

me obruit

for flute, b-flat clarinet, violin, and cello

Score

Max Chung

(2025)

TITLE: me obruít

DURATION: ca' 10:40

INSTRUMENTATION: Flute, b-flat Clarinet, Violin, Cello

PROGRAM NOTES:

Max Chung's new composition 'me obruít' is translated from latin to "it buries me". The piece explores the internal experience of being overwhelmed or crushed by a larger emotional force, of being submerged underwater, tracing the long, slow process of losing energy and slipping into a dreamlike realm. It evokes the fading of breath and the gradual transition into a memory state where time becomes warped and fluid, blurring the boundary between the unconscious and conscious state.

KEY:

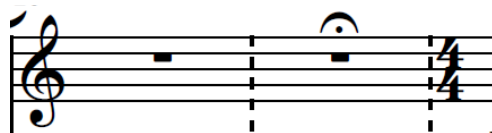
GENERAL NOTES:

This piece works around a contrast of foreground and background, and as such the difference between the two sections should be exaggerated when possible.

Accidentals apply throughout the entire measure.

Trills should always be assumed to be whole-step trills. When there are ensemble-wide trills, they should be played at similar, but not identical, rates equal to between a thirty-second note and a sixteenth triplet of Tempo I ($q = 108$).

Dotted Barlines:



Dotted barlines indicate a resting point where time is freer, but still is approximately in the meter before it. The time signature re-establishes "strict time".

At rehearsal letter **O**, time is measured in seconds, rather than meter represented with the open meter beforehand.

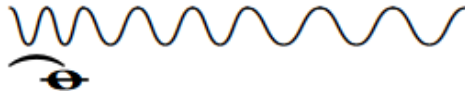
Performative Gesture Notation:

Frozen Gesture:



In the score, this symbol indicates that the performer should freeze in place like a statue after the duration of the note it is on, remaining as silent and still as possible. Maintain this frozen posture for as long as you can, only moving when necessary to prepare for the next note. When resuming, the entrance should be made with a sudden, violent gesture, creating a stark contrast to the preceding stillness.

Two-Direction Pitch Bend:



All pitch bends are a quarter-tone maximum both up and down. The rate is variable and will be specified in the score.

Glissandi:

Pitches should change at a completely linear rate.

Flute:

Jetwhistle downwards from the note. All jetwhistles are diamond noteheads and a passage will always be marked with J.W as shown in the notation above.

Violin/Cello: Overpressure

Overpressure should be applied from the onset of the note(s) and sustained throughout the entire duration as indicated in the score. The pressure should be as intense as possible, producing a dense, gritty sound rich in high-frequency noise—ideally creating a harsh, heavy, and highly textured sonic effect.

Tailpiece bowing should have a light and airy sound, with no defined pitch or inconsistent pitch if possible.

me obruit

Anguish, fear ♩ = 108

Max Chung

The musical score is for the piece "me obruit" by Max Chung, with a tempo of 108 beats per minute. It is written for a chamber ensemble consisting of Flute, Clarinet in Bb, Violin, and Violoncello. The score is in 4/4 time and features a variety of dynamic markings and performance instructions.

Flute: The Flute part begins with a trill (tr) and a series of notes. It includes dynamic markings of *ffp* and *f*. There are also trills and a "gliding" instruction.

Clarinet in Bb: The Clarinet in Bb part features a trill (tr) and a series of notes. It includes dynamic markings of *ffp* and *f*. There are also trills and a "gliding" instruction.

Violin: The Violin part features a trill (tr) and a series of notes. It includes dynamic markings of *ffp* and *f*. There are also trills and a "gliding" instruction.

Violoncello: The Violoncello part features a trill (tr) and a series of notes. It includes dynamic markings of *ffp* and *f*. There are also trills and a "gliding" instruction.

Performance Instructions: The score includes several performance instructions, including "gliding" and "freeze in the posture of the last pitch".

