for Audrey Morrison

Starlight Images

I. The Metallic Glow of a Midnight Sky
II. Night Flights
III. The Moon Was Weeping for the Sea

Betsy L. Schramm

1991

Performance Notes

Accidentals are valid throughout the measure and are canceled only by another accidental within that measure. The lowest note called for in the piece is a D below the bass clef staff. This requires a tenor trombone with an F-attachment. A tenor trombone should be used for this piece as the timbre of the bass trombone will not be suitable for the upper registers.

I. The Metallic Glow of a Midnight Sky

This movement should be performed as expressively as possible while keeping the rhythms and tempo fairly close to the notated music. The music builds from mm. 1-14 where the first section ends on the high B. Time can be taken at the end of m. 7. The material at m. 15 references the 16th's at m. 4 and should lead to the E-flat at m. 17. M. 18 is questioning and raises the pitch level. M. 20 contrasts this with very secco notes followed by a lyrical passage which "cadences" on the A# of m. 24. M. 25 continues the dramatic build to m. 28. M. 29 interrupts with groups of notes that should be played as fast as possible. M. 30 to the end is a restatement and development of the opening material.

II. Night Flights

This movement exhibits a constant pulse whose groupings of eighths are constantly changing. A slight emphasis at the beginning of slurred groups will help define the rhythmic patterns. Articulations should be strictly observed and although a very dramatic performance will enhance movement, little or no rubato should be used.

III. The Moon was Weeping for the Sea

This movement is a plaintive, wailing lament. At the beginning, the music centers around the lower registers of the trombone, specifically low E. The performer should try to approximate the line (not the timbre) of a human voice singing an ornamented recitative. Mm. 16-19, mm. 62-67, and mm. 75 should be played slightly slower and with great expressiveness. Grace notes should be played before the beat with the principal note falling on the beat.

Dedication

Starlight Images *was completed on January 24, 1991 in London, England, nine days after the Gulf War began. I dedicate the work to all the lives and life that have suffered because of the war. I hope for a world where war will never be an option.*

Program Notes

I am very grateful to Audrey Morrison who premiered this work on June 14, 1991 at the International Trombone Festival in Rochester, New York. This work is in three short movements, each exhibiting a different mood. The first movement uses a sharply articulated, widely-flung motive to develop a lyrical, rising cry which is interrupted by music of a different character. The second movement uses a constant eighth-note pulse whose gropings are constantly changing. Rising lines of longer values augment and develop from the eight-note patterns. The third movement is a plaintive, wailing lament. At the beginning, the music centers around the lower registers of the trombone. The performer approximates the line (not the timbre) of a human voice singing an ornamented recitative.

