

GRACE

FOR TROMBONE & PIANO

JOSH HOBBS

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Duration: *ca.* 7:00

Grade: 5

INSTRUMENTATION

TROMBONE

PIANO

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GRACE PROGRAM NOTES

In March 2013 William Connell contacted me about writing him a work for his graduate recital at the New England Conservatory.

April 15, 2013 was the date of the Boston Marathon bombing. Just weeks into the writing process, and, like most Americans, affected on an emotional level by what had happened, I found the new piece taking on an increasingly elegiac quality. It became clear this music was going to be a kind of personal commemoration of a tragic event.

I have never visited Boston. However, in the days after the marathon bombing one poem about that city was frequently quoted by the media, E.B. White's *Boston Is Like No Other Place In The World, Only More So*. Particularly this stanza:

*For Boston's not a capital,
And Boston's not a place;
Rather I think that Boston is
A sort of state of grace.*

In the final line I found the title of the piece. And the meaning of that word, with its connotations of redemption, seems to outline the emotional territory of the piece: despair, through anger, to acceptance.

On the technical side, this seven-minute journey begins centered in A minor. After an excursion to B major it eventually returns to the opening key, juxtaposing themes and ideas from the previous two sections before concluding with the piece's only A major chord.

ABOUT THE COMPOSER

JOSH HOBBS (b. 1990) is an award-winning composer currently pursuing his master's degree in Instrumental Conducting at the University of South Florida.

Josh holds a bachelor's degree in Music Composition from the University of Central Florida and has studied privately or participated in composition master classes with Christopher Marshall, Brian Balmages, Sun Mi Ro, Gregory Fritze, and Thad Anderson. His output includes works for ensembles of all sizes and has been performed by the Dallas Wind Symphony, Summit Brass, New England Conservatory, University of Alabama, and many more.

Josh's music is published through David Hickman Music and Triplo Press, and is promoted through www.Newbandmusic.com. Josh is registered with the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) and is a member of the Society of Composers (SCI), as well as the American Composers Forum (ACF). He resides in Tampa, Florida.

For more information, recordings, and other helpful resources, please visit
WWW.MUSICOFJOSHHOBBS.COM

GRACE

Commissioned & Premiered by Mr. William Connell

Grave ♩ = 60

JOSH HOBBS

Trombone

Piano

Expressively

mf con ped. *p* *mf*

4 6

pp dolce

mp *p* *pp*

7 *rit.*

p *pp* *mp* *p*

p *mp*

10 *a tempo* *mp* *mf*³ *rit.* **13** ♩ = 70 *p*

14

19 With Energy ♩ = 78 *mp* *pp*

GRACE

21

mf

24

mf

27

f

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78 Grave ♩ = 60

rit.

78

mf *p* *mf* *mp*

82 Cadenza

a tempo

pp *mp* *pp* *mp*

82

8vb

89 ♩ = 78

87

mf *p*

87

mp

93 *accel.*

mp

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 93 to 96. The top staff is a single bass clef line. Measure 93 starts with a half note G2, followed by quarter notes F2, E2, and D2. Measure 94 has a quarter rest, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C2, B1, A1), and a quarter note G1. Measure 95 features a half note G1 with a wavy line above it, followed by quarter notes F1, E1, and D1. Measure 96 has a quarter note C1, followed by a quarter rest, and a half note B1. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The left hand plays chords in the bass register, while the right hand plays chords in the treble register. A dynamic marking of *mp* is placed in the first measure. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in measure 94.

97 **Passionately** ♩ = 90

96

f

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 96 to 99. The top staff is a single bass clef line. Measure 96 has a quarter rest, followed by a triplet of eighth notes (C2, B1, A1), and a quarter note G1. Measure 97 has a half note G1, followed by quarter notes F1, E1, and D1. Measure 98 has a half note C1, followed by quarter notes B1, A1, and G1. Measure 99 has a quarter note F1, followed by a quarter rest, and a half note E1. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The left hand plays chords in the bass register, while the right hand plays chords in the treble register. A dynamic marking of *f* is placed in the first measure. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in measure 96.

rit.

99

Detailed description: This system contains measures 99 to 102. The top staff is a single bass clef line. Measure 99 has a half note G1, followed by quarter notes F1, E1, and D1. Measure 100 has a quarter note C1, followed by a quarter rest, and a half note B1. Measure 101 has a quarter note A1, followed by a quarter rest, and a half note G1. Measure 102 has a quarter note F1, followed by a quarter rest, and a half note E1. The piano accompaniment consists of two staves. The left hand plays chords in the bass register, while the right hand plays chords in the treble register. A dynamic marking of *rit.* is placed in the first measure.

GRACE

♩ = 84

101

ff

ff

104

rit. 106 ♩ = 78

mp *pp*

p

pp

108

108

112 Grave ♩ = 70

Musical score for measures 112-116. The top staff is a single bass clef line with notes and rests. The middle section is a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The bottom section is a single bass clef line. Dynamics include *pp cantabile* and *p*. Performance markings include *8va* and *8vb* with dashed lines.

Musical score for measures 117-120. The top staff is a single bass clef line with notes and rests. The middle section is a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The bottom section is a single bass clef line. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. Performance markings include *8va* and *8vb* with dashed lines.

Musical score for measures 121-124. The top staff is a single bass clef line with notes and rests. The middle section is a grand staff with a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The bottom section is a single bass clef line. Dynamics include *p* and *mp*. Performance markings include *8vb* with dashed lines.