A a tempo

10

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

ffp *f* *ffp*

ffp *f*

ffp *f*

ffp *f*

16

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

f *ffp* *f*

ffp *f*

f

mp *f*

21 *tr* *gliding* **B**

Fl. *pp* *pp* *f*

Cl. in B♭ *ffp* *f* *pp* *pp*

Vln *ffp* *f* *pp* *pp* *f*

Vc.

rit.

24 *decaying*

Fl. *p* *mp* *p*

Cl. in B♭ *f* *p* *pp*

Vln *p* *decaying*

Vc. *decaying* *p* *f* *p*

27

Fl.

Cl. in Bb

Vln

Vc.

$\text{♩} = 90$

pp

pp

pp

pp

bow tailpiece w/ inconsistent pitch, noisy,

(*pp*)

half wood, half hair

C a tempo, with anguish, fear

35

Fl.

Cl. in B♭

Vln

Vc.

tr *p* *ffp* *f* *p*

tr *ffp* *f* *p*

tr *p* *p < f* *f* *p* *tr* *ffp* *3*

tr *p* *p < f* *gliss.* *ffp*

39

Fl.

Cl. in B♭

Vln

Vc.

tr *mp*

tr *p* *f* *p*

tr *f* *p* *gliss.*

tr *f* *p* *gliss.* *mp*

D

42 *tangled*

Fl. *p* *f* *pp* *mp*

Cl. in B♭ *pp* *f* *f* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vln *pp* *f* *mp* *p* *gliss.*

Vc. *p* *p* *f* *mp* *p*

44 *pitch bend*

Fl. *p* *gliss.* *pp*

Cl. in B♭ *gliss.* *p* *mp*

Vln *gliss.* *p* *mp* *3*

Vc. *p* *mp* *p* *in the grid*

46 *in the grid*

Fl. *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

Cl. in B♭ *p* *mp*

Vln *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *mp* *decaying* *mp* *pp* *f*

48

Fl. *pp* *pp* *f* *f*

Cl. in B♭ *pp* *decaying* *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln *p* *p* *f* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

Vc. *3* *mp*

50

Fl. *decaying*
p

Cl. in B♭

Vln *decaying*
p sul pont.-----

Vc. *p* *pp* sul pont.-----

52

Fl. *rit.*-----
mp

Cl. in B♭ *pp*

Vln *decaying*
(sul pont.)----- *col legno battuto* *pp*

Vc. (sul pont.)----- *col legno battuto* *pp*

55

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

air

hah

pp

air

hah

pp

pizz.

sul tasto

ppp

bow tailpiece w/ inconsistent pitch, noisy

pp

$\text{♩} = 90$

E a tempo

59

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

tr

ffp

ff

tr

ffp

ff

p

ord.

tr

gliss.

gliss.

ff

p

f

ord.

tr

gliss.

ffp

ff

64

Fl. *tr* *ff* > *p* < *f* *pizz.* *f* *ord.* *tr* *ffp* <

Cl. in B $\flat$ *tr* *f* > *p* < *f*

Vln *tr* *ffp* *ff*

Vc. *tr* *ff* *ff* *p*

68

Fl. *tr* *f* *pitch bend* *mp*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *3* *3* *p* *tangled* *p* < *f*

Vln *tr* *ff* *p* *p* *mp* *mp* *5* *5* *f*

Vc. *tr* *f* *gliss.* *p* *mp*

F

71

tangled

Fl. *f* *p* *p* *f*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *mp* *f* *p* *gliss.* *p* *mp* *f*

Vln *mp* *f* *f* *p* *sfz*

Vc. *f* *6* *mp* *p* *f*

73

Fl. *pp* *f* *p* *mp* *p*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *p* *p* *f* *f*

Vln *mp* *p* *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* *gliss.* *sfz* *f*

75

Fl. *p* $\triangleleft$ *mp* *p*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *p* *mp* $\triangleleft$ *pp* *mp*

