc.

165

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

165

8va

f

ff

173

173

182

188

182

188

191

191

199

204

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.* *ff* *p* *cresc.* *p* *cresc.*

199

204

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *p* *cresc.* *ff* *cresc.* *Red.* *

206

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

206

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

213

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

213

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

219 225

219 225

227

227

235 S. A. D. (♩. = 60)

235 S. A. D. (♩. = 60)

243

non stacc.

243

252

ff

252

260

p

265

260

p

265

270

Measures 270-271. The score is for a four-part vocal ensemble. Measure 270 starts with a piano (*p*) dynamic. Measure 271 features a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The music is in a key with one flat and a common time signature.

270

Piano accompaniment for measures 270-271. Measure 270 begins with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. Measure 271 shows a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

280

281

Measures 280-281. Measure 280 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 281 features a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score is for a four-part vocal ensemble.

280

281

Piano accompaniment for measures 280-281. Measure 280 starts with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. Measure 281 features a crescendo (*cresc.*) leading to a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

289

291

Measures 289-291. Measure 289 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 291 features a forte (*f*) dynamic. The score is for a four-part vocal ensemble.

289

291

Piano accompaniment for measures 289-291. Measure 289 starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic. Measure 291 features a forte (*f*) dynamic. The piano part features a melodic line in the right hand and a harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

316 318

ff

316

318

ff

cres.

ff

322 329

ff

p

ff

ff > f

mp dolce

322

329

Reo.

Reo.

Reo.

332

mp

cresc.

(mf)

f

332

mp

mp

mp

mp

cresc.

(mf)

f

332

mp

cresc.

(mf)

f

332

mp

cresc.

(mf)

f

343

ff

343

ff

352

352

ff

360

molto rit.

ff *mf* *p* *pp*

360

molto rit.

ff *mf* *p* *pp*

IV. Burlesque

[6:20]

31

Allegro spogliarello (♩. = 106)

[illegible]

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written for a piano and voice. The piano part is in 2/4 time and consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piano introduction begins with a series of eighth notes in the bass staff, followed by a melody in the treble staff. The melody is characterized by a series of eighth notes and quarter notes, with a prominent F# in the treble. The piano part is marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The vocal part is written in a single staff in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is a simple, catchy tune that follows the piano's lead. The lyrics "The Rose Tree" are written below the vocal staff. The score is divided into four measures, each containing a measure of piano and a measure of vocal. The piano part is marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The vocal part is marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The score is written in a clear, legible font, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/4.

The musical score for 'The Rose Tree' is presented in two systems. The first system contains measures 9 through 11. Measures 9 and 10 are in 3/8 time, while measure 11 is in 12/8 time. The second system contains measures 11 through 13, all in 12/8 time. The score is written for four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. Dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo), *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The lyrics 'The Rose Tree' are written below the Bass 1 staff.

32

13

Musical score for measures 13-16. The score is written for four staves (two vocal staves and two piano staves). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *pp* (pianissimo). The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed sixteenth notes.

17

19

Musical score for measures 17-20. The score is written for four staves (two vocal staves and two piano staves). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked as *ff* (fortissimo), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *cresc.* (crescendo), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed sixteenth notes.

21

Musical score for measures 21-24. The score is written for four staves (two vocal staves and two piano staves). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked as *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many beamed sixteenth notes.

24

24

25

26

27

f

cresc.

24

24

25

26

27

cresc.

28

29

28

29

30

31

ff

28

29

28

29

30

31

ff

32

32

33

34

35

ff

32

32

33

34

35

ff

34

35

35

38

38

40

42

42

45

45

49

(50)

mp

mf

cresc.

mp

mp

cresc.

(mf)

pizz.

arco

mp

cresc.

(mf)

49

(8va)

(50)

mp

mp

cresc.

54

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

54

f

ff

95

95

(8va)

99

99

(8va)

103

103

cresc.

ff

(8va)

107 109

mf

mf

mf

mf

8va

This system contains measures 107 through 109. It features a grand staff with five staves. Measures 107 and 108 show a melodic line in the upper staves and a bass line in the lower staves. Measure 109 introduces a new melodic line in the upper staves, marked with a *mf* dynamic. The bass line continues with a similar pattern. A *8va* marking is present in the lower staves.

111

cresc.

f

cresc.

f

cresc.

f

8va

mf cresc.

This system contains measures 111 through 114. Measures 111 and 112 show a melodic line in the upper staves and a bass line in the lower staves. Measures 113 and 114 introduce a new melodic line in the upper staves, marked with a *cresc.* dynamic. The bass line continues with a similar pattern. A *8va* marking is present in the lower staves. The *mf cresc.* marking is also present.

115

ff

non stacc.

ff

non stacc.

ff

non stacc.

ff

non stacc.

This system contains measures 115 through 118. Measures 115 and 116 show a melodic line in the upper staves and a bass line in the lower staves. Measures 117 and 118 introduce a new melodic line in the upper staves, marked with a *ff* dynamic. The bass line continues with a similar pattern. A *non stacc.* marking is present in the lower staves. The *ff* marking is also present.

119 *poco rit.* Tempo I (♩ = 106)

119 *poco rit.* Tempo I (♩ = 106)

119 *poco rit.* Tempo I (♩ = 106)

123

123

123

127

127

131 132

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

135 *Dolce* (♩ = 58)

ff *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

135 *Dolce* (♩ = 58)

ff *p legato* *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

140 *rit.* *a tempo*

p cresc. *(mf)* *f* *p* *p cresc.* *(mf)* *f* *p*

140 *rit.* *a tempo*

p cresc. *(mf)* *f* *p* *p cresc.* *(mf)* *f* *p*

146 **More Bump** (♩ = 120)

146 **More Bump** (♩ = 120)

150

150

154

154

158

158

158

158

163

163

cresc.

fff

163

163

cresc.

fff

167

167

rit.

167

167

rit.

8va