

# Ben Morris

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*Commissioned by Dakota Corbliss and Matthew Castner*

## Outdoor Warnings



for alto saxophone, horn in F,  
and fixed media

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Ben Morris Music

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for alto saxophone, horn in F,  
and fixed media

**Total Duration:** ca. 6'45"

## Program Note

*Outdoor Warnings* is based on a variety of different outdoor warnings from natural to artificial sources, including elk bugles, coyote calls, throat singing, Islamic calls to prayer, bicycle bells, protests, phone calls, and nuclear warning alarms. The horn and alto saxophone interface freely and expressively with these sampled sounds, creating a dark and foreboding sonic landscape. The piece is inspired by two outdoor sounds in particular—one is the outdoor warning system alarm in Boulder, Colorado, which woke me up one spring morning at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. The second is the haunting call of an elk bull, which I had heard when recently travelling to Rocky Mountain National Park. The sounds reminded me of each other, although the function of each sound is drastically different. I thought that both sounds, when combined, perfectly encapsulated the collective fear everyone was experiencing at the outbreak.

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Transposed Score

(rhythms do not need to line up precisely. Rhythms are relative)

**A siren**

3" 0:03 3" 0:06 10"

Alto Saxophone: smooth bend, senza vib. *pp* *f* *p* *f*

Horn in F: free, smooth half-valve gliss. *pp* *f* *pp*

Fixed Media: siren sound *n* *mf*

elk call *elk* sample pitches (intonation varies—it is your choice to match or let clash)

0:16 10" 0:26 10" 0:36 4"

Alto Sax.: *p* *mf* *n* *pp f s. pp < f*

Hn.: *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

F.M.: (donkey sample)

**A** 0:40 10" 0:50 10"

Alto Sax.: con vib. *sub. p* senza vib. half-valve bend *p*

Hn.: *p*

F.M.: wolf call *elk* *gliss.*

2

1:00 10" 1:10 10" 1:20 13"

Alto Sax. 9

Hn.

F.M.

wolf call

mf

p

n

mf

p

ppp

n

1:33 7" 1:40 10" 1:50 10" 2:00 23"

**B**

Alto Sax. 12

Hn.

F.M.

(donkey sample)

clk

wubbing, swelling synth bass

adhan, baby seal call, chirping squirrel, etc.

n

mf

n

p

mf

ppp

n

mf

**C** 2:23 *patiently, free* 30"

Alto Sax. 16

Hn.

F.M.

etc., interactive adhan

cresc. continued

molto vib.

mf *espress.*

**D** 2:53 30"

Alto Sax. 17

Hn.

F.M.

throat singing entering

ppp

multiphonic (sing and play), breathe as required

**E** 16" 3:23 3:39 3

Alto Sax. *f*

Hn. *f*

F.M. throat singing entering

**F** Pointillistic, a frantic riot, a sudden burst of activity 10" 3:42 gestures as fast as possible, with gaps

Alto Sax. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ffp* *ff* *ffp*

Hn. *ff* *ffp*

F.M. loud protest etc.

**G** 3:52 accel. 6"

Alto Sax. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Hn. *ff* *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

F.M.

**H** 3:58 6" cut off abruptly with track 4:04 7" 4:11 breathe as required senza vib. 30" molto vib.

Alto Sax. *ffp* *fff* *n* *ff*

Hn. *ffp* *fff*

F.M. accel, getting more intense w/ tea kettle teapot fx elk call (reiterated) cell phone cacophony building underneath

**I** 4:41 4:46 **Freely, with a biting force** ♩ = ca. 60 30"

4

Alto Sax. *ff sempre espress.*

Hn. *mf* *ff cuivre, sempre espress.*

F.M. *crash and kick drum, sirens, riot, bass notes*

24

free, smooth half-valve gliss.

*gliss.*

*ffp* *ff* *ffp*

**J** 5:16 30"

Alto Sax. *ff* *ffp* *ff* *ffp* *ff* *ffp*

Hn. *ff* *ffp* *ff* *ffp* *ff* *ffp*

F.M.

26

*gliss.*

**K** 5:46 20" rit. senza vib.

Alto Sax. *p*

Hn. *p*

F.M. *alarms, sirens fading out*

27

*wispy, pinched* 10" 6:27 10" 6:37 6:06 11" 6:17 6:54 (end)

Alto Sax. *pp* *mf* *n*

Hn. *pp* *mf* *p* *n*

F.M. *high elk notes* *fading coyote notes*

28

*gliss.*

breathe as required

*n*