

Jackson Gearing

Moskstraumen

for orchestra

Jackson Gearing (b. 2001)

Moskstraumen

for orchestra

Composed in the Autumn of 2022. Duration: 7 ¾ minutes

SCORE IN C

INSTRUMENTATION

piccolo
3 flutes
2 oboes
english horn
e-flat clarinet
3 b-flat clarinets
bass clarinet
2 bassoons
contrabassoon
4 horns
3 trumpets
3 trombones
bass trombone
tuba
timpani
bass drum
tam-tam
piano

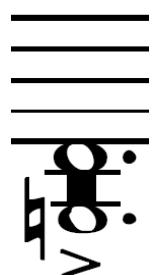
at least 30 violins (at least 15 violin I's, at least 15 violin II's)

10 violas
8 celli
at least 3 double basses

TECHNICAL NOTES

Take care to note that this work occasionally utilizes quarter tones. These are used to access new harmonies which consider the overtone series of a given fundamental pitch. Additional attention may need to be given to group intonation in order for these harmonies to be heard as they were intended.

Tone clusters in the piano are notated as follows. Every **chromatic** pitch between and including the lower and upper noteheads should be played with equal weight, articulation, and dynamic:



PROGRAM NOTES

The ***Moskstraumen*** is a large series of currents and maelstroms off of the northwestern archipelagos of Norway. It is formed due to geological factors like tides, local weather, and the shape of the underwater topography; namely, the merging between the tectonic plates of the Atlantic Ocean and the Vestfjorden, a large 96-mile fjord. The currents of the *Moskstraumen* are about five miles wide, include tidal currents with an amplitude of around 13 feet and speeds of around 7-12 mph, and bores a maelstrom between 130-160 feet in diameter. Unlike most maelstroms, the *Moskstraumen* occurs in the deep sea, with the strongest tidal currents occurring at around 1600 feet below the surface. It is frigid, remote, unpredictable, and bears witness to intense storms at all times of the year.

The surrounding archipelagos are stunning. Enormous towers of rock protrude from a tumultuous sea of unfathomable depths. Yet, the barren, stoic islands seem isolated from each other, separated by the *Moskstraumen* endlessly roaring beneath the water's surface.

This work for orchestra, the first I have ever completed, emulates the chaos and momentum of the *Moskstraumen*. It is a display of mayhem securely in the confines of the great archipelagos surrounding it. At times, the music is dark, indecipherable, and noise-like, but it occurs adjacent to beautiful sonorities and striking awe.

There is mystery, there is wonder, and there is the maelstrom.

~Jackson Gearing

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Moderato, charging up $\text{♩} = 96$

rit.

Chaotic and swarming $\text{♩} = 120$ accelerando

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Piccolo

Flute 1

Flute 2

Flute 3

Oboe 1

Oboe 2

Cor Anglais

Clarinet in E♭

Clarinet in B♭ 1

Clarinet in B♭ 2

Clarinet in B♭ 3

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

Contrabassoon

French Horn in F 1

French Horn in F 2

French Horn in F 3

French Horn in F 4

Trumpet in B♭ 1

Trumpet in B♭ 2

Trumpet in B♭ 3

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Trombone 3

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Percussion 1 (Timpani)

Bass Drum

Percussion 2

Tam-tam

Piano

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