Vln *gliss.* *p* $\triangleleft$ *mp* *in the grid*

Vc. *gliss.* *p* *f* $\triangleleft$ *mp* *p* $\triangleleft$ *mp*

77

Fl. *p* $\triangleleft$ *f* *pp* *in the grid*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *in the grid* *p* *p*

Vln *in the grid* *mp* $\triangleleft$ *f* *p* *mp*

Vc. *sfz* *p* *p* $\triangleleft$ *mp*

79

Fl. *f* *mp* *f*

Cl. in B♭ *p* *pp* *f*

Vln *f* *sfz*

Vc. *pp* *f* *sfz*

81

Fl. J.W. *ff* *mp*

Cl. in B♭ *mp*

Vln *pp* *decaying* *mp* *p*

Vc. *mp* *p*

83

Fl. *decaying*
p *mp*

Cl. in B♭ *decaying*
3
f

Vln *pp* *mp* *pp* *p*

Vc. *decaying*
mp *3* *sub. pp* *mp*

85

Fl. *3* *p*

Cl. in B♭ *3* *p*

Vln *3* *p*

Vc. *3* *p*

rit.

87

Fl.

3

3

pizz. 3

pp

Cl. in B $\flat$

3

pp

3

slap-tongue

Vln

pizz.

pp

Vc.

pizz.

pp

3

90

Fl.

(pizz.)-----

air

t t t t t t

Cl. in B $\flat$

slap-tongue

Vln

flautando

p

Vc.

col legno battuto

pizz.

sul pont.

93 **G** ♩ = 90

Fl. mostly air
hah

Cl. in B♭ air
hah
pp

Vln bow on bridge
ppp
wide vib.

Vc. gliss. *p* *mp*

96 **Ominous** ♩ = 92

Fl. *tr* *ff*

Cl. in B♭ *tr* *ff*

Vln *tr* *gliss.* *ff*

Vc. wide vib. *tr* *pp* *ff*

102

Fl. *sempre ff aggressively*

Cl. in B♭ *sempre ff aggressively*

Vln *sempre ff aggressively*

Vc. *ff aggressively* *pp like an echo* *ff aggressively*

104

Fl.

Cl. in B♭

Vln

Vc.

play fast ascending three note figures at written rhythm,
figures spaced at random intervals in the bottom two octaves of the flute

106

Fl.

play different ascending three note figures at written rhythm,
figures spaced at random intervals in the bottom two octaves of the clarinet

Cl. in B♭

play different ascending three note figures at written rhythm,
figures spaced at random intervals in the lower three positions of strings III and IV

Vln

play different ascending three note figures at written rhythm,
figures spaced at random intervals below middle E

Vc.

108

Fl.

Cl. in B♭

Vln

Vc.

H Tempo I, with rage ♩ = 108

110

Fl. *sim.*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *ffp* *tr* *ff* *mp* < *ff*

Vln *sim.* *tr* *ffp* *sul pont.*

Vc. *sim.*

113

Fl. *tr*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *ord. tr* *ff* *tr* *ffp* <

Vln *tr* *ff* *ff* *mp*

Vc. *tr* *sul pont.*

Detailed description: This musical score page contains two systems of music, measures 110-113. The first system (measures 110-112) features four staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in Bb (Cl. in Bb), Violin (Vln), and Viola (Vc.). The Flute part begins with a triplet of eighth notes, marked 'sim.' (simile). The Clarinet part has a long trill (tr) spanning measures 110 and 111, with dynamics *ffp*, *ff*, and *mp* < *ff*. The Violin part also has a triplet of eighth notes, marked 'sim.', and a trill (tr) in measure 112, marked *ffp* and 'sul pont.'. The Viola part has a triplet of eighth notes, marked 'sim.'. The second system (measures 113-115) continues the same instrumentation. The Flute part has a trill (tr) in measure 113. The Clarinet part has a 'ord. tr' (ordered trill) in measure 113, followed by a long trill (tr) in measure 114, with dynamics *ff* and *ffp* <. The Violin part has a long trill (tr) in measure 113, followed by a long trill (tr) in measure 114, with dynamics *ff* and *mp*. The Viola part has a trill (tr) in measure 113, marked 'sul pont.', followed by a long trill (tr) in measure 114.