--Betsy L. Schramm

for Audrey Morrison

Tenor Trombone
with F attachment

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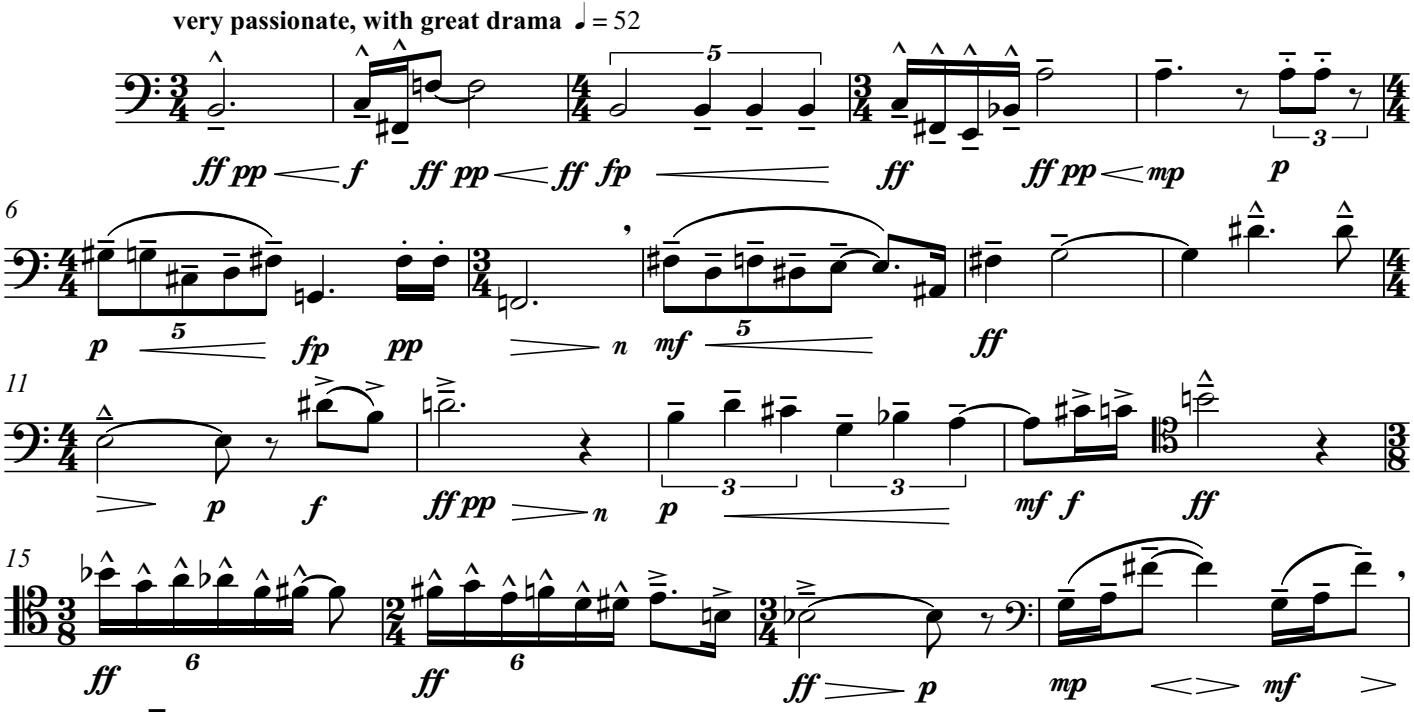
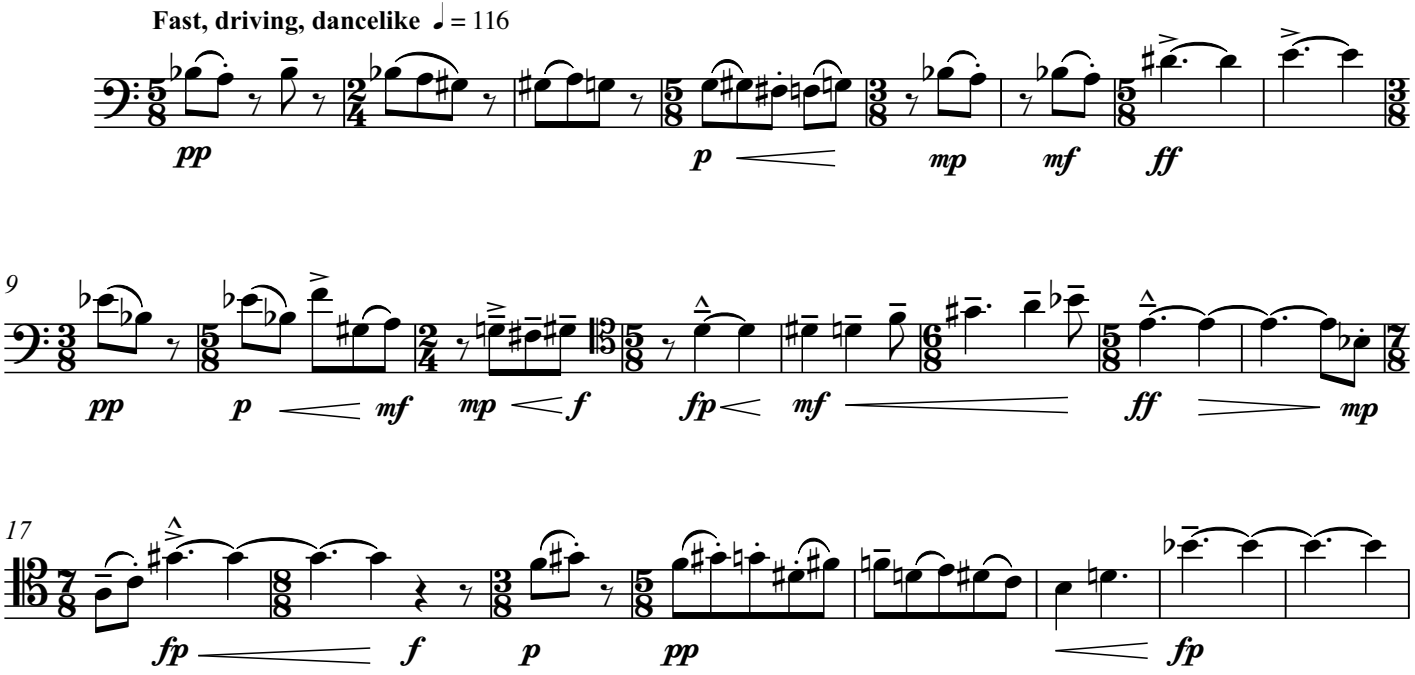
