

On the
Immortality
of
a Crab

for Violin,
Clarinet,
Violoncello,
and Piano

by Matt Browne



Just a Theory
— Press —

Program Note

“Thinking about the immortality of a crab” is a Spanish idiom meaning to let one’s mind wander or “daydream”. The three short movements of this piece evoke different ways in which one’s mind wanders; rapid succession of thoughts running through one’s mind, inattention due to one’s mind being on other things, and the interruption of one’s “train of thought”.

- I. Racing Thoughts
- II. Miles Away
- III. Off the Rails

This work was composed for CULTIVATE 2017, Copland House’s emerging composers’ institute, and was premiered by the Music from Copland House ensemble at the Merestead estate in Mount Kisco, NY on June 11, 2017

Duration: c. 6 minutes

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On the Immortality of a Crab

for Violin, Clarinet, Violoncello, and Piano

I. Racing Thoughts

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The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a 3/4 time signature with a tempo of $\text{♩} = 80$. The Clarinet in Bb part begins with a sixteenth-note scale marked *f* and *ord.*, followed by a sixteenth-note triplet marked *ff*. The Violin and Violoncello parts play sustained chords marked *ff*. The Piano part is silent. At measure 3, the time signature changes to 4/4 with a tempo of $\text{♩} = 160$. The Clarinet part continues with a triplet marked *sffz f*. The Violin and Violoncello parts play chords marked *sffz* and *f*, with a *pizz.* instruction. The Piano part enters with chords marked *sffz f*. The second system (measures 5-8) continues in 4/4 time. The Clarinet part has dynamics *f*, *mf*, *sffz*, *f*, and *mf*. The Violin part has dynamics *sffz*, *f*, *sffz*, *mf*, and *f*, with *arco* and *col legno bat.* markings. The Violoncello part has dynamics *mf* and *f*, with *arco* and *col legno bat.* markings. The Piano part has dynamics *mf*, *f*, *sffz*, *f*, and *mf*, with an *8va* marking.

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

9

Cl. *f* *ff* *f* *arco*

Vln. *col legno bat.* *f* *mf* *pizz.* *f* *ff* *pizz.* *sfz*

Vc. *sfz* *f* *col legno bat.* *f* *mf* *pizz.* *f* *sfz*

Pno. *sfz* *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *f*

8^{va}

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 9 through 12. The score is for a Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). Measure 9 is marked with a box containing the number '9'. The Clarinet part begins with a rest, followed by a series of notes with dynamics *f*, *ff*, and *f*. The Violin part starts with *col legno bat.* and *f*, then *mf*, *pizz.* with *f*, *ff*, and *pizz.* with *sfz*. The Viola part begins with *sfz*, *f*, *col legno bat.* with *f* and *mf*, *pizz.* with *f*, and *sfz*. The Piano part features a complex texture with *sfz*, *f*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, and *f*. A *8^{va}* marking is present above the piano part in measure 11.

13

15

Cl. *ff* *sfz* *f*

Vln. *arco* *f* *ff* *pizz.* *f* *arco* *sfz*

Vc. *sfz* *f* *mf*

Pno. *f* *ff* *sfz* *mf* *f* *sfz*

8^{va}

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 13 through 16. The score is for a Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). Measure 13 is marked with a box containing the number '13'. Measure 15 is marked with a box containing the number '15'. The Clarinet part has dynamics *ff*, *sfz*, and *f*. The Violin part starts with *arco*, *f*, *ff*, *pizz.* with *f*, *arco*, and *sfz*. The Viola part begins with *sfz*, *f*, and *mf*. The Piano part features a complex texture with *f*, *ff*, *sfz*, *mf*, *f*, and *sfz*. A *8^{va}* marking is present above the piano part in measure 14.

17

Cl. *sfz* *f* *ff*

Vln. *f* *mf* *f* *ff* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Vc. *f* *ff* *sfz*

Pno. *f* *ff*

21

22

Cl. *sfz* *sfz* *f* *ff*

Vln. *f* *sfz* *sfz*

Vc. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Pno. *sfz* *f* *sfz* *ff*

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

25 26

Cl. *sfz* *f* *sfz*

Vln. *sfz* *sfz* *f* *sfz* (pizz., arco)

Vc. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* (pizz., arco, pizz., arco)

Pno. *sfz* *f* *sfz* *f* (8va-7)

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 25 through 28. The score is for a full orchestra, including Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The music is in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures. The Clarinet part starts with a *sfz* dynamic and features a *f* dynamic in measure 27. The Violin part has *sfz* dynamics and includes *pizz.* and *arco* markings. The Viola part also has *sfz* dynamics and includes *pizz.* and *arco* markings. The Piano part features *sfz* and *f* dynamics, with an *8va-7* marking in measure 27. A rehearsal mark 26 is placed above the first measure of the system.

