

Ben Morris

for the Boulder Altitude Directive (B.A.D.) Ensemble

A (Short) Story of Earth



for piccolo/alto flute/flute, clarinet in B_b/
bass clarinet in B_b, violin, violoncello,
piano, and percussion

© October 2019

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A (Short) Story of Earth

for piccolo/alto flute/flute, clarinet in B_b/
bass clarinet in B_b, violin, violoncello,
piano, and percussion

Total Duration: ca. 10'20"

Program Note

Inspired by Robert M. Hazen's nonfiction book The Story of Earth: The First 4.5 Billion Years, from Stardust to Living Planet, *A (Short) Story of Earth* throws together the formation of the earth and moon, five ice ages, the evolution of life, five mass extinctions, the age of the dinosaurs, and the age of man in about 10 minutes.

Percussion List

Mounted guiro, mounted tambourine, kick drum (muted with towels), xylophone, tam-tam, bass drum, kitchen pots and pans (4), clay pots (3), vibraphone, splash cymbal, glockenspiel, suspended cymbal

Percussion Notation Key

kick drum	metal pots and pans (4)	clay flower pots (3)	mounted guiro	mounted tamb.	splash cymbal
		center rim/edge			✕

The diagram shows a five-line staff with various percussion symbols. Above the staff, labels are connected to the symbols by lines. The labels are: 'kick drum' (vertical bar), 'metal pots and pans (4)' (solid black dot), 'clay flower pots (3)' (circle with a dot), 'mounted guiro' (x), 'mounted tamb.' (triangle), and 'splash cymbal' (crossed circle). Below the staff, the symbols are: a vertical bar, a solid black dot, a circle with a dot, a circle with a dot, an x, an x, an x, an x, a triangle, and a crossed circle.

A (Short) Story of Earth

for piccolo/alto flute/flute, clarinet in B \flat /bass clarinet in B \flat , violin, cello, percussion, and piano fl.t.

Ben Morris
(b. 1993)

Transposed Score

Chaotic, wild $\text{♩} = 92$

Picc. *pp* *ffp* bring out overtones

Bass Clarinet in B \flat *pp* *ff* *pp*

Violin *pp* *ffp* *ff* *ffp*

Violoncello *pp* *ffp* *ff* *ffp*

Percussion (guiro) *ff* *ff* (mute kick with towels) *To Xyl.*

Piano *ff* earth-shattering *ffp* *loco* *ffp*

Picc. *ff* *pp*

Bs. Cl. *ff* *ffp* *ff*

Vln. *ff* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *ff*

Perc. (Xyl.) *pp* *ff* *ff*

Pno. *ff*

5

Picc. *ff* *ffp* *f*

Bs. Cl. *sfz sempre*

Vln. *ffp* *ff* 6 6 6

Vc. *ffp* (k.d.+tb.) *sfz sempre*

Perc.

Pno. *ff* *loco* *sfz* *8va*

7

Picc. *p* *fp* *fp* *f* *fp*

Bs. Cl. 3

Vln. *ffp* *ff* 7 *ffp*

Vc. *ff* *spicc.* 3 5 5 5 *ffp* *ffp* *ff*

Perc.

Pno. *loco* 3

9 *tr* *overblow at the octave* **A**

Picc. *ff* 7 7 7

Bs. Cl. 6 6 *sfz sempre*

Vln. *ff* *sfz sempre*

Vc. 6 7 *sfz sempre* *ffp*

Perc. Xylophone *p* 3 6 7 *ffp* *f* (k.d. + tb.)

Pno. *ffp* *f*

11 *tr* *ffp*

Picc. 3 *ffp*

Bs. Cl. 3 *ff*

Vln. *ff* 3 6 6

Vc. *ffp* *ff espress.* 6 (guiro)

Perc. 3 (guiro)

Pno. 3 7 9 10 *8^{va}*

13 *ffp* *bring out overtones* *f*

Bs. Cl. 6 6 7 7

Vln. *ffp* *ff* 3 7

Vc. 3 *fp* *gliss.*

Perc. (Xyl.) Xylophone 3 3 *ffp*

Pno. (8) *crazy* *double-handed gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

B fall away from pitch

15 *sfz sempre* *sfz sempre* *sfz sempre* *sfz sempre* *ff loco* *ff* (guiro)

Picc. *sfz sempre* 3

Bs. Cl. *sfz sempre*

Vln. *sfz sempre* 3

Vc. *gliss.* *sfz sempre*

Perc. (Xyl.) *ff* *loco* *ff* (guiro)

Pno. *ff loco* *ff* 3

17

Picc. *ffp* *ff* fl. t. fall away

Bs. Cl. *f* *ffp* *ffp* *ff*

Vln. *ffp* *ffp* *ff*

Vc. *ffp* *ff*

Perc. (k.d. + tb.)

