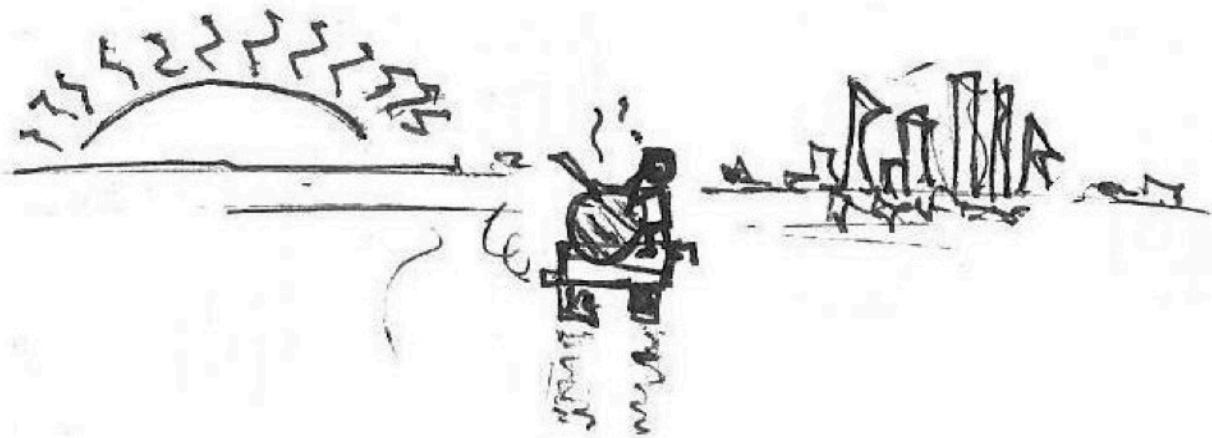


Quintet – Men in the Sun

Inspired by Ghassan Kanafani's 1963 novella.

Flute, Clarinet, Vibraphone, Viola, Cello



Ryan Suleiman

2010

Quintet - Men in the Sun

(2010)

- I. Opening
- II. Marwan and the Driver of the Lorry
- III. Basra (Intermezzo)
- IV. The Road
- V. "Sun and Shade"
- VI. Final Checkpoint

Winner of 2010 Festival of New American Music Student Composers Competition

Program Notes:

The title and inspiration for this quintet is drawn from a 1963 novella (originally in Arabic) by the world-renowned author/poet Ghassan Kanafani. The tragic story follows the struggle of three different men (a boy, an adult, and an old man) after the year 1948, which is known by Palestinians and Arabs generally as "Al Nakba" or "The Catastrophe." During this time, nearly one million Palestinians fled their home as refugees, and those who remained became second-class citizens in their own lands under Israeli occupation. Their descendants remain so today.

Hoping to earn money and better fortune for their families, the three protagonists in the story attempt to smuggle themselves to Kuwait where they might find work. Their paths converge in Basra where they meet their smuggler, a colorful, lively truck driver not without his own obstacles. To pass the checkpoints on the way they must hide in the lorry's water tank, which is cooked by the hot Iraqi sun. With little to lose in their lives, the men stop at nothing to cross the blazing desert. Himself a Palestinian refugee, Kanafani is known for his portrayal of the Palestinian experience through modern style/prose, vivid characters, and here, an intense plot. As a composer I was deeply inspired by these emotional and structural elements, as well as my own Arab roots. The piece is dedicated to my mentor, Stephen Blumberg, who was incredibly supportive in the composition and creative process.

Dedicated to my teacher and mentor Dr Stephen Blumberg for his help and support in the creative process.

Instrumentation

Flute
Clarinet in Bb
Vibraphone, Tambourine (one player)
Viola
Cello

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Quintet - Men in the Sun

I. Opening

"...you have done nothing but wait. You have needed ten big hungry years to be convinced that you have lost your trees, your house, your youth, and your whole village."

Expressive throughout, legato $\text{♩} = 40$

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Musical score for measures 1-6. The score is for five instruments: Flute, Clarinet in Bb, Vibraphone, Viola, and Cello. The time signature is 2/4. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 40$. The performance instruction is "Expressive throughout, legato". The dynamics are *mp* for Flute and Clarinet, and *p* for Viola and Cello. The Vibraphone part is mostly rests.

Musical score for measures 7-11. The score is for four instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.). The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The performance instruction is "Expressive throughout, legato". The dynamics are *mp* and *mf* for Flute and Clarinet, and *pp* for Flute in measure 11. The Viola and Cello parts have a triplet of eighth notes in measure 10.

Musical score for measures 12-16. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.). The time signature is 4/4. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The performance instruction is "Grand, full, vast (bring out)". The dynamics are *p*, *ff*, *f*, *mp*, and *mf* for Flute; *ff*, *f*, *p*, and *mp* for Clarinet; *mp*, *ff*, *f*, and *mp* for Vibraphone; *ff*, *f*, *p*, and *mp* for Viola; and *ff*, *f*, *p*, and *mp* for Cello. The Vibraphone part has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 14.