29

Cl. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Vln. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* (pizz., arco)

Vc. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Pno. *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 29 through 32. The score is for a full orchestra, including Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The music is in 3/4 and 4/4 time signatures. The Clarinet part has a *sfz* dynamic throughout. The Violin part has *sfz* dynamics and includes *pizz.* and *arco* markings. The Viola part has *sfz* dynamics. The Piano part has *sfz* dynamics. The score continues with *sfz* dynamics across all parts.

33

Cl. *> sfz* *sfz* *dim. poco a poco* *(mf)* *(p)*

Vln. *sfz* *dim. poco a poco* *(mf)* *(p)*

Vc. *sfz* *dim. poco a poco* *(mf)* *(p)*

Pno. *dim. poco a poco* *(mf)* *(p)*

37

Cl. *pp* **G.P.** **40** *sfz*

Vln. *pp* *f* *arco* *ff* *pizz.*

Vc. *n* *sfz* *sfz* *pizz.*

Pno. *pp* *f* *cresc.* *sfz*

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

6

42

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p* *col legno bat.* *dim.*

Vc. *p* *col legno bat.* *dim.*

Pno. *ff*

47

Cl. *pp secco* *slap tongue*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp*

Pno. *pp secco*

II. Miles Away

1 **Zoned Out** ♩ = 56

Cl. *n*

Vln.

Vc.

Pno. *p* *8va*

Red.

5

Cl. *pp* *p* *mp* **7**

Vln. *arco ord.* *n* *pp*

Vc.

Pno. *8va*

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

8

Musical score for measures 8-10. The score is for Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Cl.:** Measures 8-10. Dynamics: *pp* (measures 8-9), *p* (measure 10).
- Vln.:** Measures 8-10. Dynamics: *mp* (measures 8-9), *n* (measure 10).
- Vc.:** Measures 8-10. Rested.
- Pno.:** Measures 8-10. Dynamics: *cresc. poco a poco*. Includes *8va* markings and a *5* fingering.

Musical score for measures 11-12. The score is for Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Cl.:** Measures 11-12. Dynamics: *mf* (measure 11), *p* (measure 11), *n* (measure 12), *p* (measure 12). Includes a *3* fingering.
- Vln.:** Measures 11-12. Dynamics: *p* (measure 11), *mp* (measure 12). Includes a *3* fingering.
- Vc.:** Measures 11-12. Dynamics: *n* (measure 11), *p* (measure 11), *mp* (measure 12). Includes *arco ord.* marking.
- Pno.:** Measures 11-12. Dynamics: *(mp)*. Includes *8va* markings and a *5* fingering.

13

Cl. *mp* *pp* *mf*

Vln. *n* *mf* *pp* *p* *mp* *pp* *mf* ric. 3 ric.

Vc. *n* *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* ric.

Pno. *8va* 5

15

Cl. *p* 3 *mf* 5

Vln. *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p*

Pno. *8va* 5 (mf)

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

10

17

Cl. Vln. Vc. Pno.

mf *f* *mf* *8va*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 17 to 20. The Clarinet (Cl.) part begins at measure 17 with a circled '17' above it. It features a melodic line with several quintuplets (marked '5') and a dynamic of *f*. The Violin (Vln.) part has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, with a dynamic of *f* and a triplet (marked '3') in measure 19. The Viola (Vc.) part has a dynamic of *mf* and a melodic line. The Piano (Pno.) part has a dynamic of *mf* and includes an *8va* marking. The score is in 7/4 time and includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

18

Cl. Vln. Vc. Pno.

f *f* *ric.* *8va*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 21 to 24. The Clarinet (Cl.) part starts at measure 21 with a circled '18' above it. It features a melodic line with a sextuplet (marked '6') and a dynamic of *f*. The Violin (Vln.) part has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with a dynamic of *f*. The Viola (Vc.) part has a dynamic of *f* and includes a *ric.* (ritardando) marking. The Piano (Pno.) part has a dynamic of *f* and includes an *8va* marking. The score is in 7/4 time and includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Musical score for measures 19-20. The score includes staves for Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Cl.:** Measure 19 starts with a rest, followed by a sixteenth-note scale starting on G4, marked *ff*. A slur covers the entire phrase.
- Vln.:** Measure 19 features a sixteenth-note scale starting on G4, marked *ff*. A slur covers the entire phrase.
- Vc.:** Measure 19 features a sixteenth-note scale starting on G3, marked *ff*. A slur covers the entire phrase. Measure 20 begins with a rest, followed by a half note G3, marked *p*.
- Pno.:** Measure 19 features a sixteenth-note scale starting on G3, marked *ff*. A slur covers the entire phrase. Measure 20 features a sixteenth-note scale starting on G3, marked *ff*. A slur covers the entire phrase.

Measure 19 includes a first ending bracket with a repeat sign and a measure rest. Measure 20 includes a first ending bracket with a repeat sign and a measure rest.

