

Full Score

Gilad Cohen

A Dark Matter

for alto flute, oboe, clarinet in A, and piano

(2022)

Commissioned for Exponential Ensemble by the Chamber Music America Classical Commissioning Program, with generous funding provided by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and with additional support by the Composers Guild of New Jersey.

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Program notes:

Dark matter is one of the most elusive phenomena in the world. While Physicists estimate that dark matter accounts for 85% of the matter in the universe, it has not been proved yet that it actually exists. I find it fascinating that a concept that may have such a foundational role in the construction of the universe remains that mysterious as of today.

My piece *A Dark Matter* explores the notion that our mind also sometimes circles around an intangible “dark matter.” An indefinable worry, regret, or fear can occupy us for a long time and color everything else in dark shades. At the core of this piece is such musical “dark matter.” The first three movements begin almost identically with a claustrophobic web of three melodic threads that crawl, tangle and repeat without any sense of resolution. In each movement, a different one of these threads develops into its own small melancholic universe. In the fourth and last movement, out of the gloom grows a simple melody in the alto flute that offers some hope and comfort, despite the return of the “dark matter” threads at the very end of the piece.

Performance notes:

- * 1/2 or 1/4 next to a glissando/bend indicates 1/2 tone or 1/4 tone.
- * A dotted arrow indicates a gradual transition (e.g. from pitch to air).
- * "Air attacks" for flute: blow aggressively while sustaining a long note, producing loud, accented airy punctuations.

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A Dark Matter

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approximate duration: 18 min.

I

Gilad Cohen 2022
(Version May 2023)

Tangled web of worries ($\text{♩}=80$)

(feel in 5/4: 3+2)

Alto Flute

p blurry, all woodwinds balanced

Detailed description: This is the musical notation for the Alto Flute part. It is written in a 2/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter notes and eighth notes, with some triplets indicated by a '3' over a group of notes. The dynamics are marked as piano (*p*). The performance instruction is 'blurry, all woodwinds balanced'.

(feel in 15/16: 4+4+4+3)

Oboe

p blurry, all woodwinds balanced

Detailed description: This is the musical notation for the Oboe part. It is written in a 2/4 time signature. The melody is more rhythmic, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes. There are some rests and slurs. The dynamics are marked as piano (*p*). The performance instruction is 'blurry, all woodwinds balanced'.

(feel in 9/8: 3+2+4)

Clarinet in A

p blurry, all woodwinds balanced

Detailed description: This is the musical notation for the Clarinet in A part. It is written in a 2/4 time signature. The melody is characterized by long, flowing lines with many slurs and ties. The dynamics are marked as piano (*p*). The performance instruction is 'blurry, all woodwinds balanced'.

Tangled web of worries ($\text{♩}=80$)

Piano

pp behind woodwinds

Detailed description: This is the musical notation for the Piano part. It consists of two staves. The right hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth and sixteenth notes. The left hand plays a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes. The dynamics are marked as pianissimo (*pp*). The performance instruction is 'behind woodwinds'.

6

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.



11

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

17

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

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22

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

SOLO

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

A Andante rubato (♩=70), pensive

26

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

A Andante rubato (♩=70), pensive

Pno.

p pensive

pedal ad lib.



Slower (♩=55)
No sense of meter

poco rit.

30

A. Fl.

SOLO

p folkly, airy, a la shakuhachi,
quasi improvised, with quick embellishments

gl.

Ob.

Cl.

Slower (♩=55)
No sense of meter

poco rit.

Pno.

33 **Andante** (♩=70) with air attacks

A. Fl. *pp*

Ob.

Cl. *pp*

Pno. *p*

B

37

A. Fl. *pp*
SOLO Independently,
slower than others (♩=60)

Ob. *p* freely, folkly, with quick embellishments, quasi improvised

Cl. *pp*

B

Pno. *pp*

40 **poco accel.**

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

p more intense

poco accel.

p more intense

42

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

p more intense

C ♩=80

45

A. Fl. *pp* *gliss.* 1/2 *pp*

Ob. *pp* *gliss.* 1/2 *pp*

Cl. *mp* *freely, folkly, with quick embellishments, quasi improvised*

Independently, slower than others (♩=60)

C ♩=80

Pno.

