Homage to a Longing Memory

Op. 4

for Bassoon and Orchestra

Aiden Still

[redacted] Composition Contest, 2026

INSTRUMENTATION:

2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in B♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
2 Bassoons (Bassoon 1 is a soloist)
2 Horns in F
Trumpet in B♭
Trombone
Timpani (4 drums)
Bass Drum
Tam-Tam
Triangle
Harp
9 Violin Is
7 Violin IIs
6 Violas
5 Cello Is
4 Cello IIs (separate Cello section)
3 Double Basses

COMPOSER'S NOTE:

Homage to a Longing Memory is a deeply personal piece about memory, melancholy, and moving forward from the past, and was written after an extremely difficult period in my life. Originally, it was part of a short section within a Cello Quartet. Through time and healing, the piece was entirely reworked and expanded for an orchestra, with an emphasis on a bassoon for its wide range and warmth.

This composition's structure is semi-linear. The trajectory develops through gradual understanding of recurring musical ideas rather than being strictly chronological. Each time a passage returns, its structure stays mostly recognizable, while the material inside it is what defines the character of the memory. This process represents the longing memory, each presentation different, sometimes in harsh, uncontrollable extremes, but just as important as the last.

Descents [A#] represent a falling feeling of inevitability and coming sense of return, while the melodies [B#] represent the return of the memories and thoughts themselves. Within the piece, silence represents moments where the world has vanished, acting as a transition between thought and a contrast to noise. The two contrasting tonal worlds in the work are A# Phrygian and B Major, working both ways with each other as an inevitable fall or rise.

The real, "final" ending, like some other passages, remains unresolved. It struggles to resolve and stay resolved, but the memories always come back to deny a final resolution. This work is my acknowledgment of the past and my homage to what once was.

Homage to a Longing Memory

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"So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past."

