

A Light Shining In Darkness

Mvt 1: Lamplight

By

Maxwell Franko

Full score for Brass Quintet

©2020 Maxwell Franko

Duration: ca. 5:00

Program Notes

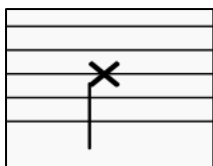
A Light Shining In Darkness is a musical dramatization of the effect a light or many lights have on a scene shrouded in the veil of night. Movement 1 entitled: *Lamplight* depicts the act of a being, human or not, covered in darkness surrounded only by the noises of the night (represented by tapping and blowing air through the instrument). Soon after, this figure notices a single lamplight perforating the shade off in the distance. This light can take the form of any stationary light whether it be a streetlight, lamp, candle, etc. As the light is approached, the noises slowly fade to nothing, giving way to fragmented sounds that emanate from the light. *These sounds begin in the form of slow, spaced tones in the whole-tone scale and transform gradually into melodic cells of the same pitch content.*

As this being nears the light, the emanating rays begin to grasp at it, touching with the same light which broke through the darkness. *This is shown as the performers reach rehearsal mark B. The tuba sustains an F, grounding the players in F Phrygian.* Thematically, this represents the being's sense of direction as it approaches the light -- *Opposing the spaced, whole-tone sound of the darkness. Tension begins to build as a more noticeable, murky melody emerges, pulsating beats are heard, and*

B becomes the more prominent tone in the bass. This ground the music in a more B Lydian sound, a bright mode to reflect the ever-increasing light that coats the entity.

The being steps under the light and is exposed to the full power of the light, guarding it from the darkness. *This is shown as the performers reach rehearsal mark F. The quintet spans the whole range of brass sound with high, fanfare-esque trumpets and low, powerful jabs in the tuba and trombone. This glory is short-lived as the creature turns and retreats back into the gloom. The listener hears the return of similar sounds as the light reaches for the figure – an abbreviated echo of the murky melody, the fragmented, whole-tone cells, and the noises which accompany the night. The figure continues to make its way back into the darkness until the light shows only as a dull cloud grasping weakly from behind.*

Performance Notes



Indicates the performer tapping on the instrument. This can be with the finger or any object. This action must be done at a volume that can be heard while still following the dynamics shown



Indicates blowing air through the instrument. This must be done at a volume that can be heard while still following the dynamics shown.

(*) Measures 1-5 are modules rather than measures that contain a specific number of beats. An instrument entering or changing in any of those modules are written above. Each module is cued by that performer when he or she enters. Measure 6 till the end of the piece is in time and the measures are to be treated as normal. Each module should last around 5 to 20 seconds each.

(**) In each of the modules, there are notes with either a square head or a cross head. The square indicates blowing air through the instrument and the cross indicates tapping on the bell of the instrument. Each group of notes between parenthesis are to be repeated at random intervals at the tempo listed above. Blowing air through the instrument will be done similarly in a relaxed manner, allowing for enough time to breathe in between. The aim of this is to create the noises of the darkness as described in the program notes.

Excluding measures 1 – 5, the entire piece is to be played in a bit of a rubato style. Allow the rhythms to waver slightly. This is especially the case with any tapping or blowing in the instrument.

Throughout, there are indications of mute changes for most of the performers. These are only recommendations and the players are encouraged to use a different combination of mutes or none at all. As

there is some level of spontaneity throughout, different mute choices will create a unique soundscape. While the choice of mute may vary, it is recommended that the location of the mutes do not change.

This piece is also suited well to be played with alternative brass instruments for the same reason regarding the mutes. One or two flugelhorns in place of the trumpets or euphonium in place of the trombone to name a few examples. This, similar to the mutes, is a choice that can be made as long as the transposition is kept in mind.