48

A. Fl. *pp* *gliss.* 1/2 *pp* *gliss.* 1/2

Ob. *pp* *gliss.* 1/2 *pp* *gliss.* 1/2

Cl.

Pno.

poco accel.

51

A. Fl. *pp* *gliss.* $\frac{1}{2}$

Ob. *pp* *gliss.* $\frac{1}{2}$

Cl. *pp*

Pno. *pp* *gliss.* $\frac{1}{2}$

poco accel.



D Moderato ($\text{♩}=90$),
dark and tenseful

55

A. Fl. *mp* tenseful

Ob.

Cl. (accent with breath) *mp* tenseful

D Moderato ($\text{♩}=90$),
dark and tenseful

Pno. *mp*

60

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp

gliss.

1/2



E Rhythmic, very steady

64

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

mp rhythmic, dirty

airy, overblow to harmonics ad lib.

p cantabile but rhythmic

E Rhythmic, very steady

lift exactly on off-beats

mf p

pp

p

8vb

69

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

8vb

8vb



72

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

flz.

subp

flz.

subp

8vb

8vb

8vb

F

76 as before

A. Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mp cantabile but rhythmic*

Cl. *mp*

Pno. *p*

mp

79 flz.

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

G

82 as before

A. Fl. *f*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

G

Pno. *mf*

(2) (3) (4)



86

A. Fl. *p* *f*

Ob.

Cl.

to overblow, jump to harmonics

Pno. (5) (6)

89

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

p *f* *p* *f*

(2) (3) (4)

FOR PRACTICE USE ONLY

92

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

p *f* *subp*

subp

subp

(5)

subp

accel.

accel.

FOR PRACTICE USE ONLY

96

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

f

100

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

H Andante rubato (♩=70), pensive

air attacks

subp

subp

subp pensive

poco rit.

Each one independently
Woodwinds slightly slower than piano

105 **I**

A. Fl. start a few notes after clarinet
p freely, like echo of oboe and clarinet

Ob. *p* freely

Cl. start a few notes after oboe
p freely, like echo of oboe

Each one independently
Woodwinds slightly slower than piano

I

Pno. *pp*



ends last
after clarinet

107

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

woodwinds end after piano

The musical score for measures 107-110 features four staves. The A. Fl. staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 7-measure rest. It contains a melodic line with slurs and a *gl.* (glissando) marking. The Ob. staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with slurs. The Cl. staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with slurs. The Pno. staff has a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and contains a piano accompaniment with slurs. The woodwinds end after the piano part. A large red watermark 'FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY' is overlaid on the page.

II

Tangled web of worries (♩=80)

(feel in 15/16: 4+4+4+3)

A. Fl. **p** blurry, all woodwinds balanced

(feel in 9/8: 3+2+4)

Ob. **p** blurry, all woodwinds balanced

(feel in 5/4: 3+2)

Cl. **p** blurry, all woodwinds balanced

Tangled web of worries (♩=80)

Pno. **pp** behind woodwinds

6

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

FOR PUPUSAL USE ONLY



11

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

FOR PUPUSAL USE ONLY

17 SOLO poco rit.

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

poco rit.

21 rit.

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

rit.

A Andante (♩=70) molto rubato
With a heavy heart

25 2+3

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

(rhythmically complete piano's line)

p

A Andante (♩=70) molto rubato
With a heavy heart

2+3

Pno.

pp

(accelerating) (cl.)

bell-like

etc.

29

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp *p* *p*

33

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp *mp* *p*

p *pvc* *p*

pp

==

37

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp *mp* *p*

p

p

40

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp *p*

p *pp*



43

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp *p*

SOLO
non vib.

mf wailing, experiment
with rough timbres
throughout this solo

pp

45 **B**

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

f

vib.

(accelerating)

7:8

gradually to... → air only

p

p freely, don't align with others

48

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp

3

5

air only

air

p

6:4 6:4

52

A. Fl. *pp* *p* *6:4* *6:4*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *air* *air* *air only*

Pno.

56

A. Fl. *pp* *pp* *flz.*

Ob. *non vib.* *vib.* *painful*

Cl. *p* *mp*

Pno.

60 ord.

