oberlin night sketches

nocturne for clarinet and percussion

instrumentation

- 1 clarinet in B b
- 1 percusion (instruments and key on next page)

perfomance note

This piece should be played with a lot of patience, and with special attention towards the pacing between different ideas. As a general rule of thumb, the music should always be played a little bit behind the beat.

program note

oberlin night sketches was conceived in collaboration with the clarinet and percussions studios at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music.

In writing this piece, I wanted to capture a walk I sometimes take in the dead of night in Oberlin, Ohio. I happen to work a second shift at a food place, so I usually get off anytime between 12:30 am and 2:30 am. During those early hours of the morning, Oberlin is completely empty: one car every 10 minutes, maybe one other person if even. It is eerily peaceful, but at the same time super-alive. You can hear your heart beat, the wind hitting the trees, raccoons scurrying across the street- in and out of the sewer, occasionally other students partying in the distance, etc. Oberlin by no means has the typical nightlife of other cities (actually quite the contrary, with very few places open after 9:00 pm and no clubs Oberlin is a little vanilla); however, to me there is something exuberant about it.

The clarinetist and percussionist are in constant dialogue, and certain points in the piece have their own things to say. In sketching and preperation, I wrote a short little poem whose narrative structure the piece is designed around:

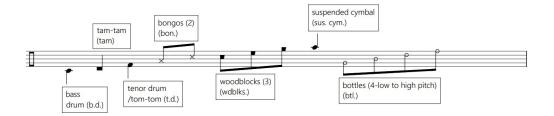
strolling through Oberlin in the dead of night, 3:00 am- not a human in sight

raccoons scurry in and out of the sewers; back and forth accross the street.

...silence becomes sound...

I can hear my heart beating...

percussion key





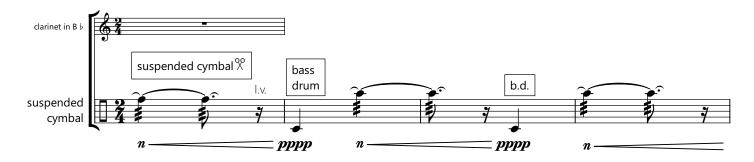
for the 2023 compositional explorations project

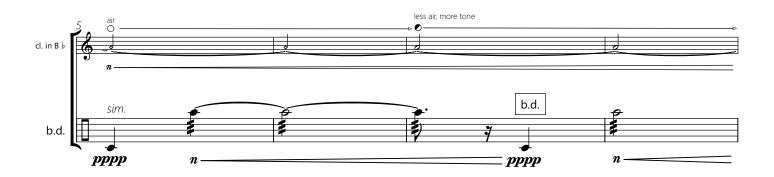
oberlin night sketches

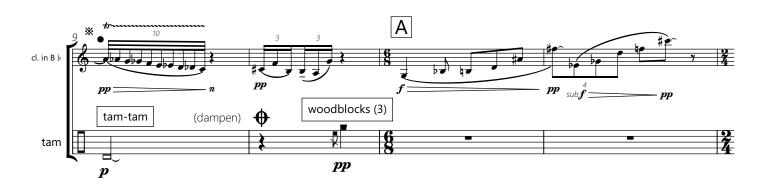
nocturne for clarinet and percussion

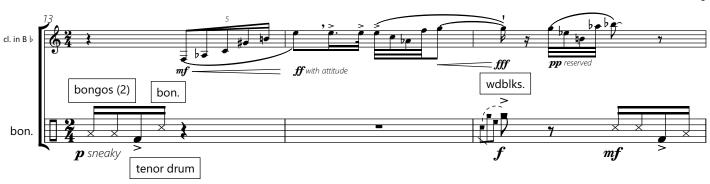
Isaac Santos

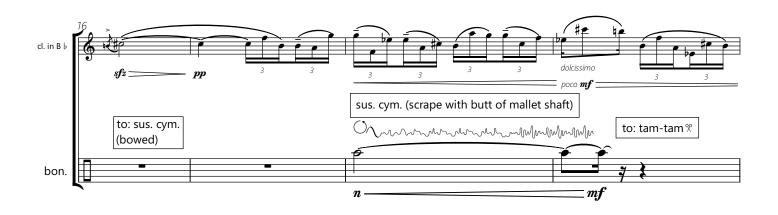
$J = 52 (\pm 4)$ moderate; quiet and mundane