117

Fl.

tr

pitch bend

Cl. in B♭

tr

ff

ff

p

gliss.

Vln

tr

(sul pont.)

tr

ffp

ff

p

f

p

Vc.

tr

#

121

Fl.

bis.

f

ff

Cl. in B♭

f

sfz

tr

ff

Vln

tr

f

gliss.

(sul pont.)

tr

ffp

f

f

p

f

Vc.

tr

ffp

f

f

p

f

125

Fl. *tr* *f* *sfz* *f*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *tr* *f* *f < ff* *f* *ff* *overpressure, no pitch*

Vln *ord.* *ff* *f* *f*

Vc. *tr* *mp*

129

Fl. *gliss.* *bis.* *ff* *ff*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *tr* *fp* *gliss.* *p* *f*

Vln *gliss.* *ff* *f* *f*

Vc. *ord.* *ff* *5* *f* *f*

136

Fl. *p* *ff* *sfz* *f* *decaying*

Cl. in Bb *p* *f* *ff* *sfz*

Vln *p* *ff* *p* *sfz*

Vc. *f* *pp* *f* *ff* *sfz*

138

Fl. *p* *f* *mp* *3*

Cl. in Bb *f* *p* *3*

Vln *f* *mp* *decaying* *3* *3* *3* *f*

Vc. *mp* *3* *3* *decaying* *p* *3* *3*

Detailed description: This musical score page contains two systems of music, measures 136-137 and 138-139. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in Bb (Cl. in Bb), Violin (Vln), and Viola (Vc.). The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. Measure 136: Flute has a triplet of eighth notes (p), followed by a half note (ff), a quarter note (sfz), and a triplet of eighth notes (f) marked 'decaying'. Clarinet in Bb has a triplet of eighth notes (p), a half note (f), a quarter note (ff), and a half note (sfz). Violin has a triplet of eighth notes (p) and a half note (ff), followed by a quarter note (p) and a half note (sfz). Viola has a half note (f), a quarter note (pp), a half note (f), a quarter note (ff), and a half note (sfz). Measure 137: Flute has a triplet of eighth notes (p), a half note (f), and a triplet of eighth notes (mp) marked 'decaying'. Clarinet in Bb has a half note (f), a quarter note (p), and a triplet of eighth notes (p). Violin has a half note (f), a quarter note (mp), and a triplet of eighth notes (decaying), followed by a half note (f). Viola has a half note (mp), a quarter note (3), a half note (3), and a triplet of eighth notes (decaying). Measure 138: Flute has a triplet of eighth notes (p), a half note (f), and a triplet of eighth notes (mp) marked 'decaying'. Clarinet in Bb has a half note (f), a quarter note (p), and a triplet of eighth notes (p). Violin has a half note (f), a quarter note (mp), and a triplet of eighth notes (decaying), followed by a half note (f). Viola has a half note (mp), a quarter note (3), a half note (3), and a triplet of eighth notes (decaying).

140

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

p

pp

pp

p

pp

142

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

pp

ff

pp

ff

ff

pizz.

arco

$\text{♩} = 90$

J.W.

J Ominous ♩ = 92

146

Fl. *cresc. poco a poco dal niente*

Cl. in B♭ *cresc. poco a poco dal niente*

Vln *cresc. poco a poco dal niente*

Vc. *cresc. poco a poco dal niente*

quarter tone pitch bend up and down at triplet to eighth note rate

149

Fl. *ff*

Cl. in B♭ *gliss.* *flz.* *ff*

Vln *overpressure, no pitch* *ff*

Vc. *gliss.* *overpressure, no pitch* *ff*

152

Fl. *ff* aggressively *pp* t t t

Cl. in B♭ *ff* aggressively *pp* slap-tongue

Vln *sempre ff* aggressively

Vc. *sempre ff* aggressively

154

Fl. *ff*

Cl. in B♭ *ff* slap-tongue *pp*

Vln

Vc. pizz. *pp*

156

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

K poco accel.