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

p

painful

pp

63

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

p

rubato

mf

7:8

rubato

C A tempo (♩=70) (woodwinds don't have to exactly align with piano)

65

A. Fl. *mf cantabile, freely* rit. *p*

Ob. *cantabile, freely* *p*

Cl. *mf cantabile, freely* *p*

C A tempo (♩=70) (woodwinds don't have to exactly align with piano)

Pno. *mf* (slowing down) *p* 5:4

half pedal

67 A tempo rit.

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno. A tempo rit. *mf* *p* 5:4

etc.

69 **A tempo** **rit.**

A. Fl. *mf* *p*

Ob. *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p*

Pno. *mp* *pp* 5:4

71 **A tempo** **rit.**

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno. *mp* *pp* 5:4

A tempo **rit.**

73

A. Fl. *p* 3 3

Ob. *p* 3 3

Cl. *p* 3 3

A tempo **rit.**

Pno. *p* 5:4 3



75 **A tempo** **rit.**

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

A tempo **rit.**

Pno. *p* 5:4 3

D Each one independently

Slightly faster than piano

A. Fl. $\frac{8}{16}$ *pp* blurry, behind piano

Ob. $\frac{7}{8}$

Slightly faster than piano

Cl. $\frac{7}{4}$ *pp* blurry, behind piano

Repeat 3 more times

D Each one independently

Pno. *p*

8^{vb}

r.h.

A. Fl. $\frac{8}{16}$

Ob. $\frac{7}{8}$

Cl. $\frac{7}{4}$

Pno. *Rit. (only piano)* *A tempo*

5:6

l.h.

(8)

81 **molto rit.**

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

ppp

(8)

E All together (♩=70), **molto rubato**

83

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp

pp

SOLO

(accelerating)

pp melancholy with a smile

pp deep

air attacks

air only

5

(8)

86

air attacks

5

air only

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

8va---1

89

air attacks

5

air only

gradually

air only

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

8va---1

3

III

Tangled web of worries (♩=80)

(feel in 9/8: 3+2+4)

1

A. Fl. *p* blurry, all woodwinds balanced

(feel in 15/16: 4+4+4+3)

Ob. *p* blurry, all woodwinds balanced

(feel in 5/4: 3+2)

Cl. *p* blurry, all woodwinds balanced

Tangled web of worries (♩=80)

Pno. *pp* behind woodwinds

6

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

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11

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

SOLO

FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY

17

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

p

pp *p*

1/4

24

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

A Moderato (♩=100)
Dark and heavy

p 5

mf dark and heavy

8^{vb}

tremolo
while glissing

28

A. Fl. *f* rough, fast vibrato *mf* *gliss.*

Ob. *f* rough, fast vibrato *mf*

Cl. flz. *f* *f*

Pno.

32

A. Fl. *f* *mf* *gliss.*

Ob. *f* *mf* *pp*

Cl. *mf* ord. *pp* like wind *mp*

Pno.

36

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

f

mp

mf

3

3

3

8vb

39

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

to overblow,
jump to harmonics

f

mp

rit.

3

5

5

13

rit.

B Più mosso (♩=120)

A. Fl. *mf* flz. / growl

Ob. *mf* flz. / growl

Cl. *pp cantabile*

B Più mosso (♩=120)

Pno. *p*



A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno. *8va*

44 ord. flz. / growl

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

46

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 44, 45, and 46. It features four staves: A. Fl., Ob., Cl., and Pno. In measure 44, the A. Fl. and Ob. parts are marked 'ord.' and 'flz. / growl', with long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes. The Cl. part has a series of eighth notes with slurs. The Pno. part has a right-hand staff with triplets of eighth notes and a left-hand staff with sustained chords. Measure 45 continues these patterns. Measure 46 shows the A. Fl. and Ob. parts with sustained notes, while the Cl. part continues with eighth notes. The Pno. part continues with triplets in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 46. A large red watermark 'FOR PERUSAL USE ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.



Meno mosso (♩=100)
Molto rubato

55

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.



Meno mosso (♩=100)
Molto rubato

Pno.

p sorrowful



59

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp ————— *p* simple and beautiful

pp ————— *p* simple and beautiful

pp ————— *p* simple and beautiful

63

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp

pp

pp



68

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

71

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

pp

76

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

D Moderato (♩=110)
Broad and heavy

p

D Moderato (♩=110)
Broad and heavy

f broad and heavy

8^{vb}

79

overblown/growl
ad lib.

