

Funky Poly

scherzo for orchestra

full score

© Peter McAleer

Peter McAleer

2024

Funky Poly

scherzo for orchestra

Peter McAleer

2024

Instrumentation

Flute 1
Flute 2
Flute 3
Flute 4 + alto flute
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinet 1 in B flat
Clarinet 2 in B flat
Clarinet 3 in A
Clarinet 4 in B flat + bass clarinet
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2
Bassoon 3
Bassoon 4 + contrabassoon

Horn 1 in F
Horn 2 in F
Horn 3 in F
Horn 4 in F
Trumpet 1 in B flat + piccolo trumpet
Trumpet 2 in B flat
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Trombone 3 + bass trombone
Tuba 1
Tuba 2

Timpani - 5 needed
Snare drum
Tenor drums x 2 (high & low)
Anvil

Violin 1
Violin 2
Viola
Cello
Double bass

Performance

Concept

The title is a short form of *Funky Polyphony*, referring to the musical fabric which is formed from polyphonic thematic and rhythmic ostinati. Often syncopated in nature, these gather and combine in increasingly complex ways. The underlying structure comprises a series of discrete segments ('blocks') of music separated by pauses. These blocks start very small. However, as the piece progresses they increase in size, complexity and intensity.

The influences which informed my use of this kind of structure are varied but all have one feature in common: a series of distinct and separate elements put together in a sequence. They include:

- Several groundbreaking moments in Beethoven's output. For example: Op 106 (the preamble to the last movement fugue, where themes are presented and cut off in full flow and discarded); the recitative passage at the start of the final movement of the 9th symphony; and the start of the *Grosse Fuge* op 133 where the following music is summarised unapologetically in a string of seemingly unrelated quotations.
- The thematic catalogues commonly found on the pages of published scores.
- My own musical sketchbooks, where totally unrelated ideas follow each other. However, on listening to them in sequence, I realised they were affecting each other in a fascinating yet completely unintended way.
- The later art of Henri Matisse.

My task was then to combine the blocks and their musical content into an integrated and satisfying whole: a piece which presents a string of separate musical chunks, like ornaments on a necklace, but whose contents are shared and developed, and follow on from each other in a completely logical way.

Interpretation

Blocks are denoted by boxed rehearsal numbers, of which there are 18. The challenge for the conductor is to allow them to sound at once separate but also to connect with each other - the over-arching purpose to create a powerful and irresistible forward momentum. In this way, by the time we get to block 16, a piece which starts out with playful, even skittish juxtapositions should gallop headlong to a sudden and much darker climax. Thus it has been left to the conductor to choose whatever length of pause to make between each block: I have not attempted to prescribe whether such and such a pause should be long, short, or hardly at all. It is entirely discretionary.

Accented cross rhythms abound and precision is paramount. However, it's not intended that everything should be heard with clarity - ostinati emerge and disappear; we should not always hear them start or know when they've stopped. Some blocks contain material which is apparently almost completely, and randomly, *pointillist*. Although this is completely intentional there is rigorous structure here too. See block 15 for example, which starts in this *pointillist* manner but, from which, an ostinato figure gradually appears (starting at bar 326, oboe 2). This figure should emerge imperceptibly from the background, from the mass staccato 'cloud'.

Notation

I have used conventional notation throughout with no custom made signs or extended techniques. The notation '*n*' standing for *niente* is adopted, and pedal style brackets to instruct the harpist to allow *laissez vibrer*.

Duration: 11'09" - this is approximate by the very nature of the piece

Funky Poly

scherzo for orchestra

Peter McAleer

This score registered with the Performing Rights Society March 2024.
Original score kept at the British Music Collection March 2024.
Copyright held by Peter McAleer.
Unauthorised use of this music prohibited.

