

Grade 2.5

Close to the Sun

- Peter Meechan -

Wind Orchestra



Meechan Music
www.MeechanMusic.com

For perusal only, not for performance

Peter Meechan

Close to the Sun

For Wind Band

2018

Duration: c4.30

Programme note

"You know, I've never understood the idea of "perfect". But then I also don't know what "normal" means either. At least with "perfect" you can understand that it is reaching for something - although, in truth, it should never, and will never, be attainable: it doesn't exist. It's the wrong word. It's the wrong meaning.

But if I can at least understand the idea of trying to reach "perfection", "normal" is the most redundant word I can think of. Very few people truly want to be "normal" - no one strives for normal. And even if they do, do they really have a notion that the concept of "normal", which just like "perfection" - at least to my mind - doesn't exist?

We are all different. We are all unique. Maybe the only thing that is truly unifying about any of us is that we are all broken - we aren't "normal", and we will never, ever, be "perfect".

No one personified this in my lifetime more than Freddie Mercury. I remember him dying and remember crying almost uncontrollably at his death - I was young, not even a teenager, but looking back I honestly don't know if my tears were because a hero had died, or that I understood the tragedy of how someone so brilliant, yet so flawed, could leave us here on earth.

Nothing articulates the way I felt better than the last song the three remaining members of Queen recorded: "*No One But You (Only the Good Die Young)*". A tribute to Freddie, and "all those who die too soon", the line "They're only flyin' too close to the sun" (presumably a reference to Icarus, who in Greek mythology had wings made of wax, and perished after flying too close to the sun, despite warnings not to from his father) provides the title of this work.

Opening with a "perfect" 5th, *Close to the Sun* is orchestrated in such a way that we will never hear a true, perfect, 5th. The two chords in the winds - simple and beautiful - soon develop, and become something different, something changed. Those chords, and their development, never lose their origins, but do alter - do become something different. Not normal, not perfect, but existing in their own beautiful way.

Close to the Sun was commissioned by a consortium of schools, universities, organizations, and conductors, led by Robert Ambrose and Georgia State University, and is dedicated "from RJA and PM to Ellie - in memory of Dylan"

PM - November 2018

Commissioners:

Georgia State University (Robert Ambrose), **University of Alberta** (Angela Schroeder), **University of Manitoba** (Jacquie Dawson), **Bishop Lloyd Middle School** (Anya Pogorelova), **Esther Starkman School** (Jeff Bryant), **Vincent Massey Collegiate** (Matt Abraham), **Kevin Willms**, **Westwinds Music Society** (Kevin Willms), **Music Mentors International** (Kevin Willms)

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Performance notes

- In the score the separate vibraphone and glockenspiel parts are reduced to a single stave. Unless noted otherwise in the score, the glockenspiel part has the stems facing up and is notated in written pitch & the vibraphone part has the stems facing down.
- Each time the wind chimes are to be played they should be repeatedly sounded (with both hands – similar to a harp), starting on the highest chimes and gradually working to the bottom. As this happens the number of soundings (ie the frequency of the hand strikes) should slow down allowing it to stop naturally.

World Premiere

**Onoway Jr/Sr High School Honours Band (Ellie Anderson)
& Bishop Lloyd Middle School Grade 8 Band (Anya Pogorelova)**

Robert Ambrose – conductor

11 January 2019, Onoway, AB

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Close to the Sun

for Wind Orchestra

♩ = c.66

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2018

A

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Close to the Sun

A

Piccolo

Flute 1+2

Oboe

Bassoon

Clarinet 1 in B♭

Clarinet 2+3 in B♭

Bass Clarinet in B♭

Alto Saxophone 1+2

Tenor Saxophone

Baritone Saxophone

Trumpet 1 in B♭

Trumpet 2+3 in B♭

Horn 1+3 in F

Horn 2+4 in F

Trombone 1+2

Bass Trombone

Euphonium

Tuba/String Bass

Piano

Glockenspiel (written pitch - tenor up, alto down)

Vibraphone (soins down)

Tubular Bells

* With both hands repeatedly strike the wind chimes, gradually descending from the highest chimes to the lowest, slowing the amount of chimes until the last note of the each line

Wind Chimes/Bass Drum

Triangle/Bass Drum (2 players)

Suspended Cymbal

sus cym with triangle beater

B

14

Picc.

