

Wind Chimes

Five Scenes from a Prairie Storm

Tyrone A. McKenzie

Instrumentation:

Flute 1

Oboe

Clarinet 1,2,3

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon 1,2

Alto Sax

Tenor Sax

Baritone Sax

Trumpet 1,2

Horn in F

Trombone 1,2

Euphonium 1,2

Tuba

Bass Guitar

Percussion*:

Timpani

Bells

Marimba

Snare Drum

Bass Drum

Rainstick

Thunder Tube

Whirly Tubes

*Percussion Instruction on Page 2

Wind Chimes

Composer's Statement

Picture a thunderstorm rolling across the prairie landscape. Ominous. Magnificent. Intense.

As a kid growing up in western Manitoba, we loved to watch the dark clouds form, the chain lightning grow closer, and try to predict when the thunder would shake the earth. **Wind Chimes** strives to depict the sights and sounds of a set of wind chimes throughout 5 components of a prairie storm – Quiet Breeze, Storm Approaching, Thunderstorm!, Storm Moving on and the return to Quiet Breeze.

Wind Chimes is a collaborative labour of love. It started after a conversation with Amy Klippenstein (now Zhao) who wanted an original piece for her Sr. band in Biggar SK, and wanted to collaborate with Erika Rybinski in Humboldt, SK.

After some discussion, we settled on the **Wind Chimes** theme. My wife received a beautiful set of wind chimes from our children for her birthday. They hang in our flower garden and provide a rich tone, the 5 bars were pitched in the C pentatonic scale. I thought it would be fun to explore pentatonic motifs with the students at these schools.

I am grateful to the SK Arts Board, for their support of this project through an *Artists in Schools* grant. This enabled us to provide virtual workshops for the bands in both Biggar and Humboldt. After a workshop on the pentatonic scale, the students went to work on grids based on the Bb pentatonic scale. I was able to incorporate several of these motifs in the melodic and harmonic elements. Figure 1 is a Grid contributed by Ian from the Biggar band. The 3rd row reverse, or retrograde, became the main motif for the piece.

Figure 1

C	Bb	F	D	G
Bb	F	D	G	C
F	D	G	C	Bb
D	G	C	Bb	G
G	C	Bb	F	D

These grids are easy to come up with and provide creativity and collaboration for the improv sections. Students are encouraged to find a pentatonic motif based on the 5 pitches of the Bb Pentatonic Scale, write it across, down, and then fill in the blanks!

The number Five plays a key role in **Wind Chimes**. In addition to the 5 notes of the pentatonic scale, there are 5 groups of instruments, 5 sections of the piece, and several 5 bar phrases.

Students are encouraged to contribute to the solo section of the piece.

- 1) Starting at measure 53, each of the 5 sections or groups have an opportunity to provide solo material, starting with section 5. Students can create their own solo material based on their pentatonic grids, to be played individually or as a group.
- 2) Another opportunity to contribute to the solo section is through wind chimes that students can create with the use of keys, cans, jars, metal of any kind. This can add interesting and unique sounds and give the students a real sense of ownership and collaboration. Here are a couple of websites that provide some ideas for students to create their own wind chimes:

- <https://www.homedit.com/how-to-make-your-own-wind-chimes-15-amazing-ideas/>
- <https://www.bobvila.com/slideshow/blown-away-12-upcycled-wind-chimes-you-can-make-47327>

*Percussion Instructions:

- Whirly Tubes play a significant role in creating the atmosphere for the piece. Students should try and play the 5 pitches of the pentatonic scale if at all possible.
- The bells and marimba give the open sound of the pentatonic harmonies and recreate the sound of wind and wind chimes. Orff instruments can be used if there is no marimba available.
- The rainstick and thundertube contribute greatly to the thunderstorm section.