1 **2/4** Tempo Giusto ♩ = 90

2 ♩ = 90

3 **2/4** ♩ = 90

Flute 1
Flute 2
Flute 3
Alto Flute
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinet in B♭ 1
Clarinet in B♭ 2
Clarinet in A
Bass Clarinet
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2
Bassoon 3
Contrabassoon
French Horn in F 1
French Horn in F 2
French Horn in F 3
French Horn in F 4
Piccolo Trumpet in B♭
Trumpet in B♭ 2
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba 1
Tuba 2
Timpani
Snare Drum
Tenor Drum (High)
Tenor Drum (Low)
Anvil
Harp
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

6

$\frac{2}{4}$ = 90

This musical score is for the piece "Funky Poly" and is page 5 of a 6-page set. The score is written for a large ensemble, including woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The tempo is marked as 90 beats per minute in a 2/4 time signature. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 36 to 45, and the second system covers measures 46 to 55. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob. 1, Ob. 2, Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, B. Cl., Ban 1, Ban 2, Ban 3, Cbsn, F. Hn in F 1, F. Hn in F 2, F. Hn in F 3, F. Hn in F 4, Picc. Tpt in Bb, Tpt in Bb 2, Tbn 1, Tbn 2, B. Tbn, Timp., Sn. Dr., T. Dr. (H), T. Dr. L., Hp., Vln I, Vln II, Vla., Vc., and D. B. The score features various dynamics such as *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *ppp* (pianissimo). The percussion parts include snare drum, tom-toms, and cymbals. The string parts include violins, viola, violin, and double bass. The woodwind and brass parts feature complex rhythmic patterns and melodic lines. The score is marked with a large "PREVIEW" watermark.

7

This page contains the musical score for the piece "Funky Poly", page 6. The score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes staves for Flutes 1, 2, and 3; Alto Flute; Oboes 1 and 2; Clarinets in Bb 1 and 2; Clarinet in A; Bass Clarinet; Bassoons 1 and 2; Horns in F 1, 2, 3, and 4; Piccolo Trumpet in Bb; Trumpet in Bb 2; Trombones 1, 2, and Bass Trombone; Timpani; Snare Drum; Tom Tom (High/Low); Harp; Violin I; Violin II; Viola; Violoncello; and Double Bass. The second system continues with the same instruments. A large, semi-transparent watermark "PREVIEW" is overlaid across the center of the page. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *ppp* and *pp*. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 90. The time signature changes from 2/4 to 3/4 and back to 2/4. A rehearsal mark "7" is located at the top of the second system.

8 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{♩} = 90$ $\frac{3}{4}$

9 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{♩} = 90$ $\frac{3}{4}$

10 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{♩} = 90$

FL 1
FL 2
FL 3
A. FL.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
Cl. in A
B. Cl.
Bsn 1
Bsn 2
F. Hn in F 1
F. Hn in F 2
F. Hn in F 3
F. Hn in F 4
Picc. Tpt in B♭
Tpt in B♭ 2
Tbn 1
Tbn 2
B. Tbn
Timp.
Sn. Dr.
T. Dr. (R)
T. Dr. (L)
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

11

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$ = 90

112

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

Fl. 4

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in B \flat 1

Cl. in B \flat 2

Cl. in A

B. Cl.

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Bsn 3

Cbsn

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

F. Hn in F 3

F. Hn in F 4

Picc. Tpt in B \flat

Tpt in B \flat 2

Tbn 1

Tbn 2

B. Tbn

Timp.

Sn. Dr.

T. Dr. (R)
T. Dr. (L)

Anv.

Hp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vcl.

D. B.

cheekily

pp

pp

pp

pp

mp

ord. arco

pppp

p

mp

p

f

pppp

f

pp

ppp

p

pizz.

p

This musical score is for the piece "Funky Poly" and is page 10 of the score. It features a large ensemble of instruments. The woodwind section includes three Flutes (Fl. 1, 2, 3), two Oboes (Ob. 1, 2), three Clarinets (Cl. in Bb 1, 2, and in A), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), three Bassoons (Bsn 1, 2, 3), and Contrabassoon (Cbsn). The brass section consists of four Horns in F (F. Hn in F 1, 2, 3, 4), Piccolo Trumpet in Bb (Picc. Tpt in Bb), two Trumpets in Bb (Tpt in Bb 2), three Trombones (Tbn 1, 2, B. Tbn), and two Tubas (Tba 1, 2). The percussion section includes Snare Drum (Sn. Dr.), Tom Drum (T. Dr. (H) and T. Dr. (L)), and Anvil (Anv.). The string section includes Harp (Hp), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The score is marked with various dynamics such as *f*, *p*, *pp*, and *ppp*, and includes performance instructions like *ord.* and *pizz.*. A large, semi-transparent watermark "MUSIC" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