A Light Shining In Darkness

Mvt. I: Lamplight

Maxwell Franko

♩ = ca. 65 - measures 1-5 on cue (*)

Musical score for measures 1-5 of 'Lamplight'. The score is for five instruments: Trumpet in B♭ 1, Trumpet in B♭ 2, Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba. The time signature is 2/4. The key signature has one flat (B♭). The score includes various dynamics and performance instructions:

- Trumpet in B♭ 1:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 4, there is a five-measure rest marked with 'x's and a '5' below it. Dynamics: *p* in measure 4, *cresc. poco a poco* in measure 5.
- Trumpet in B♭ 2:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 4, there is a five-measure rest marked with 'x's and a '5' below it. Dynamics: *p* in measure 4, *cresc. poco a poco* in measure 5.
- Horn in F:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 2, there is a triplet of eighth notes marked with 'x's and a '3' below it. In measure 4, there is a five-measure rest marked with 'x's and a '5' below it. Dynamics: *p* in measure 2, *cresc. poco a poco* in measure 4, *mp* in measure 5. Instruction: "insert straight mute (**)" in measure 2, "hat or bag over bell (**)" in measure 4.
- Trombone:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 4, there is a five-measure rest marked with 'x's and a '5' below it. Dynamics: *p* in measure 4.
- Tuba:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 2, there is a triplet of eighth notes marked with 'x's and a '3' below it. In measure 4, there is a five-measure rest marked with 'x's and a '5' below it. Dynamics: *p* in measure 2, *cresc. poco a poco* in measure 4.

A ♩ = ca. 65, on cue - a tempo con un poco rubato

Musical score for section A, measures 6-9. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The time signature is 6/4. The key signature has one flat (B♭). The score includes various dynamics and performance instructions:

- B♭ Tpt. 1:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 6, there is a triplet of eighth notes marked with 'x's and a '3' below it. Dynamics: *mp* in measure 6.
- B♭ Tpt. 2:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 6, there is a triplet of eighth notes marked with 'x's and a '3' below it. Dynamics: *mp* in measure 6.
- Hn.:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 6, there is a triplet of eighth notes marked with 'x's and a '3' below it. Dynamics: *pp* in measure 6, *mf* in measure 7, *pp* in measure 8, *pp* in measure 9.
- Tbn.:** Starts with a whole note rest. Dynamics: *pp* in measure 6, *mf* in measure 7, *pp* in measure 8, *pp* in measure 9. Instruction: "simile" in measure 8.
- Tuba:** Starts with a whole note rest. In measure 6, there is a triplet of eighth notes marked with 'x's and a '3' below it. Dynamics: *mp* in measure 6.

A Light Shining In Darkness

2
9

Musical score for measures 2-9. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The key signature has one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 6/4. Measure 2 starts with a 2/4 time signature change. Dynamics include *pp*, *mp*, and *p*. Performance markings include *simile* and a triplet of eighth notes in the Tuba part.

B

12

Musical score for measures 12-19. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The key signature has one flat (B♭) and the time signature is 6/4. Measure 12 starts with a 6/4 time signature change. Dynamics include *mf* and *pp*. Performance markings include *remove bucket mute*, *sempre legato*, and a triplet of eighth notes in the Tuba part.

A Light Shining In Darkness

14

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

remove straight mute

16

poco rall. **C** *a tempo*

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

pp *mf*

pp *mf*

mf

mf

A Light Shining In Darkness

D

4
19

insert harmon mute, stem out

Musical score for measures 19-23. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The key signature has one flat (B♭). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4. The music features a melodic line in the brass instruments, with dynamics ranging from *mf* to *mf*. A *molto legato* marking is present in the Tbn. part. The instruction "insert harmon mute, stem out" is written above the first two trumpet parts.

E

24

remove harmon mute

poco accel.

poco rall.

Musical score for measures 24-28. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The key signature has one flat (B♭). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4, 3/4, and back to 4/4. The music features a melodic line in the brass instruments, with dynamics ranging from *mp* to *mf*. A *simile* marking is present in the Tbn. part. The instruction "remove harmon mute" is written above the first two trumpet parts.