Pno.

19

Picc.

Bs. Cl.

Vln. fall away

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

molto rit.

C meno mosso ♩=84

Picc. *pp* 7 *ffp* *ffp* fl.t.

Bs. Cl. *p* 3 6 6 6 *ff* *pp sub ffp* bring out overtones (like didgeridoo)

Vln. ord. *ffp* *molto s.p.* *ord.* *ffp* *ffp* senza vib.

Vc. *ffp* *ord.* *molto s.p.* *ord.* *ffp* *ffp* *gloss.*

Perc. *ff* *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Picc. *ffp* fl.t. *ffp* *ffp* (ord.) *ffp* //

Bs. Cl. *ff* *pp* *sub ffp* *ff* *pp* *sub ff* //

Vln. *ffp* *ffp* *ffp* *ffp* //

Vc. *ffp* *ffp* *ffp* *ffp* //

Perc. To T.-t. //

Pno. *sim.* 7 3 3 7 3 3 7 3 3 //

ped. sim.

Cataclysmic

10"

12"

rit.

5"

7"

5"

7"

5"

7"

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7"

D

E

Picc. *fff* decay naturally with breath

Bs. Cl. *fff* decay naturally with breath

Vln. *fff* decay with piano low C

Vc. *fff* decay with piano

Perc. (T.-t.) *f* dampen along with tutti dim. and piano resonance

Pno. *ffff* l.v.

Bass Drum (while tam tam is still ringing)

(bass drum rings through caesura)

To B. D. to metal pots and pans

ppp like a distant rumble

slow roll

pp icy and alone, freely

(piano rings through caesura)

una corda

ppp slowly, *una corda*, like a distant rumble

slow trill

Quirky

12"

space proportionally, interact with percussion and piano in between gaps

Picc. *ppp* as short as possible, sparkling, in the background

Clarinet in B \flat

Vln.

Vc.

Perc. with rods, space proportionally, interact with piccolo and piano in between gaps

metal pots and pans (4)

clay flower pots (3)

p freely, like debris floating in space

interact with piccolo and perc. in between gaps

8va applies to both staves until F

like debris floating in space

slowly release pedal - half pedal to no pedal

10"

rit.

28

Picc.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

senza ped.

F Clarinet, violin, and cello with conductor ♩ = ca. 68 ca. 20"

29

Picc.

pp in background, play in gaps between tune
senza vib. → con vib.

B♭ Cl.

pp → mf
s.t., senza vib. → ord. vib.
w/ cello + violin

Vln.

pp → mf folksy, bring out slides
s.t., senza vib. → ord. vib.
w/ clarinet + violin

Vc.

pp → mf folksy, bring out slides
clay flower pots (wait until after piano gesture)

Perc.

pp in background

Pno.

pp in background
loco
8va

(senza ped.)

rit. ca. 12"

34

Picc. To A. Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln. jazzy bend

Vc. p

Perc. (wait for piano) To Vib. f

Pno. 8va

Vibraphone (soft/yarn mallets) ppp

38

G Primordial, icy ♩=44

A. Fl. senza vib. ppp con vib. emerging - mf solo

B♭ Cl. senza vib. ppp

Vln. senza vib., flaut., rebow as needed ppp

Vc. senza vib., flaut., rebow as needed ppp

Vib. mp mf

Pno. p 8va ppp

46 **H**

A. Fl. *lyrical* 3 *pp*

B♭ Cl. *n* *ppp*

Vln. *n* *ppp* *gliss.*

Vc. *n* *ppp* *gliss.*

Vib. *pp* (pedal on chord changes) *8va*

Pno. (p) 6 *freely* *loco*

(8) -----

50

A. Fl. *mf* 3 *fp*

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib. *mf* *p*

Pno. *8va* *loco* *tre corde*

56 *overblow octave* **I** **poco accel.** (no trill)

A. Fl. *mf* *f* *ff* *n*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *f* *ffp* *n*

Vln. *mf* *f* *ffp* *f* *lyrical, espress.* *ffp*

Vc. *ffp* *ord., ord. vib.* *ord., ord. vib.*

Vib. *mf* *p* *f* *splash cymbal*

Pno. *sub pp* *ff* *pp*

Più mosso ♩=52

61 *jet whistle*

A. Fl. *ffp* *ff*

B♭ Cl. *ffp* *ff* *fp* *fp*

Vln. *ffp* *ffp* *sfz sempre* *fp*

Vc. *ffp* *ff* *ffp*

Dr. *ff* *sub pp*

Pno. *ff* *sub pp*

poco accel.

jet whistle

63

A. Fl. *fp* *f* *f* *sfz sempre*

B♭ Cl. *fp* *f* *3 sfz sempre*

Vln. *fp* *f* *3 sfz sempre*

Vc. *ffp* *ffp* *ffp* *f*

Dr. *ffp* *ffp* *ffp* *f*

Pno. *ff* *ff* *sub pp*

ord. → m.s.p. ord.