Fl. 1+2 *mf*

Ob.

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2+3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *p*

Ten. Sax. *p*

Bari. Sax. *p*

Tpt. 1 *mp*

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3 *p*

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph. *p*
Tba.

Tba./S. Bs. *p*

Pno.

Glock./V.

Tub. B.

Wind C./BD *f*

Tri/BD

Sus. Cym.

C

Picc. *mp* cresc. *mf*

Fl. 1+2 *mp* cresc. *mf* *pp cresc.*

Ob. *mp* cresc. *mf* *pp cresc.*

Bsn. *mp* cresc. *mf* *pp cresc.*

Cl. 1 cresc. *mf* *pp cresc.*

Cl. 2+3 cresc. *mf* *pp cresc.*

B. Cl. *mp* cresc. *mf* *pp cresc.*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *mf* *pp cresc.*

Ten. Sax. *mf* *pp cresc.*

Bari. Sax. *mp cresc.* *mf* *pp cresc.*

Tpt. 1 *mp cresc.* *mf* *p*

Tpt. 2+3 *mp cresc.* *mf* *p*

Hn. 1+3 *mp* cresc. *mf* *p*

Hn. 2+4 *mf* *p*

Tbn. 1+2 *mp cresc.* *mf* *p*

B. Tbn. *mp cresc.* *mf* *p*

Euph. *mp* cresc. *mf* *p*

Tba./S. Bs. *s.b.s.* *+tba* *mp cresc.* *mf* *p*

Pn. *mf*

Glock. + Vib. *mf*

Tub. B. *p* *mp* cresc. *mf*

D

E

37

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba./
S. Bs.

Pr.

Clck.
+
Vib.

Wind C./
BD

Tri/BD
+
Sus. Cym.

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Picc.

Fl. 1+2 *p* *pp*

Ob. *p* *pp*

Bsn. *p* *pp*

Cl. 1 *p* *pp*

Cl. 2+3 *p* *pp*

B. Cl. *p* *pp*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *p* *pp*

Ten. Sax. *p* *pp*

Bari. Sax. *p* *pp*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3 *pp*

Hn. 2+4 *p*

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph. *p* *pp*

Tba./S. Bs.

Pno. *p* *pp* *pp*

Clock +
Vib. *p* 2 players if required (vibes) *pp*

Tub. B. *pp*

Wind C./
B. D. *p* *pp*

Tri/BD +
Sus. Cym. *p* *pp*

59

H

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba./S. Bs.

Pno.

Glos.

Vib.

Tub. B.

Wind C./B. D.

Tri/BD +

Sus. Cym.

keep ped. depressed until m65

keep ped. depressed until m65

Bass Drum

73

Picc. *f*

Fl. 1+2 *f*

Ob. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Cl. 1 *f*

Cl. 2+3 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Alto Sax. 1+2 *f*

Ten. Sax. *f*

Bari. Sax. *f*

Tpt. 1 *f*

Tpt. 2+3 *f*

Hn. 1+3 *f*

Hn. 2+4 *f*

Tbn. 1+2 *f*

B. Tbn. *f*

Euph. *f*

Tba./S. Bs. *f*

Pno.

Cuck.

Vcl.

Tub. B. *f*

Wind C./
B. D.

Tri/BD
+
Sus. Cym.

81 J

Picc.

Fl. 1+2

Ob.

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2+3

B. Cl.

Alto Sax. 1+2

Ten. Sax.

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2+3

Hn. 1+3

Hn. 2+4

Tbn. 1+2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba./S. Bs.

Pno.

Glock. + Vib.

Tub.

Wind C./B. D.

Tri/BD + Sus. Cym.

J

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Wind chimes

f

mf

p

v

f

mf

p

f

mf

p

f

ppp

with triangle beater

ff

f

mf

p