

Transposed Score

Turnpike

For Two Horns, Fixed Media,
Live Processing, and Video

Ethan Isaac

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Program Note

My grandfather spent most of what most consider retirement years working as truck driver for Overnight, a company that has since been absorbed by UPS. It was strange that someone who delivered goods across the country was immobile for the majority of the pandemic, as he was recovering from a massive surgery. I was one of the members of the family taking care of him at the time, having lost my job as an audio engineer. This required many trips up and down the New Jersey Turnpike, the very same road he began and ended his deliveries on. I began to take field recordings of the drives, catching the variations in the vibrations felt by my car's tires, electromagnetic interference from the highway's many industrial sites, and performative use of the radio to create audio collage.

At that same time, I was beginning to experience double vision late at night, which I found out was due to a defect in my musculature of my eyes. In a similar vein, my grandfather dealt with cataracts during his stint as a driver and currently is experiencing macular degeneration, which appears as a black spot in the middle of his vision. Using material from interviews with him, I create a viewpoint from the past and present of this massively impactful roadway, both in its economic and ecological force. As the state with the most EPA Superfund sites, one only needs to view their publicly available maps to see how many lie along New Jersey's polluted estuaries and roads. Much of the video footage represents these concepts, as well as the audio processing.

The inspiration for the instrumentation came from my relationship with Hawaii's Symphony's Jason Friedman. We had met during my work at Strings Music Festival in Colorado where he, part of the ensemble in residence, found kinship in our interest in audio engineering. After re-convening on the east coast, I began workshopping early versions of this piece with him. He can be heard in this archival version of the work you are now listening to.

Richard Deane, Associate Principal Horn of the New York Philharmonic generously funded this project, along with my friends Yashar Hashemi and Charles London. Mr. Deane and I are working out a date for his performance and premiere of the work in the coming year.

Performance Notes

For all of the physical and software elements needed to perform this piece you will need

A laptop (Mac/Windows),

A two input/output audio interface,

Two cardioid microphones,

A stereo PA system,

A digital audio workstation (Reaper preferred),

Two or Three VST effects, these being,

Valhalla Delay,*

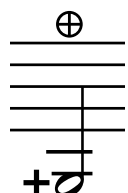
Fabfilter Saturn 2,*

if needed, a decent convolution reverb such as Altiverb if the performance space is especially dry.*

If you use Reaper as your DAW as recommended, I can send you the appropriate project files to save you time, as well as the tape files. They will be placed appropriately with markers for the downbeat of each movement. This is easily managed by a audio assistant or an experienced performer. Some tracks will need to be armed and disarmed depending on the movement. This will be marked clearly in the project file. Reaper is offered with a eternal fully featured trial and as such is perfect for performance situations like this. If you are determined to use another DAW I can send the tape files separately along with additional information.

Notation Guide: With regards to the **stop notation** (Stopped, Open, Half Stopped) the marking continues until contradicted. **Portamento** is intended to mark when one should play most of the note value before transitioning to the next note in a gliss like fashion. The **wavy lines** in the third and fourth system of the first movement represent the nature of the vibrato.

 These diamond shaped noteheads are sung multiphonics, please sing at notated octave if possible. If not they are intended to create a growl effect, so use whatever works for you

 Move hand for pitch bend/Half Stopping

Turnpike

Ethan Isaac

I. Interstate 95, George Washington Bridge

"Hundreds of millions of dollars..." ~1' **Focused** ♩ = c. 120 Use hand to raise pitch *sim.*

Delay 1 ON Radio Sample 1 *p* *ppp* *port.*

Hn 1

Hn 2

Delay 1 ON

9 *mp* *mp* *mf*

15 *p* *poco a poco vibr.*

23 *moltissimo vibr.* *mf* *ord.* *mf* *mf*

Vary tempo ♩ = 120–130

30

Hn 1

Hn 2

cresc.

ff

3

Detailed description: This system contains measures 30 through 34. Horn 1 (Hn 1) starts with a whole rest in measure 30, followed by a half rest in measure 31. In measure 32, it begins a phrase with a crescendo marking, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. In measure 33, it continues with a fortissimo (ff) marking. In measure 34, it plays a triplet of eighth notes. Horn 2 (Hn 2) has a half rest in measure 30, followed by a half rest in measure 31. In measure 32, it begins a phrase with a crescendo marking, consisting of eighth and quarter notes. In measure 33, it continues with a fortissimo (ff) marking. In measure 34, it plays a triplet of eighth notes.