Wind Chimes

Tyrone A. McKenzie

$\text{♩} = 88$
Quiet Breeze **Ian 5 Retro** **John 1 Prime** **Storm Approaching**

Flute *mp* *mp*

Oboe *mp* *mp*

Clarinet in B \flat 1 *mp* *mp*

Clarinet in B \flat 2 *mp* *mp* *soli* *mf* *tutti*

Clarinet in B \flat 3 *mp* *mp*

Bass Clarinet *mp* *mp*

Alto Sax *mp* *mp*

Tenor Sax *mp* *mp* *mf*

Baritone Sax *mp* *mp*

Horn in F *mp* *mp*

Trumpet in B \flat 1 *mp* *mp*

Trumpet in B \flat 2 *mp* *mp*

Trombone Bassoon 1 Euphonium 1 *mp* *mp* *mf*

Trombone Bassoon 2 Euphonium 2 Bass Guitar 2 *mp* *mp*

Tuba *mp* *mp*

Timpani

Glockenspiel

Marimba
(May also use Orff Instruments)

Percussion 1

Snare Drum Bass Drum 2

Whirly Tubes *mf* *mf*



Wind Chimes Score

This page of the musical score, titled "Wind Chimes Score", is page 4. It features a variety of instruments and parts:

- Flute (Fl.):** Part 1, starting at measure 15 with a *f* dynamic.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Part 1, starting at measure 15 with a *f* dynamic.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Parts 1, 2, and 3. Part 1 starts at measure 15 with a *f* dynamic. Parts 2 and 3 start at measure 15 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Saxophone (Sx.):** Alto (A. Sx.) and Tenor (T. Sx.) parts start at measure 15 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Horn (Hn.):** Part 1, starting at measure 15 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Trumpet (Tpt.):** Parts 1 and 2.
- Trombone (Tbn.):** Parts 1, 2, and 3.
- Euphonium (Euph.):** Parts 1 and 2.
- Tuba:** Part 1.
- Glockenspiel (Glk.):** Part 1, starting at measure 15 with a *f* dynamic. Includes the instruction "Chase - 5 Prime".
- Maracas (Mrb.):** Part 1, starting at measure 15 with a *mf* dynamic.
- Percussion (Perc.):** Part 1, starting at measure 15 with a *mp* dynamic. Includes the instruction "Rainstick".
- Whirly:** Part 1, starting at measure 15 with a *mp* dynamic.

Wind Chimes Score

Thunderstorm!

The score is for a piece titled "Thunderstorm!". It features a variety of instruments and includes several dynamic markings and performance instructions. The instruments listed on the left are: Fl. (Flute), Ob. (Oboe), B> Cl. 1, B> Cl. 2, B> Cl. 3, B. Cl. (Bass Clarinet), A. Sx. (Alto Saxophone), T. Sx. (Tenor Saxophone), B. Sx. (Bass Saxophone), Hn. (Horn), B> Tpt. 1, B> Tpt. 2, Tbn. Bsn. 1, Euph. 1, Tbn. Bsn. 2, Euph. 2, B. Guitar 2, Tuba, Timp. (Timpani), Glk. (Glockenspiel), Mrb. (Maracas), Perc. 1, S.D. (Snare Drum), B.D. 2 (Bass Drum 2), and Whirly.

Key performance markings and instructions include:

- Thunderstorm!** (Section title)
- f** (forte) - used for Flute, Oboe, Clarinets, Saxophones, Trumpets, Trombones, and Tuba.
- mf** (mezzo-forte) - used for Bass Clarinet, Horn, and Snare Drum.
- mp** (mezzo-piano) - used for Percussion 1.
- ff** (fortissimo) - used for Timpani.
- Chase 5 Prime** - instruction for Glockenspiel and Maracas.
- Herm Davison p.11 1 Prime** - instruction for Glockenspiel.
- Anika Biggar 1 Prime** - instruction for Maracas.
- Thunder Tube** - instruction for Percussion 1.
- Wes HCl 9-10**, **Aiden B HCl 11-12 p.10**, and **Biggar p.7 4 prime** - specific instrument or technique notes for the Maracas part.