To Vib.

5

6

8

66

A. Fl. *f* *f* *fp*

B♭ Cl. *f* *3* *3* *3* *3* *5* *3* *3* *3*

Vln. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Vc. *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *ffp* *sfz vigorous*

Vib. *f* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *3* *ff* *sfz*

Pno. *ff* *sub pp* *ff* *sub pp* *sfz vigorous*

loco

8

poco rit.

68 *To Picc.* *Picc.*

A. Fl. *f* *n* *p*

B♭ Cl. *fp* *fp* *f*

Vln. *f* *5*

Vc. *f* *fp* *f* *5* *6* *0* *0*

Vib. *pp* *f* Φ to tb. + splash + k.d.

Pno. *fpp* *fpp*

K Exploding and dissipating $\text{♩} = 72$ *rit.*

70 *etc., trailing off* *etc., trailing off*

Picc. *ff* *p*

B♭ Cl. *ff* *p*

Vln. *ffp*

Vc. *ff* *pp*

Perc. *ff* *To Vib.*

Pno. *ff earth-shattering* *7* *7* *7* *7* *8va* *loco* *8va*

8th $\frac{7}{8}$

71 **rit.** $\text{♩} = 54$ place freely within bar $\text{♩} = 44$ To C Fl. **G.P.** //

Picc. ppp place freely within bar **pp** bisbig. n //

B♭ Cl. ppp pp n //

Vln. f p n III. //

Vc. f p n IV. //

Perc. ppp p ppp To T.-t. l.r. through G.P. //

Pno. p l.r. through G.P. //

(8th)

75 **L** $\text{♩} = 72$ **Like rays of light**

Picc. p fp *senza vib.* //

B♭ Cl. p fp *senza vib.* //

Vln. p fp *senza vib.* //

Vc. pp mp pp *flaut.* //

T.-t. pp mp *Tam-tam* *To Vib.* *Vibraphone (with slow motor)* //

Pno. *loco* p *una corda* //

81

Fl. *p* *fp* *mf* *p* *fp*

B♭ Cl. *n* *p* *fp* *p* *fp*

Vln. *mf* *p* *fp* *p* *fp*

Vc. *mf* *p* *fp* *p* *fp*

Vib. *8va*

Pno. *poco accel.*

85

Fl. *p* *fp* *p* *fp* *f* *p* *fp*

B♭ Cl. *p* *fp* *f* *p* *fp*

Vln. *p* *fp* *p* *fp*

Vc. *ord.* *mf solo. espress., folksy*

Vib. *loco* *8va*

Pno. *f* *p* *f*

M Più mosso ♩=76

poco accel.

89

Fl. *ord. vib.* *fp* *mf* *f*

B♭ Cl. *p* *fp* *mf* *f*

Vln. *ord. vib.* *p* *fp* *sfz* *sfz* *gliss.* *gliss.*

Vc. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

Vib. *mf* *f* to clay pots, kick, and splash

Pno. *mf* *f*

M Più mosso ♩=80

molto rit.

93

Fl. *sfz* *sfz* *fp*

B♭ Cl. *sfz* *sfz* *fp*

Vln. *sfz* *sfz* *gliss.* *gliss.* *fp*

Vc. *sfz* *sfz* *gliss.* *gliss.* *fp*

Perc. *f* clay pots splash

Pno. *8vb* *loco* *8vb*

Musical score for measures 96-100. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Fl.:** *ff* throughout.
- B♭ Cl.:** *ff* throughout.
- Vln.:** *ff* *molto vib.* in measures 96-97, *con vib.* in measure 99.
- Vc.:** *ff* *molto vib.* in measures 96-97, *pp* in measure 98, *f* *ord. vib.* in measure 99, *pp* *sim.* in measure 100.
- Perc.:** *ff* in measures 96-97, *metal pot* in measure 98.
- Pno.:** *ff* throughout.

Measure 100 includes a circled *pp* dynamic marking.

Musical score for measures 101-104. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.).

- Fl.:** *f* in measures 101-102, *mp* in measure 104.
- B♭ Cl.:** *f* in measures 101-102, *mp* in measure 104.
- Vln.:** *mf* *senza vib.* in measures 101-102, *flaut.* in measures 103-104.
- Vc.:** *mf* *senza vib.* in measures 101-102, *pp* in measure 103, *p* in measure 104.
- Perc.:** *mf* in measures 101-102, *f* in measure 103, *To Glock.* in measure 104.
- Pno.:** *mf* in measures 101-102, *p* in measure 104.