35

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff

sempre. ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 35 through 37. Horn 1 (Hn 1) plays a continuous phrase of eighth and quarter notes starting in measure 35, marked fortissimo (ff). Horn 2 (Hn 2) has a whole rest in measure 35 and measure 36. In measure 37, it joins the phrase, marked *sempre. ff*.

38

Hn 1

Hn 2

sempre. ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 38 through 40. Both Horn 1 (Hn 1) and Horn 2 (Hn 2) play a continuous phrase of eighth and quarter notes, marked *sempre. ff*.

41

Hn 1

Hn 2

dim.

dim.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 41 through 43. Both Horn 1 (Hn 1) and Horn 2 (Hn 2) play a continuous phrase of eighth and quarter notes, marked *dim.*

44

$\text{♩} = \text{c. } 130$

Tempo I

Hn 1

Hn 2

mp

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 44 through 46. The tempo is marked **Tempo I** with a tempo indication of $\text{♩} = \text{c. } 130$. Both Horn 1 (Hn 1) and Horn 2 (Hn 2) play a continuous phrase of eighth and quarter notes, marked *mp*.

47

Hn 1

Hn 2

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

gliss.

51

Hn 1

Hn 2

f *f* *ord.*

vib.

55

Hn 1

Hn 2

f *mf* *f* *mp*

rit.....Tempo I non vib.

62

Hn 1

Hn 2

mp *f* *mp sub.* *f*

68

Hn 1

Hn 2

f *mp sub.* *p* *f* *mp sub.*

wiggle key gliss. port.

74

Hn 1

f *mp* sub.

Hn 2

mp *f* sub. 3

80

Hn 1

mp *ff* sub. 3 *mp*

Hn 2

85

Hn 1

ff *mf*

Hn 2

mf

89

Hn 1

ff *mf* *f*

Hn 2

ff *mf* *f* *mp* sub.

93

Hn 1

mf

Hn 2

mf

100

wiggle key gliss

electronics fade in

Hn 1

ff

div.

mf sub.

Hn 2

fff

106

fff

f

mf

attacca

Radio Sample 2

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff

f

II. Linden Co-Generation Plant

Delay 1 Cont.

Dire ♩ = 60

Horn 1

Horn 2

wa - ter - logged they were giv - en up as use - less

Delay 1 Cont.
+ Dist. FX

ffp *ff* *mf* sub.

fff

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff sub. *f* *mf* *f* *mp* *f*

ff

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff *p* *ff*

ff

Hn 1

Hn 2

p *ff* sub. *f* *ff* sub.

17

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff *f* *ff*

mp *f sub.*

3

20

Hn 1

Hn 2

mf *fff* *mf*

3

24

Climbing ♩ = 120

Hn 1

Hn 2

p

Dist. FX ends *mp*

27

Hn 1

Hn 2

f *mp sub.*

f *mp sub.*

30

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

f

33

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff

ff

f

36

Hn 1

Hn 2

fff

mf sub.

fff

mf sub.

40

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff

mf

fff

fff

43

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

f

cuivré

46

Hn 1

fff *mf sub.*

Hn 2

fff *mf sub.*

49

Hn 1

ff

Hn 2

fff

53

poco accel.

