
Trembling Beneath the Surface

Jon Fielder

Program Note

Trembling Beneath the Surface is a piece that explores anxiety in both inward and outward forms. I was diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder (GAD) in my early 30s and have spent the years since my diagnosis learning about how it impacts my daily life. Additionally, I have learned how to live with it in a more healthy and constructive manner. One of the ways I make sense of the world around me is by capturing events, thoughts, emotions, places, and ideas through sound. Anxiety, or more specifically GAD, can be difficult to describe, as it is brought on by a myriad of triggers, and it presents differently from one event to another, and more importantly from one person to another. However, I feel that anxiety as an emotional state can be quite easily portrayed with sound and music. *Trembling Beneath the Surface* is my attempt to capture how my own anxiety typically comes on as an initial panic that quickly turns inward. In moments of severe distress, I may put on an outwardly demeanor that seems calm and collected, while underneath I'm frantically working through coping mechanisms and mantras to remain calm. Even when I feel I've regained control of a situation, there's still a small murmuring of unease.

Instrumentation

Flute

Bb Clarinet

Violin

Cello

Piano

Vibraphone

Trembling Beneath the Surface was composed in the summer of 2024 in St. Paul, MN.

It is dedicated to the memory of Pierre Boulez, a composer whose influence on my life and music cannot be overstated.

Dedicated to Pierre Boulez
Trembling Beneath the Surface

For Pierrot Ensemble

Jon Fielder

Forcefully with intense energy (♩ = 86)

The musical score is arranged in six staves. The Flute and B♭ Clarinet parts begin with rests in 4/4 time, then change to 3/4 and back to 4/4. Both instruments play a melodic line starting in the 4/4 section, marked *pp*. The Violin and Violoncello parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked *sfz* and *p*. Both have a tremolo effect over the accompaniment. The Piano part features complex textures with chords, triplets, and quintuplets, marked *f*, *mp*, and *fp*. The Vibraphone part plays a rhythmic pattern with triplets and quintuplets, marked *f* and *mf*.

7

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

p

p

pp

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is in 4/4 time. Measures 7 and 8 show the Flute and B-flat Clarinet playing a melodic line with a slur and a fermata. The Violin and Viola parts play a continuous sixteenth-note pattern, marked with a '6' and a 'p' dynamic. The Piano part has a tremolo in the right hand and a sustained note in the left hand. The Vibraphone part has a sustained note. Measure 9 shows the Piano part with a tremolo in the right hand and a sustained note in the left hand. Measure 10 shows the Piano part with a tremolo in the right hand and a sustained note in the left hand. Measure 11 shows the Piano part with a tremolo in the right hand and a sustained note in the left hand. Measure 12 shows the Piano part with a tremolo in the right hand and a sustained note in the left hand.

Musical score for six instruments: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Piano (Pno.), and Vibraphone (Vib.). The score begins at measure 9 and includes various dynamics and articulations.

- Flute (Fl.)**: Starts at measure 9 with *mp*. After measure 11, it features a trill with a dynamic range from *pp* to *mf*, followed by a *fp* section with a 7-measure phrase.
- Bass Clarinet (B♭ Cl.)**: Mirrors the Flute part, starting at *mp* and including a trill from *pp* to *mf*, and a *fp* section with a 7-measure phrase.
- Violin (Vln.)**: Features a 6-measure phrase at *mf*, followed by a 3-measure phrase. It then has a section from *pp* to *f* with accents, and ends with *pp*.
- Viola (Vc.)**: Mirrors the Violin part, starting with a 6-measure phrase at *mf*, a 3-measure phrase, a section from *pp* to *f* with accents, and ending with *pp*.
- Piano (Pno.)**: Starts at *f*. After measure 11, it has a section from *mp* to *pp* with a trill, followed by a section from *pp* to *f* with accents, and ends with *pp*.
- Vibraphone (Vib.)**: Starts at *sfz*. After measure 11, it has a section from *mp* to *mf* with a 5-measure phrase, followed by a 3-measure phrase ending with *p*.

The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *pp*, *mf*, *fp*, *f*, *sfz*, and *p*. It also features articulations like trills (*tr*), accents (*^*), and slurs. Measure numbers 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 are indicated.

13 **A**

Fl. *mf*

B♭ Cl. *mf*

Vln. *fp* *pp*

Vc. *fp* *pp*

Pno. *mp* *fp* *tr*

Vib. *sfz*

16

Fl.

Flute staff with rests and time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4.

B♭ Cl.

B♭ Clarinet staff with rests and time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4.

Vln.

Violin staff with sixteenth-note sextuplets and time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4.

Vc.

Violoncello staff with sixteenth-note sextuplets and time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4.

Pno.

Piano staff with tremolos in both hands and a triplet in the right hand. Time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4.

Vib.

Vibraphone staff with rests and dynamics markings *mp* and *p*. Time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4.

18

Fl. *pp* *sfz* *mf* 7

B♭ Cl. *pp* *sfz* *mf* 7

Vln. *f* *ff* *f* 6 3 *tr*

Vc. *f* *ff* *sfz* 6 6

Pno. *f* 3 5 3 7 *Red.*

Vib. *sfz* *f* 3 6 *Red.*

20

Fl. *p* *pp*

B♭ Cl. *fp* *pp*

Vln.

Vc.