155

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in Bb 1
Cl. in Bb 2
Cl. in A
B. Cl.
Ban 1
Ban 2
Ban 3
Cban
F. Hn in F 1
F. Hn in F 2
F. Hn in F 3
F. Hn in F 4
Tpt in Bb 1
Tpt in Bb 2
Tbn 1
Tbn 2
Tbn 3
Tba 2
Timp.
Sn. Dr.
T. Dr. (H)
T. Dr. L.
Anv.
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

© Peter McAleer

ppp *f* *pp* *pizz.* *p* *f* *arco ord.* *pp*

This musical score is for the piece "Funky Poly" and is page 14 of the score. It features a large ensemble of instruments. The woodwind section includes four Flutes (Fl. 1-4), two Clarinets in Bb (Cl. in Bb 1, 2), one Clarinet in A (Cl. in A), one Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), three Bassoons (Bsn 1-3), four French Horns (F. Hn in F 1-4), two Trumpets in Bb (Tpt in Bb 1, 2), two Trombones (Tbn 1, 2), one Baritone Trombone (B. Tbn), and two Tubas (Tba 1, 2). The percussion section includes a Timpani (Timp.), Snare Drum (Sn. Dr.), Tom Drums (T. Dr. Gb, T. Dr. L.), and Anvil (Anv.). The string section includes Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The score is written in a common time signature and includes various dynamic markings such as *f*, *p*, *ppp*, *ff*, and *mf*. Performance instructions like "marcato" and "arco" are also present. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "PREVIEW" is overlaid diagonally across the center of the page.

This musical score is for the piece "Funky Poly" in 2/4 time. It features a large ensemble of instruments. The woodwind section includes four flutes (Fl. 1-4), two oboes (Ob. 1-2), three clarinets (Cl. in Bb 1-2, Cl. in A), three bassoons (Bsn 1-3), and four horns (F. Hn in F 1-4). The brass section consists of two trumpets (Tpt in Bb 1-2), three trombones (Tbn 1-2, B. Tbn), and two tubas (Tba 1-2). The percussion section includes timpani (Timp.), snare drum (Sn. Dr.), tenor drum (T. Dr. H), tenor drum (T. Dr. L), and an anvil (Anv.). The string section includes harp (Hp), two violins (Vln I, Vln II), viola (Vla), and double bass (D. B.). The score is marked with various dynamics such as *ff*, *f*, *fz*, and *p*. A large watermark "PREMIERE" is visible across the score.

13

$\frac{2}{4}$ $\text{♩} = 90$

FL 1
FL 2
FL 4
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in Bb 1
Cl. in Bb 2
B. Cl.
Bsn 1
Bsn 2
Chan
F. Hn in F 1
F. Hn in F 2
F. Hn in F 3
F. Hn in F 4
Tpt in Bb 1
Tpt in Bb 2
Tbn 1
Tbn 2
B. Tbn
Tba 1
Tba 2
Timp.
Sn. Dr.
T. Dr. H
T. Dr. L
Anv.
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

ppp
f
pp
ppp
f
pp
f
ppp
f
sf
ff
pp
pp
f
sf
sf
sf
sf

This page contains the musical score for the piece "Funky Poly", page 18. The score is arranged for a large ensemble and includes the following parts:

- Flutes:** Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Fl. 3, Fl. 4
- Oboes:** Ob. 1, Ob. 2
- Clarinets:** Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, Cl. in A, Cl. in Bb 3
- Bassoons:** Bas 1, Bas 2
- Horns:** F. Hn in F 1, F. Hn in F 2, F. Hn in F 3, F. Hn in F 4
- Trumpets:** Tpt in Bb 1, Tpt in Bb 2
- Trombones:** Tbn 1, Tbn 2, B. Tbn
- Tuba/Euphonium:** Tba 1, Tba 2
- Percussion:** Timp., Sn. Dr., T. Dr. (H), T. Dr. (L), Anv.
- Piano:** Hp
- Violins:** Vln I, Vln II
- Viola:** Vla
- Violoncello:** Vc.
- Double Bass:** D. B.

The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, and dynamic markings such as *ff* (fortissimo) and *pp* (pianissimo). A large, semi-transparent watermark "MCMC" is overlaid diagonally across the page.