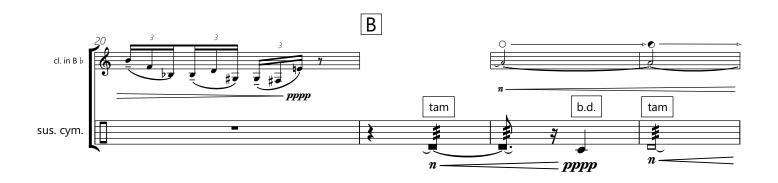




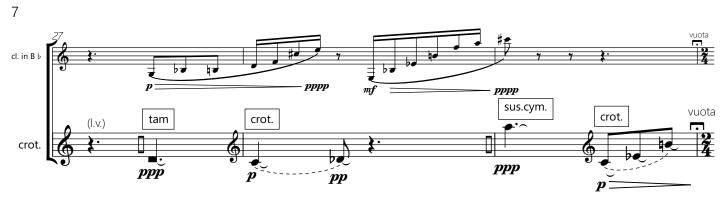


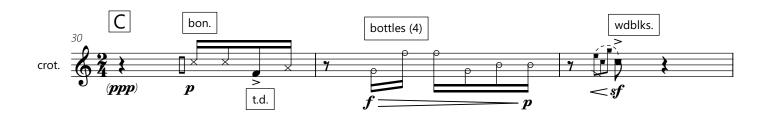


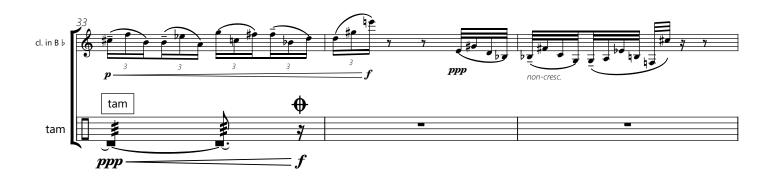


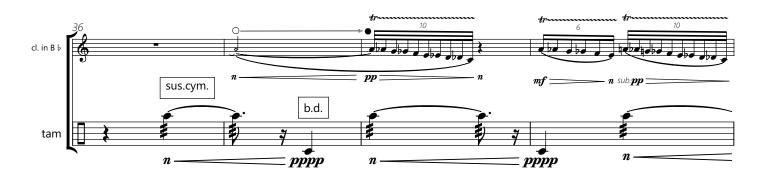








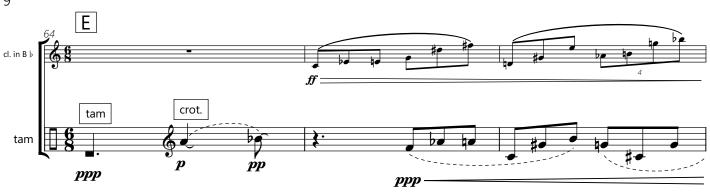


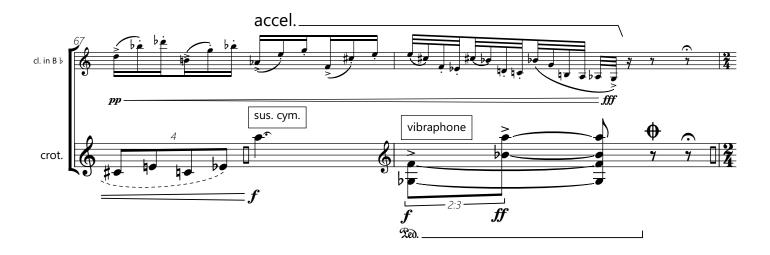


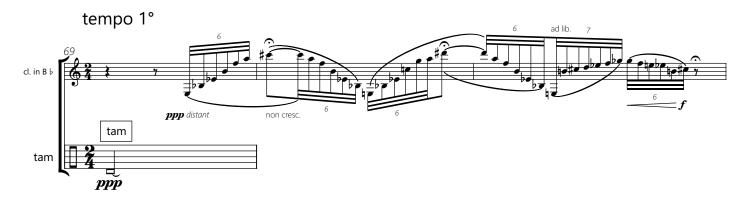


all rights reserved © Isaac Santos 2022

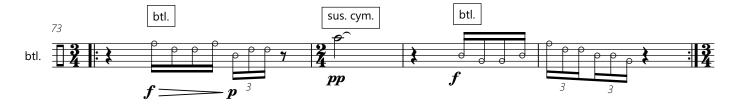












N.B. clarinet: play <u>second time</u> only! percussion: play <u>both times</u>!