A. Fl. *p* *fugly* *f*

Ob. *p* *fugly* *f*

Cl. *p* *rhythmic* *mf*

Pno. *mf*

82

tremolo while glissing

A. Fl. *gliss.* *f*

Ob. *p* *f*

Cl. *p*

Pno.

accel. ♩=120

A. Fl. 86 *gliss.* *p* 3 3

Ob. *p* 3 3 3 3

Cl. *p* 3 3 3 3

accel. ♩=120

Pno. *mf* *subp* *ominous* 3 8vb

A. Fl. 89 *f* 3 3 *growl*

Ob. *f* 3 3 *growl*

Cl. *f* 3 3 *growl*

Pno. *f*

92

A. Fl. (growl) *f*

Ob. (growl) *f*

Cl. (growl) *f*

Pno. *f*

(8) 8^{vb}

94

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno. *subp* rit.

E **Meno mosso** (♩=100)
Molto rubato

air attacks
while glissing

A. Fl. *ord.*
p sorrowful
gliss.
pp

Ob. *SOLO ord.*
mf sorrowful

Cl. *ord.*
p sorrowful

E **Meno mosso** (♩=100)
Molto rubato

Pno.



A. Fl. *simile*
gliss.

Ob. *p* *compassionate*

Cl.

Pno.

106

A. Fl. *gliss.*

Ob. *pp*

Cl.

Pno.

109

A. Fl. *rit.* ... *ATTACCA* *pp*

Ob. *ppp*

Cl. *ppp*

Pno. *p* ... *ppp*

IV

A beam of light (♩=110)

1 SOLO

A. Fl. *p* warm and hopeful

Ob.

Cl. *pp* *simile*

Pno. *pp* like echo *simile*

6

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

11

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

15

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

(rit.)

lamenting

ppp

(rit.)

A Andante (♩=65)

18

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

rit. . .

A Andante (♩=65)

Pno.

p lamenting

pp

8vb

rit. . .

B Moderato (♩=90)

22

duet with oboe

A. Fl.

pp precious, lighter

duet with flute

Ob.

pp precious, lighter

Cl.

B Moderato (♩=90)

Pno.

pp lighter

26

A. Fl. *poco a poco cresc.*

Ob. *poco a poco cresc.*

Cl. *pp* *espress.*

Pno.

30

A. Fl. *espress.*

Ob. *espress.*

Cl. *3* *3*

Pno.

C Andante (♩=65)

34

A. Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Pno. *pp*

rit.



D ♩=80 accel. Moderato con moto (♩=90)

38

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno. *ppp*

p light and gentle

(8)-----

42 **molto accel.**

A. Fl.

Ob. *pp* (feel in 9/4: 3+2+4)

Cl.

Pno. **molto accel.**

46 (feel in 5/2: 3+2)

A. Fl. *p*

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

E ♩=160 (♩=80)

50

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

pp

E ♩=160 (♩=80)

Pno.

p

(feel in 15/8: 4+4+4+3)

54

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

rit. (only piano) -----

Pno.

ppp

59

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

This block contains the musical score for measures 59 through 63. It features three staves for woodwinds: A. Fl. (Alto Flute), Ob. (Oboe), and Cl. (Clarinet). The A. Fl. part includes triplets and slurs. The Ob. part has slurs and accents. The Cl. part features sixteenth-note patterns with slurs and accents. The Pno. (Piano) part is silent, indicated by a double bar line and a brace. A large red watermark 'FOR PERSAL USE ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

64

A. Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Pno.

sudden stop

pp

sudden stop

pp

sudden stop

pp

This block contains the musical score for measures 64 through 68. It features the same three woodwind staves as the previous block. The A. Fl. part ends with a 'sudden stop' and a *pp* dynamic. The Ob. part also ends with a 'sudden stop' and a *pp* dynamic. The Cl. part ends with a 'sudden stop' and a *pp* dynamic. The Pno. part remains silent. A double bar line is present at the beginning of this section. A large red watermark 'FOR PERSAL USE ONLY' is overlaid diagonally across the page.