II. Marwan and the Driver of the Lorry

"But as soon as he left the wall (of the smuggler's shop) and began to walk into the crowd, he felt a hand grasp his shoulder. 'Don't be so desperate. Where are you going now?'"

Slow, Pensive ♩ = 54

fl: Marwan; lonely, lyrical throughout

Flute *mp* *mf*

Clarinet in Bb

7 **Andante** ♩ = 72

Fl. *mp* *p* *p* *mp*

Cl. *mf* *p*

Cl: "the Driver"; flamboyant throughout

12

Fl. *p*

Cl. *f* *subito pp*

15 *rit.* *a tempo*

Fl. *mp* *p* *mp* *mf*

Cl. *rit.* *a tempo* *p* *mf* *p*

20

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

III. Basra (Intermezzo)

Lively, dance-like,
flamboyant ♩ = 108

Flute *legato*
f 3 3

Clarinet in Bb

Tambourine *mf* *f legato* 3

Viola *f legato* 3

Cello *f*

Fl. 5 3 *mp* 3

Tmb. *mp*

Vla. 3 *mp* 3

Vc. *mp*

Fl. 8 3 3

Tmb.

Vla. 3 3

Vc.

IV. The Road

"The huge lorry was carrying them along the road, together with their dreams, their families, their hopes and ambitions, their misery and despair, their strength and weakness, their past and future..."

Intense, with weight ♩ = 54

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

Viola
mf *mp* *p* *cresc.* *mp* *f*

Cello
mf *mp* *cresc.* *mf* *f*



Vib.
mp *mf* *pp* *mf*

Vla.
mp *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

Vc.
mp *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*



Light, but expressive ♩ = 108

Vib.
mp

Vla.
con sord.
PP driving, but not rushed!

Vc.
con sord.
PP driving, but not rushed!

V. "Sun and Shade"

" 'I'll put on a splendid lunch for you when we arrive...' He raised the water skin and poured it into his mouth until it began to trickle out at the corners onto his chin..."

Solo Vib.

Freely ♩ = 46

5

8 **Meno mosso**

14

18 **molto rit.**

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

rit. *a tempo* *rit. poco a poco* *sempre cresc.* *a tempo* *attacca into VI.*

VI. Final Checkpoint

"Did you have to talk so much rubbish, Abu Baqir? Did you have to spew all your filth onto my face and theirs?
...(he) twitched compulsively, his lower lip trembling as he panted for breath, overcome with terror..."

Moderato (♩ = 100)

(from V, attacca)

Clarinet in Bb

Vibraphone

Cello

8

più mosso (♩ = 108)

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vla.

Vc.

11

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vla.

Vc.

14

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p*

Vib. *mp*

Vla. *f*

Vc.



molto rit.

16

♩ = 60 19

Fl. *mf* *f* *mp*

Cl. *mf* *mp* *p*

Vib. *mf* *f* *p*

Vla. *ff* *p*

Vc. *mf* *f* *p*

25

Musical score for measures 20-25. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Fl.:** Starts at measure 20 with a half note G4 (sharp). Dynamics: *mf* to *p*. Measure 25 has a quarter note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mp*.
- Cl.:** Rests in measures 20-24. Measure 25 has a quarter note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mf*.
- Vib.:** Chords in measures 20-24. Dynamic *mp*.
- Vla.:** Rests in measures 20-24. Measure 25 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mf* and *pizz.* marking.
- Vc.:** Rests in measures 20-24. Measure 25 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mf*. A *sul pont. (scratchy)* marking is present in measure 24.

Dynamic markings for measures 20-24: *mp* to *niente* for Fl. and Vc. *mp* to *pp* to *f* for Vc. *mf* for Cl. and Vla. in measure 25.

Musical score for measures 26-30. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.).

- Fl.:** Rapid sixteenth-note runs in measures 26-29. Measure 30 has a half note G4 (flat).
- Cl.:** Rapid sixteenth-note runs in measures 26-29. Measure 30 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *p*. Marking: (underneath the vibes).
- Vib.:** Rests in measures 26-29. Measure 30 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mp*. Marking: (above the clarinet).
- Vc.:** *pizz.* marking in measure 26. Measure 30 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mf*.

Musical score for measures 30-34. The score is for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), and Vibraphone (Vib.).

- Fl.:** Rapid sixteenth-note runs in measures 30-32 with triplets. Measure 33 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mp*. Measure 34 has a half note G4 (flat).
- Cl.:** Rests in measures 30-32. Measure 33 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mp*. Measure 34 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mp* and a triplet marking.
- Vib.:** Rests in measures 30-32. Measure 33 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mp*. Measure 34 has a half note G4 (flat) with dynamic *mp*.