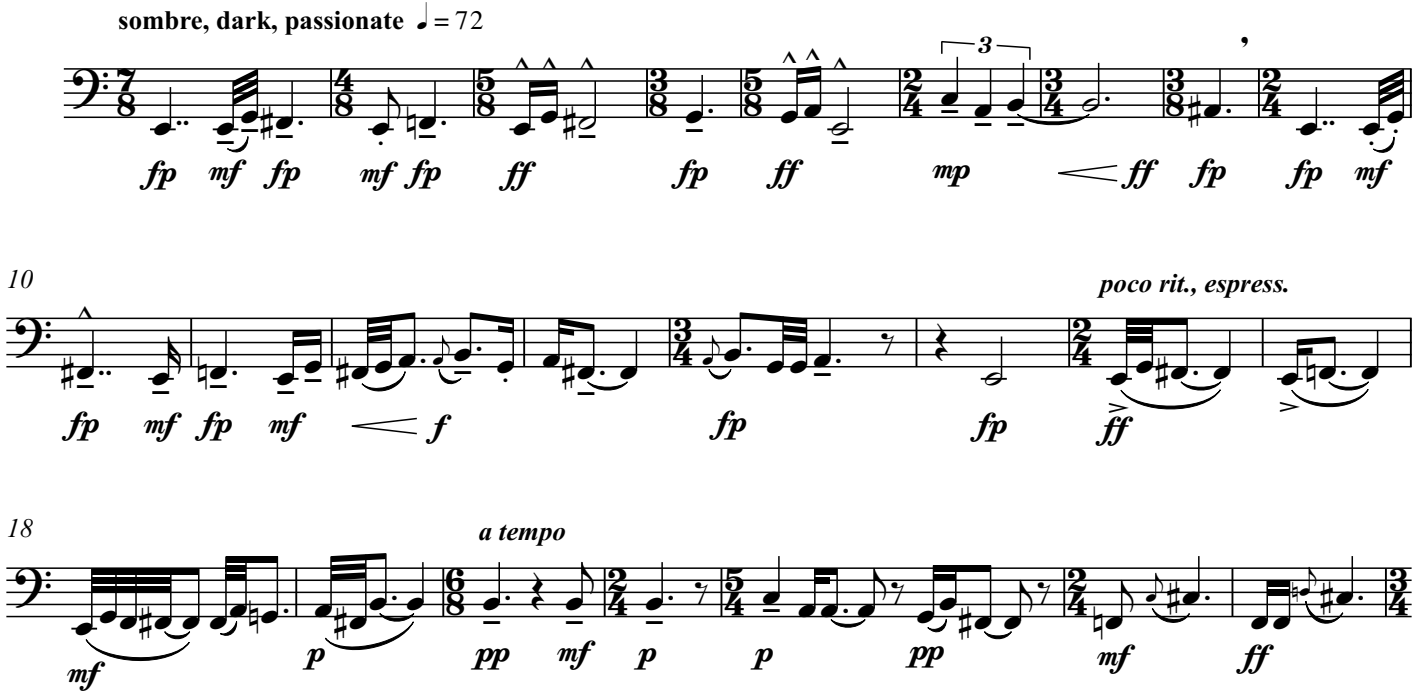
Betsy L. Schramm

I. The Metallic Glow of a Midnight Sky



II. Night Flights

Fast, driving, dancelike ♩ = 116



III. The Moon Was Weeping for the Sea