— F. Scott Fitzgerald

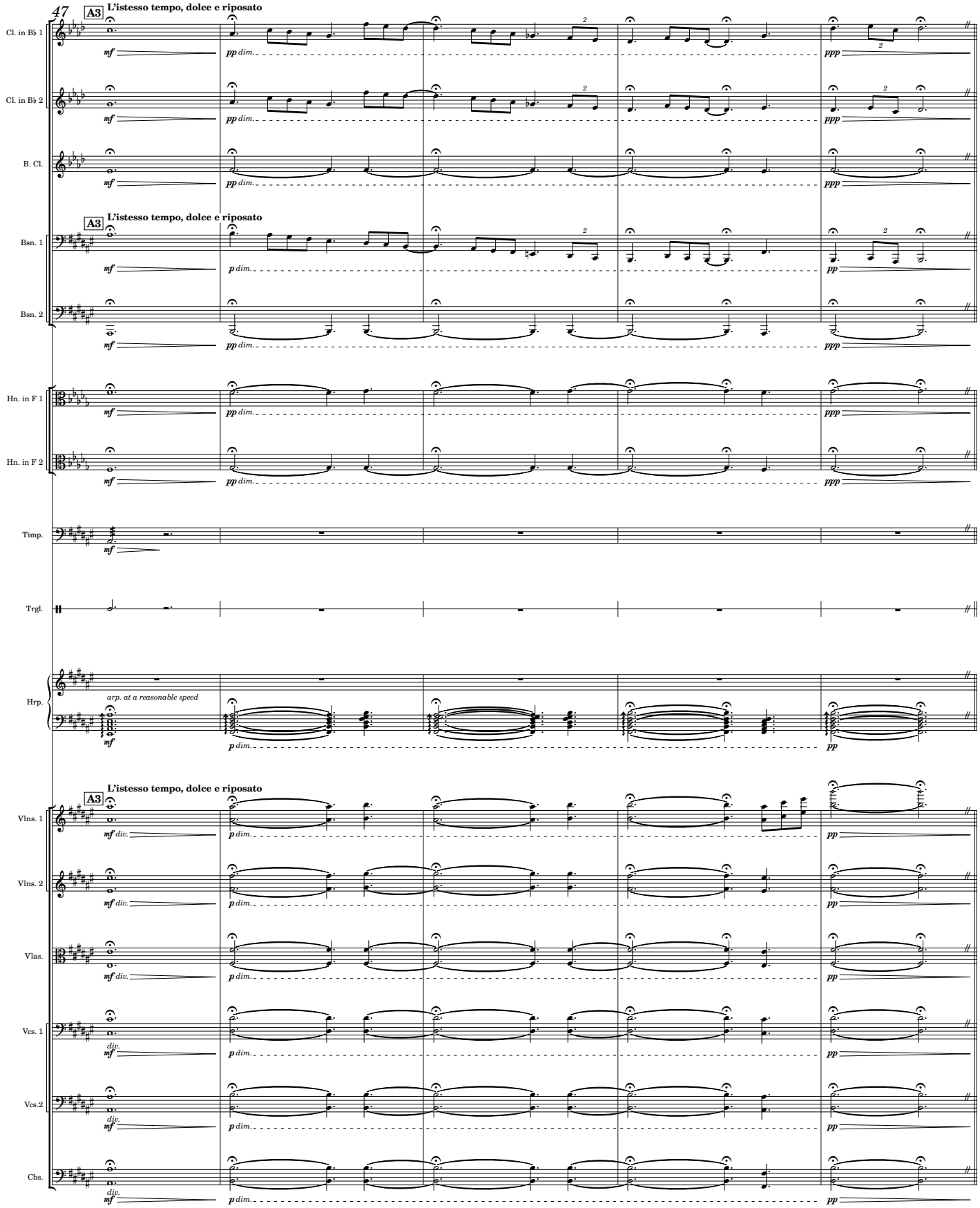



6
B1 Poco più mosso, dolce e malinconico; Tempo II (♩. = 72)
Bsn. 1
Hrp.
B1 Poco più mosso, dolce e malinconico; Tempo II (♩. = 72)
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.
pizz.
arco
15
B2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. in F 1
Hn. in F 2
Timp.
Hrp.
B2
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.
poco riten.
pizz.
div.


23
A2
Meno mosso, con angoscia e agitazione (♩. = 48)
accel.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. in F 1
Hn. in F 2
Tpt. in B♭
Tbn.
Timp.
BD
Tam
Trgl.
Hrp.
arp. reasonably
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.
arco


27
(accel.)
a tempo, rit.
a tempo
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
poco riten.
Hn. in F 1
Hn. in F 2
Tpt. in B♭
Tbn.
Timp.
BD
Tam
Trgl.
Hrp.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.


32
B3 Tempo II, con malinconia e solitudine (♩. = 72)
rall.
Bsn. 1
Hn. in F 1
Hrp.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.
cresc.
41
B4 a tempo, affettuoso
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 2
Hn. in F 2
Tbn.
Timp.
BD
Tam
Trgl.
arp. reasonably
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
pizz.
arco


47
A3
L'istesso tempo, dolce e riposato
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. in F 1
Hn. in F 2
Timp.
Trgl.
Hrp.
arp. at a reasonable speed
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.
mf
pp dim.
p dim.
ppp
pp
div.


52
A4 Tempo I, inquieto (♩. = 60)
rit.
Fl. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
B. Cl.
A4 Tempo I, inquieto (♩. = 60)
rit.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. in F 1
Hn. in F 2
Tbn.
Timp.
Trgl.
A4 Tempo I, inquieto (♩. = 60)
rit.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.


60
B5 Più mosso, appassionato e maestoso (♩. = 76)
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
B. Cl.
B5 Più mosso, appassionato e maestoso (♩. = 76)
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. in F 1
Hn. in F 2
Tpt. in B♭
Tbn.
Timp.
BD
Tam
Trgl.
Hrp.
arp. reasonably
B5 Più mosso, appassionato e maestoso (♩. = 76)
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.


65
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. in F 1
Hn. in F 2
Tpt. in B♭
Tbn.
Timp.
BD
Tam
Trgl.
Hrp.
Vlns. 1
Vlns. 2
Vlas.
Vcs. 1
Vcs.2
Cbs.
rit.


71
A5 Subito Tempo I, malinconico e lacrimoso, con rubato (♩. = 60)
rall.
Cl. in Bb 1
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Timp.
BD
Trgl.
Hrp.
Vcs.2
Cbs.
arp. reasonably
div.
76
B6 a tempo
Poco meno mosso, lamentoso; morendo (♩. = 52)
A piacere
Vlas.
Vcs. 1