This musical score is for the piece "Funky Poly" and is page 19 of the score. It features a large ensemble of instruments. The woodwind section includes four flutes (Fl. 1-4), two oboes (Ob. 1-2), three clarinets (Cl. in Bb 1-3), and two bassoons (Bsn 1-2). The brass section consists of four horns (F. Hn in F 1-4), two trumpets (Tpt in Bb 1-2), two trombones (Tbn 1-2), and two tubas (Tba 1-2). The percussion section includes timpani (Timp.), snare drum (Sn. Dr.), tenor and tom-tom drums (T. Dr. (T) / T. Dr. (L)), and an anvil (Anv.). The string section includes harp (Hp.), two violins (Vln I, II), viola (Vla.), violin (Vc.), and double bass (D. B.). The score is written in a common time signature and features a variety of dynamics, including fortissimo (ff), piano (p), and pianissimo (pp). There are also markings for accents and hairpins. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "PREVIEW" is overlaid diagonally across the center of the page.

263

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Fl. 4
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in Bb 1
Cl. in Bb 2
Cl. in A
Cl. in Bb 3
Bsn 1
Bsn 2
Bsn 3
Bsn 4
F. Hn in F 1
F. Hn in F 2
F. Hn in F 3
F. Hn in F 4
Tpt in Bb 1
Tpt in Bb 2
Tbn 1
Tbn 2
B. Tbn
Timp.
Sn. Dr.
T. Dr. (H)
T. Dr. (L)
Anv.
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vc.
D. B.

This page of the musical score, titled "Funky Poly" and numbered 21, contains the following parts and dynamics:

- Flutes (Fl. 1-4):** Flute 1 (Fl. 1) has a dynamic of *f* starting at measure 277. Flutes 2, 3, and 4 also have *f* dynamics.
- Oboes (Ob. 1-2):** Oboe 1 (Ob. 1) has dynamics of *p* and *f*. Oboe 2 (Ob. 2) has dynamics of *pp* and *f*.
- Clarinets (Cl. in Bb 1-3, Cl. in A):** Clarinets in Bb 1 and 2 have a dynamic of *ppp*. Clarinet in A (Cl. in A) is silent.
- Bassoons (Bsn 1-4):** Bassoon 1 (Bsn 1) has dynamics of *f* and *ppp*. Bassoons 2, 3, and 4 have dynamics of *f* and *ppp*.
- F Horns (F. Hn in F 1-4):** F Horn in F 1 has a dynamic of *pp*. F Horns in F 2 and 4 have a dynamic of *pp*. F Horn in F 3 has a dynamic of *pp*.
- Trumpets (Tpt in Bb 1-2):** Trumpet in Bb 1 has a dynamic of *pp*. Trumpet in Bb 2 has a dynamic of *pp*.
- Brass (Tbn 1-2, B. Tbn):** Trombones 1 and 2 (Tbn 1, Tbn 2) and Baritone Trombone (B. Tbn) are silent.
- Percussion (Timp., Sn. Dr., T. Dr. (H), T. Dr. (L), Anv.):** Timpani (Timp.) is silent. Snare Drum (Sn. Dr.) has a dynamic of *p*. Tom Drums (T. Dr. (H), T. Dr. (L)) have a dynamic of *p*. Anvil (Anv.) has a dynamic of *ppp*.
- String Ensemble (Hp, Vln I, Vln II, Vla, Vc., D. B.):** Harp (Hp) is silent. Violin I (Vln I) has dynamics of *ppp* and *ppp*. Violin II (Vln II) has dynamics of *p* and *arco*. Viola (Vla) has dynamics of *ppp* and *ppp*. Violoncello (Vc.) has dynamics of *f* and *ppp*. Double Bass (D. B.) is silent.

3/4

14
2/4 = 90

FL. 1
FL. 2
FL. 3
FL. 4
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in Bb 1
Cl. in Bb 2
Cl. in A
B. Cl.
Ban 1
Ban 2
Ban 3
Cbsn
F. Hn in F 1
F. Hn in F 2
F. Hn in F 3
F. Hn in F 4
Tpt in Bb 1
Tpt in Bb 2
Tbn 1
Tbn 2
B. Tbn
Tba 1
Tba 2
Timp.
Sn. Dr.
T. Dr. (H)
T. Dr. (L)
Anv.
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Via
Vc.
D. B.

