

*Like a Small  
Blue Cloud*

The background of the image is a scenic landscape featuring a range of mountains in the foreground and middle ground, their peaks partially obscured by a layer of low-hanging clouds. The sky above is a clear, vibrant blue, transitioning into warmer orange and yellow hues near the horizon, suggesting the time is either sunrise or sunset.

*for Horn Quartet*

*by Matt Browne*

## **Program Note**

I grew up in Colorado, with the mountains as a fixture to my west, for all of the first 22 years of my life. When I moved to Michigan for graduate school, I soon realized how big a part of my life (and my sense of direction) those mountains were. There is something comforting about a massive and immovable wall of earth always on one side of me, showing me which direction was which, that you don't realize until you no longer have it.

*A Small Blue Cloud* is inspired by a drive I took with my dad back to Colorado on I-70 after leaving Michigan. The vast view of the prairielands, which stretched on for hundreds of miles, slowly and indistinctly give way to a faint blur on the horizon that, as you edge closer, you soon realize are the distant Rocky Mountains. The piece is meant to evoke the experience of the slow and meditative crawl through the plains towards these mountains, constantly and persistently getting closer.

The piece takes its name from a journal entry by Zebulon Pike in 1806 when he first spots the distant peak that is his namesake, and describes it as looking “like a small blue cloud.”

Duration: c. 6 minutes

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# Like a Small Blue Cloud

*for Four Horns*

Matt Browne

$\text{♩} = 60$

Horn in F 1      Horn in F 2      Horn in F 3      Horn in F 4

6

\* Glisses should be primarily lip glisses, but with some fingering. They should be more measured and distant, rather than rough and feral, especially at their softest in the beginning of the piece.

Like a Small Blue Cloud - Full Score (Transposed)

2

12

18      19

24

remove  
mute

Like a Small Blue Cloud - Full Score (Transposed)

3

**30**

open

3

remove open  
mute

**34**

*mf* *f* *mf*

remove open  
mute

**36**

*f* *mp*

*mf*

*f*

remove open  
mute

*mf*

**3**

*f*

**40**

*mf* *f*

*mf*

*f*

**41**

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*f*

## Like a Small Blue Cloud - Full Score (Transposed)

4

46

45

54

50

57

55

## Like a Small Blue Cloud - Full Score (Transposed)

5

60

64

ff

ff

ff

ff

65

fff p ff //

fff p ff //

fff p ff //

fff p ff //

fff p ff

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

69

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

rit.

mf

p

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

## Like a Small Blue Cloud - Full Score (Transposed)

6

**76** A tempo rit. **81**  $\text{♩} = 52$

**82** insert mute

**87** muted