Measure 104 includes a circled *p* dynamic marking.

poco accel.

106

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

p

spicc.

n

8va



O Mechanical ♩ = ca. 120 *poco accel.*

110

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

3

3

8

15^{ma}

P Sparkling ♩ = 136

poco accel.

Musical score for measures 113-116. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Glockenspiel (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is Sparkling ♩ = 136, with a poco accel. marking. The dynamics are *mf secco* for Flute, Bass Clarinet, and Violin, and *mp secco* for Percussion and Piano. The Glockenspiel part is marked *ppp*. The score features sixteenth-note patterns and sixteenth-note chords in the woodwinds and strings.

Musical score for measures 117-120. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Glockenspiel (Glock.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature has one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 2/4. The tempo is ♩ = 156. The dynamics are *f* for Flute, Bass Clarinet, and Piano, and *ff sharp* for Glockenspiel and Viola. The score features triplet patterns in the woodwinds and strings, and a five-note chord in the Glockenspiel.

120

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Glock.

Pno.

122

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Glock.

Pno.

Q Settle back into groove ♩ = 136

ff jazzy fall from pitch To Picc.

ff jazzy fall from pitch To bs. cl.

ff *fp* *ord.*

ff high C muted with eraser or putty

gliss. *white key gliss. w/thumb* *p*

125

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Xyl.

Pno.

sul pont. → ord. → con vib.

fp *f* *p*

mounted tambourine Xylophone kick drum

ff

(15)

8^{va} *loco*

f *p* *ff*

129

3+2+2

Piccolo

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

pp *ff*

bend from pitch

Bass Clarinet in B♭

5 6

pp *ff*

I. *sfz* *sfz* *fp* *ff*

II. *harmonic gliss.*

pitchless fiddle chop - "chicharra"

Guiro Kick drum and mounted tambourine

ff 3

ff

133 (3+2+2)

Picc. *pp* *ff* *pp*

B. Cl.

Vln. *fp* *ff* *fp* *harmonic gliss.* I. II.

Vc.

Perc. *ff* *ff*

Pno.

137

Picc. *ff* *pp* *ff*

B. Cl.

Vln. *ff* *fp* *ff* *harmonic gliss.*

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

141

Picc. *p* 5 6

B. Cl. *sub p*

Vln. *p* *fp* *sfz*

Vc. *sub p* *gliss.*

Perc. splash cymbal (with mallets) *pp* *f*

Pno. *sub p*

T Soaring ♩ = 128

144

Picc. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

B. Cl. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vln. *fp* *fp* *f* *fp*

Vc. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Perc. To Glock. Glockenspiel *f*

Pno. *f* *grv* *loco* *grv*

148

Picc. *p* *f* *p*

B. Cl. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vln. *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vc. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *f* *gliss.*

Glock. *p*

Pno. *sva* *loco*

152

Picc. *f* *fp* *(p)* *fp* *f* *p*

B. Cl. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *bend*

Vln. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *p*

Vc. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *gliss.* *gliss.*

Glock. *f* *p*

Pno. *sva* *loco*

156 *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *poco accel.*

Picc. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

B. Cl. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vln. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Vc. *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Glock. *f* *ff*

Pno. *gliss.*

Guero

U Grooving ♩ = 136

160 *ff* *pp* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Picc. *ff* *pp* *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Vln. *ff* *fp* *ff* *1. harmonic gliss.*

Vc. *ff*

Perc. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

molto accel.

164

Picc. *p*

B. Cl.

Vln. *pp*

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

167

Picc. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Vln. *sfz sempre* *ff*

Vc. *sfz sempre* *ffp*

Perc.

Pno.

169 *spiraling* random ascending chromatic notes

Picc.

B. Cl. *spiraling* random ascending chromatic notes

Vln. *spiraling* random ascending chromatic notes

Vc. *spiraling* random ascending chromatic notes

Perc. *ff*

Pno.

171 **W** highest notes possible Sudden // Out of time ♩ = ca. 88 rit. //

Picc. highest notes possible

B. Cl. highest notes possible subtone die out with piano *pp*

Vln. highest notes possible // *sotto voce* die out with piano

Vc. highest notes possible // *sotto voce* die out with piano

Perc. Bass Drum // *fff secco* suspended cymbal To Vib. (swipe with triangle beater) Vibraphone *sotto voce* *pp*

Pno. // *pizz.* 3 *f a question mark* // *p* 1.r.

8th