A Light Shining In Darkness

a tempo

30

Musical score for measures 30-33. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The key signature has two flats (B♭ and E♭). The time signature is 3/4. The dynamics range from *pp* to *mf*. The B♭ Tpt. 1 and B♭ Tpt. 2 parts start with a *pp* dynamic and gradually increase to *mf*. The Hn. part has a *mf* dynamic. The Tbn. part has a *mf* dynamic. The Tuba part has a *mf* dynamic. There are various articulations, including accents and slurs, and some triplets in the Tbn. and Tuba parts.

poco rall.

F a tempo

34

Musical score for measures 34-37. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The key signature has two flats (B♭ and E♭). The time signature is 3/4. The dynamics range from *f* to *mf*. The B♭ Tpt. 1 and B♭ Tpt. 2 parts start with a *f* dynamic and have many triplets. The Hn. part has a *f* dynamic and has many triplets. The Tbn. part has a *f* dynamic and has many triplets. The Tuba part has a *f* dynamic and has many triplets. There are various articulations, including accents and slurs, and some triplets in the Tbn. and Tuba parts.

A Light Shining In Darkness

G

6
38

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

42

insert harmon mute, stem out

insert harmon mute, stem out

remove harmon mute

B \flat Tpt. 1

B \flat Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tuba

A Light Shining In Darkness

H

Musical score for section H, measures 1-4. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The time signature changes from 5/4 to 4/4 in measure 2, back to 5/4 in measure 3, and finally to 6/4 in measure 4. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *mp*, and *molto legato*. The Tuba part includes a *p* to *mp* dynamic change.

I

Musical score for section I, measures 1-4. The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 5/4 in measure 3 and back to 6/4 in measure 4. Dynamics include *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mp*, and *simile*. Performance instructions include "remove harmon mute" for B♭ Tpt. 1, "insert cup mute" for B♭ Tpt. 2, and "insert stop mute" for Hn. The Tuba part includes a *mp* to *mf* to *mp* dynamic change.

A Light Shining In Darkness

8
54

Musical score for measures 8-11 (54-57). The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 5/4 and back to 6/4. The key signature has one sharp (F#).
- B♭ Tpt. 1: Treble clef, melodic line with slurs.
- B♭ Tpt. 2: Treble clef, melodic line with slurs. Marking: *simile*.
- Hn.: Treble clef, melodic line with slurs.
- Tbn.: Bass clef, melodic line with slurs. Marking: *insert straight mute*.
- Tuba: Bass clef, melodic line with slurs. Marking: *mf*.
- Dynamics: *mf* is indicated at the start of measure 8 and under the Tuba staff in measure 11.

J

Musical score for measures 12-15 (58-61). The score is for five instruments: B♭ Tpt. 1, B♭ Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tuba. The time signature changes from 6/4 to 5/4 and back to 6/4. The key signature has one sharp (F#).
- B♭ Tpt. 1: Treble clef, melodic line with slurs. Marking: *mf*.
- B♭ Tpt. 2: Treble clef, melodic line with slurs. Marking: *remove cup mute*.
- Hn.: Treble clef, melodic line with slurs.
- Tbn.: Bass clef, melodic line with slurs.
- Tuba: Bass clef, melodic line with slurs. Marking: *mf³*.
- Dynamics: *mf* is indicated under the B♭ Tpt. 1 staff in measure 12. *mf³* is indicated under the B♭ Tpt. 2 staff in measure 15.
- A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' in measure 15.

A Light Shining In Darkness

K

60

B \flat Tpt. 1 *dim. poco a poco* *p*

B \flat Tpt. 2 *dim. poco a poco* *p*

Hn. remove stop mute *mf³* *dim. poco a poco* *p*

Tbn. remove straight mute *mf³* *dim. poco a poco* *p*

Tuba *dim. poco a poco* *mf³* *dim. poco a poco* *p* *sempre dim.*

63

B \flat Tpt. 1 *pp*

B \flat Tpt. 2 *p* *pp*

Hn. *pp*

Tbn. *sempre dim.* *pp*

Tuba *pp*