

JEFFREY RYAN

A TINY SQUARE OF TIME

FOR SOLO FRENCH HORN

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Performance notes

Total performance time ca. 6 minutes.

All bass clef pitches are written in 'new' notation, i.e. pitch sounds a P5 lower.

Intended for intermediate-level performers, each movement highlights particular playing techniques or notational devices (*senza misura*, lip trills, arpeggiation, bass clef, etc.). Each movement begins where the previous movement ended. Movements may be performed individually or as a smaller selected grouping; however, if all four movements are performed, they must be in the given order.

Other performance notes are given as required in the part.

Programme note

A Tiny Square of Time is a suite of four miniature character pieces for solo French horn, which together describe the perimeter of a square. The first movement *Up* is free and lyrical. *Across* picks up where the previous movement left off, now rhythmic and playful. *Down* turns melancholy, descending into the lower, darker register of the instrument. *Back* brings the suite to a close with a bright court dance.

A Tiny Square of Time is dedicated with thanks to hornist Valerie Whitney and was made possible with support from the British Columbia Arts Council.



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JEFFREY RYAN

for solo French horn

UP

Senza misura ♩ = ca. 60 *con poco rubato*

p < *mf* > *p* *f* *p*

(do not compensate pitch)

p *pp* *p*

p *mp* *mf* *f* *p* *tr* *mf* > *p* < *mf* > *p*

mp *p* *Bb* *sub.*

a piacere *mp* > *p* *sfpp*

ACROSS

♩ = 132 Playfully

1 *f*

5 *A*

9 "wa-wa": alternate rapidly between open and stopped without compensating pitch
tr *rip*

13 *ff* *p* *f* *ff* *mf*

16 *f* *f*

20 *mf* *<f* *mf* *<f* *mf* *<f* *mf* *<f* *f*

24 *mf* *f*

28 (in time!) *fast as possible grad. slower... very slow to... non-tr.*
p *(p)*

The musical score is written in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of eight staves of music. The first staff (measures 1-4) begins with a dynamic marking of *f* and includes a tempo instruction of *♩ = 132 Playfully*. The second staff (measures 5-8) features a slur labeled 'A'. The third staff (measures 9-12) includes a trill marked 'tr' and a 'rip' instruction. The fourth staff (measures 13-15) shows a dynamic range from *ff* to *mf*. The fifth staff (measures 16-19) includes a change in time signature to 2/4 and back to 4/4, with dynamic markings of *f*. The sixth staff (measures 20-23) features a series of dynamic markings: *mf*, *<f*, *mf*, *<f*, *mf*, *<f*, *mf*, *<f*, and *f*. The seventh staff (measures 24-27) starts with *mf* and ends with *f*. The eighth staff (measures 28-31) includes a tempo instruction '(in time!)', a trill, and a dynamic marking of *p*, with a final *(p)* marking.

DOWN

♩ = 48 *dolce, espressivo*
have straight mute ready

1

7

♩ = 72 *sub. più mosso, poco agitato*

13

rit. poco a poco to ----- ♩ = 48 *con sord.*

19

26

33

via sord.

BACK

$\bullet = 60$ ($\bullet = 120$) *A swirling, stately dance*
senza sord.

1 *mf* *sfp* *ff* *mf*

5

10

15 *mp*

19

24 *mp* *mf*

27 *p* *f*

32 *mp* *p*

37 *pp* *f*

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef. It begins with a 2/4 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60 (half note = 120). The performance instruction is 'senza sord.' (without mutes). The score consists of nine staves of music, with measure numbers 1, 5, 10, 15, 19, 24, 27, 32, and 37 indicated at the start of each staff. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *sfp*, *ff*, *mp*, *p*, and *pp*. There are also accents and slurs throughout the piece. The time signature changes to 3/4 at measure 24 and back to 2/4 at measure 27. The key signature changes to one flat (Bb) at measure 32.