play fast ascending three note figures at written rhythm,
with shorter and shorter intervals between phrases at any register

159

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

play fast ascending three note figures at written rhythm,
with shorter and shorter intervals between phrases at any register

play fast ascending three note figures at written rhythm,
with shorter and shorter intervals between phrases at any register

slow trill until eighth note speed

168

Fl.

mp *ff* *f*

pitch bend

Cl. in Bb

sfz *ffp*

Vln

f *p*

Vc.

ff *mp*

171

Fl. *tr* *ffp*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *tr* *ff* *ff*

Vln *tr* *ff* *p*

Vc. *tr* overpressure, no pitch (ord.) *f* *tr*

174

Fl. *p* *f* *sempre fff* *desperate*

Cl. in B $\flat$ *p* *sempre fff* *desperate*

Vln *gliss.* *sempre fff* *desperate*

Vc. *tr* *f*

M Shrill, Overwhelming $\text{♩} = 108$

me obruir

31

pitch bend up and down

pitch bend up and down

pitch bend up and down

pitch bend up and down

overpressure, no pitch

overpressure, no pitch

sempre fff
desperate

growl up and down
random scales quickly

air 3

t k t

ppp

flz.

overpressure, no pitch

overpressure, no pitch

me obruit

growl up and down
random scales quickly

185

N

Fl. *fff*

Cl. in B♭

Vln

Vc.

flz.

overpressure, no pitch

overpressure, no pitch

188

Fl.

Cl. in B♭

Vln

Vc.

growl up and down
random scales quickly

pp

fff *pp*

random altissimo glisses

191

Fl.

fff

random altissimo glisses

Cl. in B $\flat$

fff

bow behind the bridge, noisy

Vln

ff

p

bow behind the bridge, noisy

Vc.

ff

overpressure, no pitch

193

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

ff

O A last struggle

195

Fl.

play fast ascending three note figures at written rhythm, with shorter and shorter intervals between phrases at any register

25"

p molto cresc.

fff

3

3

3

Cl. in B $\flat$

play fast ascending three note figures at written rhythm, with shorter and shorter intervals between phrases at any register

25"

p molto cresc.

fff

3

3

3

Vln

play fast ascending three note figures at written rhythm, with shorter and shorter intervals between phrases at any register

25"

p molto cresc.

fff

3

3

3

Vc.

play fast ascending three note figures at written rhythm, with shorter and shorter intervals between phrases at any register

25"

p molto cresc.

fff

3

3

3

play random notes at written rhythm,
inserting sixteenth note rests until
notes are grouped into phrases
of two or three consistently

20"

Fl.

fff *dim. poco a poco*

f

Cl. in B $\flat$

fff *dim. poco a poco*

f

Vln

fff *dim. poco a poco*

f

Vc.

fff *dim. poco a poco*

f

P

Defeated, accepting fate ♩ = 96

196

Fl. *f* *disintegrating slowly*

Cl. in B♭ *f* *disintegrating slowly*

Vln *f* *disintegrating slowly*

Vc. *f* *disintegrating slowly*

198

Fl. *mf*

Cl. in B♭ *mf*

Vln

Vc. *mf*

200

Fl.

mf

Cl. in B $\flat$

mp

Vln

mf

Vc.

mf

decaying

201

202

Fl.

mp

Cl. in B $\flat$

mp

Vln

mp

Vc.

mp

203

204

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

p

p

p

p

sul pont.

sul pont.

3

3

3

207

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

pp

air

hh

t

hh

slap-tongue

pizz.

pp

freeze until end

pizz.

pp

freeze until end

pp

molto rit.

210

Fl.

Cl. in B $\flat$

Vln

Vc.

p

p

ppp

ppp

p

p