Hn 1

Hn 2

56

Toll Plaza ♩ = 60

Hn 1

mf sub. ffp

Hn 2

f *p*

Hold Notes, even reattacking during electronic transition

Continue to Mvt. III when given signal

III. The Garden State Parkway, at Night

Majestic $\text{♩} = 60$

Horn 1

Delay 2 ON

Horn 2

Delay 2 ON

$p < mf >$ $ff \text{ sub.} \rightarrow mf$

$p < mf >$ ff

Stagger breathe when needed, $ppp \leftarrow$ to original dynamic, when re-striking note

6

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

$mf \rightarrow ff$

11

Hn 1

Hn 2

fff $fff > f < fff$ $p \text{ sub.} < ff$

f

15

Hn 1

Hn 2

mf

mf

$> < > < > < > < > < fff$

18

Hn 1

Hn 2

fff p

f $p < ff > < f >$ fff mf

22

Hn 1

f *ff*

Hn 2

mf *fff*

28

Hn 1

f

Hn 2

mp *f sub.*

33

Hn 1

Hn 2

38

Hn 1

Hn 2

ppp

43

Hn 1

p *mp*

Hn 2

p sub.

48 unstable pitch until half way through note

Hn 1

Hn 2

mf

mp

Measures 48-52. Horn 1: G4 (whole note), marked 'unstable pitch until half way through note'. Horn 2: F3 (whole note). Dynamics: *mf* (measures 48-49), *mp* (measures 50-52).

53

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

f

Measures 53-56. Horn 1: G4 (half note), marked *f*. Horn 2: F3 (half note), marked *f*.

57

Hn 1

Hn 2

Measures 57-61. Horn 1: G4 (half note). Horn 2: F3 (half note).

62

Hn 1

Hn 2

mp sub. *ff*

sempre. f

Measures 62-66. Horn 1: G4 (half note), marked *mp sub.* and *ff*. Horn 2: F3 (half note), marked *sempre. f*.

67

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

Measures 67-71. Horn 1: G4 (half note), marked *f*. Horn 2: F3 (half note).

73

Hn 1

Hn 2

78

Hn 1

Hn 2

sempre. f

84

Hn 1

Hn 2

89

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff *f*

92

Hn 1

Hn 2

mp

95

Hn 1

Hn 2

sempre. f

f

98

Hn 1

Hn 2

p

103

Hn 1

Hn 2

pp

f

107

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

sempre. f

111

Hn 1

Hn 2

ff

mp sub.

ff

ff

mp sub.

ff

115

Hn 1

Hn 2

3

119

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

> f

123

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

126

Hn 1

Hn 2

mp sub. *ff*

130

Hn 1

Hn 2

mp sub. *ff*

134

Hn 1

Hn 2

138

Hn 1

Hn 2

fff

ff

142

Hn 1

Hn 2

mf

f

146

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

mp

150

Hn 1

Hn 2

p

p

153

Hn 1

Hn 2

Measures 153-155. Horn 1 and Horn 2 parts. Horn 1 has a melodic line with accents and slurs. Horn 2 has a supporting line with slurs and ties.

156

Hn 1

Hn 2

sempre. p

Measures 156-158. Horn 1 and Horn 2 parts. Horn 1 has a melodic line with accents and slurs. Horn 2 has a supporting line with slurs and ties. The dynamic marking *sempre. p* is present.

159

Hn 1

Hn 2

f

Measures 159-161. Horn 1 and Horn 2 parts. Horn 1 has a melodic line with accents and slurs. Horn 2 has a supporting line with slurs and ties. The dynamic marking *f* is present.

162

Hn 1

Hn 2

Measures 162-164. Horn 1 and Horn 2 parts. Horn 1 has a melodic line with accents and slurs. Horn 2 has a supporting line with slurs and ties.

170

Hn 1

Hn 2

fff

fff

175

Hn 1

Hn 2

182

Hn 1

Hn 2

189

Hn 1

Hn 2

ppp

ppp

196

Hn 1

Hn 2

mf *p*

mf *p*

201

Hn 1

Hn 2

207

Hn 1

Hn 2

f *ppp*

f *ppp*

213

Hn 1

Hn 2

mp

mp

clean multiphonic

Both hold space until
the delay rings out