

Subside

Paul Burnell

This work was written in February 2004 in response to a call for pieces on the theme of *The Four Temperaments*. This was part of COMA's *Open Score* project, made possible with funds from the Esmée Fairbairn and PRS Foundations.

Subside

(from choleric to phlegmatic and back again)

Paul Burnell

for flexible ensemble and percussion

duration 5'53" approx.

Technical notes

Percussion is essential, with the choice of instruments left to the discretion of the player(s) using the score directions as a guide. The percussionists play on the 2nd and 4th beats throughout the piece - accenting the 4th beat.

Other instrumentalists are divided between Parts 1 - 4. The composer will provide parts for each instrument in any transposition - though it should be possible for instruments in C to read from the score.

The size of the ensemble is not indicated, but ideally there should be enough players to allow for a reduction in the number of people playing 2 bars before letter D, and a further reduction to solo instruments 6 bars before letter E. However, this guidance can be ignored and the piece played by quite a small group; for example - violin, piano and percussion, or organ and percussion.

If flutes and violins play part 1 - the flutes may play an octave higher than written until letter A, and the violins may play tremolando until letter A.

Keyboard players can play combinations of all parts. In addition, or alternatively, the keyboard players may double parts 3 and 4 an octave lower than written where indicated by brackets in the score.

The allocation of instruments to the parts is left to the discretion of the musical director / performers - but should take account of the dynamic markings and expression indications.

The dynamic markings in the score apply to all the parts.

The last 2 bars of the piece are played 5 times in total.

Programme note

'Subside' outlines a slow mood change from controlled violent anger to tenderness, then a sudden flip back to anger again.

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duration 6 minutes approx

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Untuned percussion as indicated, on 2nd & 4th beats throughout (4th beat accented)

Pt 1: Flutes 8ve higher & violins trem until A

(from choleric to phlegmatic and back again)
for flexible ensemble and percussion

Sustained - relentless $\text{♩} = 63$ approx.
perc: metal - clash

Pt 1
Pt 2
Pt 3
Pt 4

ff

f

f

perc: wood & glass

mf

perc: wood & glass

mp

dim. *p*

Calm

Reduce size of ensemble

dim. *pp*

Tender

perc: brush drum skin or paper with fingernails

ff *fff*

Determined

Tutti / perc: metal - clash

x5

Keyboard may double Pts 3 & 4 an 8ve lower where marked with bracket