346

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The top section includes woodwinds: Flutes 1-4, Oboes 1-2, Clarinets in Bb and A, and Bassoons 1-2. The middle section includes brass: Horns in F 1-4, Piccolo Trumpet in Bb, Trumpets in Bb, Trombones 1-3, and Tuba 1-2. The bottom section includes percussion: Snare Drum, Tom-Toms, Anvil, Harp, Violins I and II, Viola, and Double Bass. The score features various dynamics such as *f*, *ppp*, and *pp*, along with performance instructions like *and. arco*. A large, semi-transparent watermark reading 'MAGNATE' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$ ♩ = 90

359

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Fl. 4
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. in B♭ 1
Cl. in B♭ 2
Cl. in A
Cl. in B♭ 3
Bsn 1
Bsn 2
Cbsn
F. Hn in F 1
F. Hn in F 2
F. Hn in F 3
F. Hn in F 4
Picc. Tpt in B♭
Tpt in B♭ 2
Tbn 1
Tbn 2
B. Tbn
Tba 1
Tba 2
Timp.
Sn. Dr.
T. Dr. (H)
T. Dr. L
Anv.
Hp
Vln I
Vln II
Vla
Vcl.
D. B.

This page contains the musical score for the piece "Funky Poly". The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument family. The instruments listed on the left side of the page are: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Flute 3 (Fl. 3), Flute 4 (Fl. 4), Oboe 1 (Ob. 1), Oboe 2 (Ob. 2), Clarinet in Bb 1 (Cl. in Bb 1), Clarinet in Bb 2 (Cl. in Bb 2), Clarinet in A (Cl. in A), Clarinet in Bb 3 (Cl. in Bb 3), Bassoon 1 (Bsn 1), Bassoon 2 (Bsn 2), Bassoon 3 (Bsn 3), Contrabassoon (Cban), French Horn in F 1 (F. Hn in F 1), French Horn in F 2 (F. Hn in F 2), French Horn in F 3 (F. Hn in F 3), French Horn in F 4 (F. Hn in F 4), Trumpet in Bb 1 (Tpt in Bb 1), Trumpet in Bb 2 (Tpt in Bb 2), Trombone 1 (Tbn 1), Trombone 2 (Tbn 2), Baritone Trombone (B. Tbn), Tuba 1 (Tba 1), Tuba 2 (Tba 2), Timpani (Timp.), Snare Drum (Sn. Dr.), Tom Drum (T. Dr. (H)), Tom Drum (T. Dr. (L)), Harp (Hp), Violin I (Vln I), Violin II (Vln II), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (D. B.). The score includes various musical notations such as dynamics (ppp, pp, ff), articulation (accents), and performance instructions like "non vib." and "arco". A large, semi-transparent watermark reading "PREVIEW" is overlaid diagonally across the center of the page.

18

3/4

2/4 ♩ = 90

This musical score is for the piece "Funky Poly" and is page 31 of the score. It features a variety of instruments and includes a tempo change and key signature change.

Instrumentation:

- Flutes (Fl. 1-4)
- Oboes (Ob. 1-2)
- Clarinets (Cl. in Bb 1-3, Cl. in A)
- Bassoons (Ban 1-4)
- F Horns (F. Hn in F 1-4)
- Trumpets (Tpt in Bb 1-2)
- Trombones (Tbn 1-2, B. Tbn)
- Tuba (Tba 1-2)
- Timpani (Timp.)
- Snare Drum (Sn. Dr.)
- Tom-toms (T. Dr. Hd, T. Dr. L.)
- Piano (Hp)
- Violins (Vln I, Vln II)
- Viola (Vla)
- Violoncello (Vc.)
- Double Bass (D. B.)

Tempo and Key Signature:

- Initial tempo: 3/4
- Tempo change: 2/4 ♩ = 90
- Initial key signature: B-flat major
- Key signature change: D major

Performance Instructions:

- ppp sempre* (pianissimo sempre) is used for the flute and clarinet parts in the second system.
- pp* (pianissimo) is used for the bassoon parts in the first system.
- ppp sempre* is used for the string parts in the second system.
- non vib. sul tasto* (non vibrato on the key) is used for the violin parts in the second system.

The score is marked with a large "PREVIEW" watermark.

458

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

Fl. 4

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Cl. in A

Cl. in Bb 3

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Bsn 3

Bsn 4

F. Hn in F 1

F. Hn in F 2

F. Hn in F 3

F. Hn in F 4

Vln I 1

Vln I 2

Vln II 1

Vln II 2

Vla 1

Vla 2

Vc. 1

Vc. 2

D. B.