

Experiment #1

Composed/Arranged by Steve Dekker

Performance Notes:

“Experiment #1” is an original composition written for brass quintet. This composition was inspired by a curiosity to explore the different instrument sounds available in music notation software. As a result, this piece was originally written for synths, keyboards, bass and drums. After completing the piece, I found the sounds and instrumentation lacked warmth and character. Ultimately, I liked the piece and decided the “experiment” would be to score it for brass quintet and see what happens.

There are three basic themes or sections utilized in “Experiment #1.” The themes/sections move from heroic to the contemporary and culminate in a recapitulation of the “hero” theme. An eighth-note ostinato statement acts as a recurring motif connecting each section. The various themes are spread across the quintet with a variety of textures and contrapuntal devices serving to further elevate the composition.

Run time is 4:48.

...Steve Dekker

Experiment #1

(for Brass Quintet)

Steve Dekker (2023)

Heroic ♩ = 84

The first system of the score consists of five staves. From top to bottom, they are: Trumpet 1 (Bb), Trumpet 2 (Bb), Horn (F), Trombone, and Tuba. The music is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. Trumpet 1 and 2 play melodic lines starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Horn, Trombone, and Tuba provide a rhythmic accompaniment with a piano-piano (*pp*) dynamic. The Horn part features a steady eighth-note pattern.

The second system continues the piece with five staves: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The music features more complex melodic lines for the trumpets and horn, including triplets and slurs. The dynamics are primarily piano-piano (*pp*), with some accents. The Trombone and Tuba parts continue their rhythmic accompaniment.

Experiment #1

8

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

mp

p

14

A

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

f

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

p

20

B

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

p

mp

p

mp

p

mp

25

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

p *mp*

30

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

p *mp* *mf*

36

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

f *mf*

Experiment #1

40

Musical score for measures 40-42. The score is for five instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tba. Measure 40 features a half note G4 for Tpt. 1, a whole rest for Tpt. 2, a quarter note G4 for Hn., and a quarter note G2 for Tbn. and Tba. Measure 41 shows more complex rhythmic patterns with eighth and sixteenth notes and slurs. Measure 42 continues the rhythmic complexity with slurs and accents.

43

Musical score for measures 43-45. Measure 43 continues with slurs and accents. Measure 44 features a dynamic marking of **f** (forte) and a box containing the letter **D**. Measure 45 continues with **f** dynamics and complex rhythmic patterns.

46

Musical score for measures 46-48. Measure 46 features a dynamic marking of **f** and complex rhythmic patterns. Measure 47 continues with slurs and accents. Measure 48 concludes the section with a dynamic marking of **f** and complex rhythmic patterns.

Trumpet 1 (Bb)

Experiment #1

(for Brass Quintet)

Steve Dekker (2023)

Heroic ♩ = 84

The musical score is written for Trumpet 1 (Bb) in 4/4 time, with a tempo of Heroic ♩ = 84. The score consists of seven staves of music, each starting with a measure number. The first staff begins with a dynamic of *p* and features a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff starts at measure 6 and includes a four-measure rest. The third staff begins at measure 15 with a dynamic of *f*, followed by a dynamic change to *mp*, and includes a first ending bracket labeled 'A'. The fourth staff starts at measure 21 with a dynamic of *p* that changes to *mp*, and includes a second ending bracket labeled 'B'. The fifth staff begins at measure 26 with a dynamic of *p* that changes to *mp*, then *f*, and finally *mf*, and includes a third ending bracket labeled 'C'. The sixth staff starts at measure 32 with a dynamic of *p* that changes to *mp*, then *f*, and finally *mf*, and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The seventh staff begins at measure 40 and features a series of eighth notes with accents.

44 *f* D

47

51 *mf* *f*

54 *f* *mp* E

59 *pp* *f* *mp* F

64 *mf*

67

70 *f* *p* *mp* *f*

75 G

mp *mf* *pp*

82

p *p*

87

f *ff*

92 G.P. H 4 rall.

p *mp*