

Andrew Mark Sauerwein
INTERESTING TIMES

for
Clarinet (B Flat)
Violin
Viola
Cello

Program Note

Interesting Times was composed in June 2020 for the Rapido! Composition Contest. The stated contest guidelines refer to the “extraordinary time” brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, calling for the piece to “express the impact this has had on you and/or reflect on the different range of human emotions that have been experienced worldwide.” Efforts across the country and around the globe to handle the crisis have been complicated by a variety of things, including outrageous political behavior, economic desperation, and the ever-present tensions around racism, human rights, terrorism, and natural disasters. Beneath this daily buzz is the chronic strain of isolation, social disruption, and fearful uncertainty. That ancient curse, “May you live in interesting times,” is coming true—yet there is hope.

This piece is “interested” in the contour of the so-called “Bach motive,” used by J. S. Bach to spell his name musically. After an initial declamation, the motive becomes the ubiquitous topic of dialogue ranging from reckless energy to shocked dismay, ponderous tension, and lamentation. Behind the scenes, though, is a Lutheran chorale tune from Bach’s familiar cantata, “Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme,” which subtly guides the opening section and emerges abruptly to bring the work to a hopeful, peaceful, lingering close.

—*Andrew Mark Sauerwein*

INTERESTING TIMES

(Score in Concert Pitch)

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Emphatically (♩ = 72)

Energetically, Recklessly (♩ = 144)

B♭ Clarinet

Violin

Viola

Cello

ff *pp*

6

p *mf*

11

p *mf*

INTERESTING TIMES - 2

16

Musical score for measures 16-20. The score is written for four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4. Dynamics include *f*, *ff*, *mp*, and *p*. Fingerings are indicated by Roman numerals (IV, V, VI).

21

Musical score for measures 21-25. The score is written for four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, and *mf*. Fingerings are indicated by Roman numerals (IV, V).

26

Musical score for measures 26-30. The score is written for four staves: Treble 1, Treble 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4. Dynamics include *mp* and *mf*. Fingerings are indicated by Roman numerals (IV, V, VI).

INTERESTING TIMES - 3

31 Tensely

f *ff* *pp*

mf *f* *ff* *pp*

f *ff* *pp*

f *ff* *pp*

37 Soberly (♩ = 72) (espr.)

mp

p

p

p

44

pp *mp*

pp *mp* *p*

pp *mp* *p*

pp *p*

INTERESTING TIMES - 4

50

pp

pp

gliss.

gliss.

55

Forlornly

Ponderously, tensely (♩ = c. 56)

pp <>

ppp <>

pp <>

ppp <>

pp <>

ppp <>

n

pp <>

ppp <>

mp

61

mp

p

mf

mp

p

mp

p

INTERESTING TIMES - 5

65

Musical score for measures 65-68. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A slur is present over measures 66-68 in the top staff.

69

Musical score for measures 69-72. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music continues with similar rhythmic patterns. Dynamics include *mf* and *mp*. A slur is present over measures 70-72 in the top staff.

73

Musical score for measures 73-76. The score is written for three staves: Treble, Bass, and Bass. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 4/4. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics include *f* and *cresc. poco a poco*. A slur is present over measures 74-76 in the top staff.

INTERESTING TIMES - 6

Mournfully (♩ = 72)

77

Musical score for measures 77-81. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one flat. It consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. The music is marked 'Mournfully' with a tempo of ♩ = 72. Dynamics include *ff* (fortissimo) and *pp* (pianissimo). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

82

Musical score for measures 82-88. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one flat. It consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. The music is marked 'Mournfully' with a tempo of ♩ = 72. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo), *n* (normal), and *p* (piano). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

89

Warmly, with hope (♩ = 52)

Musical score for measures 89-93. The score is in 3/4 time and features a key signature of one flat. It consists of three staves: Treble, Bass, and a lower Bass staff. The music is marked 'Warmly, with hope' with a tempo of ♩ = 52. Dynamics include *n* (normal), *p* (piano), and *pp* (pianissimo). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

INTERESTING TIMES - 7

95

Musical score for measures 95-101. The score is in 3/2 time and consists of four staves: two treble clefs and two bass clefs. The music features a variety of dynamics including *cresc.*, *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. A hairpin crescendo is shown in the first staff, and a hairpin decrescendo is shown in the second staff. The bass clef staves have a *cresc.* marking in the first measure and a *mp* marking in the second measure. A fermata is present over a note in the second staff at measure 101.

102

Musical score for measures 102-108. The score is in 3/2 time and consists of four staves. A *rall.* (rallentando) marking is placed above the first staff at measure 102. Dynamics include *mp*, *p*, *mf*, and *dim.*. Hairpin crescendos and decrescendos are used throughout. A fermata is present over a note in the first staff at measure 108.

109

Peacefully (♩ = 72)

Musical score for measures 109-115. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of four staves. The tempo is marked as *Peacefully* with a quarter note equal to 72 beats per minute. The music features triplets and dynamics including *pp*, *p*, and *n* (pianissimo). Hairpin crescendos and decrescendos are used. A fermata is present over a note in the first staff at measure 115.