Musical score for measures 20-21. The score includes staves for Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Cl.:** Measure 20 starts with a rest, followed by a half note G4, marked *mf*. Measure 21 features a half note G4, marked *f*. A slur covers the entire phrase. Measure 22 features a half note G4, marked *n*.
- Vln.:** Measure 20 starts with a rest, followed by a half note G4, marked *mf*. Measure 21 features a half note G4, marked *f*. A slur covers the entire phrase. Measure 22 features a half note G4, marked *n*.
- Vc.:** Measure 20 starts with a rest, followed by a half note G4, marked *mf*. Measure 21 features a half note G4, marked *f*. A slur covers the entire phrase. Measure 22 features a half note G4, marked *n*.
- Pno.:** Measure 20 features a sixteenth-note scale starting on G3, marked *>mf cresc.*. Measure 21 features a sixteenth-note scale starting on G3, marked *f*. Measure 22 features a sixteenth-note scale starting on G3, marked *p*. A slur covers the entire phrase.

Measure 20 includes a first ending bracket with a repeat sign and a measure rest. Measure 21 includes a first ending bracket with a repeat sign and a measure rest. Measure 22 includes a first ending bracket with a repeat sign and a measure rest.

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

12

23

Cl. *ppp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Vln. *n* *mp* *pp* *ff* *n* *p*

Vc. *n* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p* (non dim.)

Pno. *pp* *5* *5* *5* *5* *8va*

27 28 **attacca**

Cl. *n* *pp* *ppp* *n*

Vln. *n* *pp* *n*

Vc. *p* *mp* *pp* *n*
l.h. pizz.

Pno. *p* *pp* *5* *5* *8va* *3*

III. Off the Rails

Belligerent ♩ = 160

The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 1-4) features a Clarinet (Cl.) with a sixteenth-note figure in 3/4 time, a Violin (Vln.) with a sixteenth-note figure in 3/4 time, a Viola (Vc.) with a sixteenth-note figure in 3/4 time, and a Piano (Pno.) with a sixteenth-note figure in 3/4 time. The second system (measures 5-8) features a Clarinet (Cl.) with a sixteenth-note figure in 4/4 time, a Violin (Vln.) with a sixteenth-note figure in 4/4 time, a Viola (Vc.) with a sixteenth-note figure in 4/4 time, and a Piano (Pno.) with a sixteenth-note figure in 4/4 time.

Cl. *ff* *f* *ff*

Vln. *ff* *secco* *pizz.* *sfz*

Vc. *pizz.* *sfz* *ff* *arco* *secco* *sfz f*

Pno. *ff* *secco* *8va* *sfz f*

5

Cl.

Vln. *arco* *mf - sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *sfz f*

Pno. *ff* *sfz f*

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

9

Cl. *ff* **11**

Vln. *sffz* *sffz*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *sffz f*

Pno. *ff* *sffz f*

12

Cl. *fff* *ffp* flz.

Vln. *mf < sffz* *sffz* *sffz*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf*

Pno. *ff*

15

Cl. *ord.* *fff* *ffp*

Vln.

Vc. *sfz f* *ff mf* *ff mf*

Pno. *sfz f* *ff*

18

Cl. *f* *ff* *fff*

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *ff* *sfz f*

Pno. *ff* *sfz f*

20

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

21

Cl. *f* *ff* *fff* 6 3 6

Vln. *sfz* *sfz*

Vc. *ff* *f*

Pno. *ff* *f*

24

Cl. *flz.* *fff* 26

Vln. *f* *fff* *mp*

Vc. *f* *fff*

Pno. *8va*

27

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f *ff* *mp* *ff* *mp cresc.* *ff*

30

ord.

31

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

f *ff* *ff* *ff*

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

18

33

Cl. *fff* *ff*

Vln. *mf < sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

Vc. *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *f* *ff*

Pno. *ff* *8va*

36

Cl.

Vln. *mf < sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff*

Pno. *ff* *8va*

40 43 flz. ord.

Cl. *fff* *p*

Vln. *sfz* pizz.

Vc. *sfz* pizz.

Pno. *sfz* 8va

46

Cl. *n* *mf* *p* *pp*

Vln. *sfz*

Vc. *sfz*

Pno. *p* *mp* *pp* Led.

On the Immortality of a Crab - Full Score (Transposed)

52 **52** rit. al fine. (♩ = 136) (♩ = 108)

Cl. *pp* *n*

Vln. *p* *arco* *<mf*

Vc. *pp* *n* *pp* *<p*

Pno. *pp* *Ped.*

60 **63** (♩ = 92) (♩ = 80) (♩ = 60)

Cl. *p* *n* *mf* *mp* *p* *pp* *ppp*

Vln. *p* *n* *<f* *n* *<f* *n* *<f*

Vc. *pizz.* *pp* *ppp*

Pno. *pp* *ppp*

Ped.