

Focal Point

by Pamela J. Marshall
for clarinet, viola, piano

PREVIEW

Focal Point

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*dedicated to the Opal Ensemble
Todd Brunel, Anne Black and Paul Carlson*

Focal Point notes

Off-kilter, off-beat, syncopated, but obsessively focusing on the central pitch of G, later Bb, then back to G, with the end somewhat unresolved. The three players have a lot of unison moments but the rhythm is constantly shifting. Melodic fragments and sharp chords are constantly interrupting. The clarinet and viola playing conversationally, both together and back and forth, and later the piano joins in the cycling cascades of notes.

You'll hear the opening clarinet solo come back in many forms. By the end, all three musicians are playing a forceful variation of that melody together, in octaves. Listen for the many texture changes, as clarinet, viola and piano examine many playing styles.

Opal Ensemble played the first performance of Focal Point in March 2013 on the Vortex Series for New and Improvised Music, Brookline, MA.

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Focal Point

Pamela J. Marshall

Score in C **Moderato** ♩ = 104

B♭ Clarinet

Viola

Piano

6

Cl.

Vla.

Pno.

10

Cl.

Vla.

Pno.

A **Allegro** ♩ = 120

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p *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *mp* *ppp* *mf* *PPPPP* *p*

mf *f* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *p*

sfp *mp* *l.h.pizz* *arco*

f *p* *f* *mf* *p*

f *p* *f* *mf* *p*

stop string inside piano

stop string inside piano

p *p*

flutter *5*

sul pont. *(scratchy)*

sul tasto

+ *+* *+* *+* *+* *+* *+* *+*

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

14

Cl. *gentle multiphonics ord.*
pp *f*
cadenza ad lib.
approx. 3 secs.
harmonics cascading
ricochet etc.

Vla. *mf* *port.* *f* *mp* *pizz.*

Pno. *pp* *pp* *mp*

19

Cl. *mp espressivo*

Vla. *mp espressivo* *arco*

Pno. *f* *pp* *mp*

22

Cl. *ppp* *tremolo with alt fingerings*
III (quarter tones) IV III IV

Vla. *mf*

Pno. *mf* *f*

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

quartertone trills ad lib.

28

Cl. *mp* *pp* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr* *tr*

Vla. *pp*

Pno. *p* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

31

Cl. *f* 3

Vla. *sf* *f* 3

Pno. *f* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

8^{vb}

35

Meno mosso ♩ = 90 rit.

Cl. *p* *mp* 3 3 3

Vla. *p* *mp* 3 3 3

Pno. *pp* 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

(8)-----

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

C Allegro ♩ = 120

41

Cl. *mp* *mf* 3

Vla. *mp* *mf* 3

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf* 5

46

Cl. 3

Vla. 3

Pno. 5

50

Cl. *p* 3 3

Vla. *p* 3 3

Pno. *p* 5

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

54

Cl.

Vla.

Pno.

mp

mf

mf

59

Cl.

Vla.

Pno.

p

mf

mp

mp

63

Cl.

Vla.

Pno.

mf *espressivo*

p

mf

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

67

Cl. *mf espressivo*

Vla.

Pno.

71

Cl. *mp* *p*

Vla. *p*

Pno. *mf* *p* *mf*

74

Cl. *f*

Vla. *f*

Pno. *f*

8vb

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

79
Cl. *mp* *pp* *tr tr tr tr tr* quartetone trills ad lib.
Vla. *pp*
Pno. *f.* *pp*
(8)-----

82
Cl. *f*
Vla. *pizz.* *f*
Pno. *f*

85
Cl. *mf*
Vla. *pizz.* *arco* *f*
Pno. *mp* *mf*

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

89

Cl. *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mp*

Pno. *f* *mp* *mf* bring out

93

Cl. *mp* *p*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Pno. *mf*

96 rit. **E** Moderato ♩ = 104

Cl.

Vla. *p*

Pno. *mp*

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

101 flutter

Cl. *mp* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Pno. *f* *dim.*

105 accel. Allegro ♩ = 120

Cl. *mp* *pp* quartertone trills ad lib.

Vla. *pp*

Pno. *f* *p*

108 Moderato ♩ = 104

Cl. *f*

Vla. *f*

Pno. *mf*

Focal Point for clarinet, viola, piano

111

Cl. *p* *pizz.* *mf* *arco*

Vla. *p* *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mp* *pp*

115

Cl. *p* *f* *3* *3*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *f* *3* *3*

Pno. *mp* *f* *3* *3*

8^{vb}

119

Cl. *mp* *mf* *ff* *6*

Vla. *mp* *mf* *ff*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *ff* *3* *3*

(8).....1

Spindrift Music Company

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Selected Music by Pamela J. Marshall

Orchestra

Triptoe Suite (2222-4221, 1pc, timp, strings) in 4 mvts
Through the Mist (2222-2220, harp, 3pc, timp, strings) in 3 mvts
A chill wind in autumn (solo voice, 2222-4221-3pc, strings)
Traditional Christmas (treble chorus or soloist, 2222-4221, harp, 3pc, timp, strings)
Three Appalachian Carols (2222-4231, harp, 2pc, timp, strings)

Keyboard

Suite for harpsichord or piano
For piano: Daydream, Stomp, Imagine That Time Stops
Wordless Prayer for piano or organ
Playbook (Pacem Student Composing Project) for piano

Vocal

The Future of Life for SATB chorus, trombone, piano
Weaving the World for SATB chorus, oboe, piano
Windshine for SATB chorus and cello
Wordless Prayer for SATB chorus
Deepest Shade for SATB chorus

Body and Soul Vol.1 for mezzo-soprano and string trio
Body and Soul Vol.2 for soprano, flute, cello, piano
Ariel's Songs for high or medium voice and piano
Remember the Old Songs for high voice and piano
Sky's Mirror for voice and cello
A chill wind in autumn for voice and piano

Strings

Arcanum for solo violin, Soliloquy for solo cello
Elusive Sleep for cello and piano
Pascal's Theorems for cello and doublebass
Truth Becoming for string quartet
Soliloquy for cello
Rising for viola
Quinteto sobre las poemas de Carlos Pintado for violin, viola, cello, doublebass, piano
Through the Mist for flute, violin, harp or guitar

Winds & Brass

Poetry-Inspired solos for flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn
Enchanted for oboe and chamber orchestra or piano
Wanderer for brass quintet
Resonances for alto saxophone, trumpet, 2 trombones, percussion
Waves and Fountains for oboe, horn, piano
"wild horn whose voice the woodland fills" for 8 horns
Black Bear Dance for horn quartet (or choir) and drums

Recordings

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Marshall



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