Pno. *mp* *p* *pp*

Vib. *pp* *mp*

23 B

Fl. *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p* *pp* *pp* *sfz*

Vln. *pp* *p* *pp* *sfz* *pizz.* *arco*

Vc. *pp* *p* *pp* *sfz* *pizz.* *arco*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

Vib. *p* *mp* *pp* *mp*

28

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

The musical score consists of six staves. The Flute staff (Fl.) begins at measure 28 with a dynamic of *mf* and features a series of sixteenth-note runs with fingerings 5, 6, 3, 5, and 7. The dynamics range from *ff* to *pp*. The Bass Clarinet staff (B \flat Cl.) has a dynamic of *pp* and includes a tremolo in the final measure. The Violin staff (Vln.) has a dynamic of *mf* and includes a *sfz* marking. The Viola staff (Vc.) has a dynamic of *pp* and includes the instruction "sul pont." and "ord.". The Piano staff (Pno.) has a dynamic of *p*. The Vibraphone staff (Vib.) is mostly silent.

C

32

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

The musical score consists of six staves. The Flute staff (Fl.) has a melodic line starting with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note A4, and a quarter rest. Dynamics are *p* and *pp*. The B♭ Clarinet staff (B♭ Cl.) has a 7-measure slur over the first seven measures, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G4, and a quarter rest. Dynamics are *pp* and *p*. The Violin staff (Vln.) has a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note A4, and a quarter rest. Dynamics are *p* and *pp*. The Viola staff (Vc.) has a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note A4, and a quarter rest. Dynamics are *pp*, *mp*, and *pp*. The Piano staff (Pno.) has a 6-measure slur over the first six measures, followed by a 7-measure slur over the next seven measures, then a quarter rest, then a half note G4, and a quarter rest. Dynamics are *mp* and *p*. The Vibraphone staff (Vib.) has a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note A4, and a quarter rest. Dynamics are *pp*, *mp*, and *pp*.

37

Fl.

mp *pp* *mp* 5

B♭ Cl.

pp *mp* *pp*

Vln.

pp *mp* *pp* 3

Vc.

mp *f* *fp* *pp* 3

Pno.

p *pp* *fp* *pp* *fp*

Vib.

mp

41

Fl.

pp

B♭ Cl.

p *pp* *mp*

Vln.

mp *pp* *pp*

Vc.

pp

Pno.

Vib.

(*sc*)

D Slower $\text{♩} = 74$

46

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

mf

sfz

f

p

5

6

7

3

3

5

mf

p

49

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

The musical score consists of six staves. The Flute (Fl.) and B♭ Clarinet (B♭ Cl.) parts feature a series of notes with accents and dynamic markings such as *sfz* and *f*. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts include complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sextuplets, and dynamics ranging from *pp* to *f*. The Piano (Pno.) part features a dense texture with trills and complex rhythmic figures, with dynamics like *f*, *mp*, and *mf*. The Vibraphone (Vib.) part has a rhythmic pattern with triplets and sextuplets, starting with a dynamic of *f*.

51

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

The musical score consists of six staves. The Flute (Fl.) part begins with a five-measure phrase marked *mf*, followed by a dynamic shift to *sfz* and a trill. The B♭ Clarinet (B♭ Cl.) part mirrors the flute's initial phrase. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts feature a five-measure phrase marked *p* that crescendos to *sfz*, followed by a triplet marked *mf* and a phrase marked *p* that crescendos to *f*. The Piano (Pno.) part includes a trill, a phrase marked *mp*, and a triplet marked *f*. The Vibraphone (Vib.) part starts with a rest, then plays a phrase marked *mp* and another marked *f*, ending with a phrase marked *p*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

53

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

The score consists of six staves. The Flute staff (Fl.) begins with a sixteenth rest, followed by a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a sixteenth note. The B♭ Clarinet staff (B♭ Cl.) starts with a quarter note, a quarter rest, and a quarter note. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) staves have complex rhythmic patterns with sixteenth and eighth notes, including sixteenth rests and slurs. The Piano (Pno.) staff features a 5/8 measure and a 3/8 measure. The Vibraphone (Vib.) staff has a 3/8 measure and a 5/8 measure. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *f*, *sfz*, and *pizz.*. Articulations include accents, slurs, and triplets. The page number 53 is located at the top left.

55

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

E

sfz *sfz* *f* *p* *f* *mp* *sfz*

pizz. *sfz* *sfz* *f* *p* *sfz*

pizz. *sfz* *sfz* *f* *p* *sfz*

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *f* *p* *sfz*

sfz *f* *f*

59

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

The musical score consists of six staves. The Flute staff (Fl.) begins with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by another triplet, a sixteenth rest, and then a sixteenth note followed by a sixteenth rest, leading into a sixteenth-note scale with a slur and a sixteenth rest. The B♭ Clarinet staff (B♭ Cl.) has a triplet of eighth notes, followed by another triplet, a sixteenth rest, a quarter note, and then a triplet of eighth notes. The Violin staff (Vln.) starts with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a sixteenth note with an accent (>), a sixteenth rest, a quarter note, a sixteenth rest, a triplet of eighth notes, and then a sixteenth note with an accent (>) followed by a sixteenth rest. The Viola staff (Vc.) begins with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a sixteenth rest, a quarter note with an accent (^), a sixteenth rest, a quarter note with an accent (^), a sixteenth rest, a quarter note with an accent (^), and then a sixteenth note with an accent (^) followed by a sixteenth rest. The Piano staff (Pno.) features a complex texture with triplets of eighth notes in both hands, a sixteenth rest, a sixteenth note with an accent (^), a sixteenth rest, a quarter note with an accent (^), a sixteenth rest, a quarter note with an accent (^), a sixteenth rest, and then a sixteenth note with an accent (^) followed by a sixteenth rest. The Vibraphone staff (Vib.) starts with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a sixteenth rest, a quarter note, a sixteenth rest, a quarter note, a sixteenth rest, a quarter note, a sixteenth rest, and then a sixteenth note with an accent (>) followed by a sixteenth rest. Dynamic markings include 'f' (forte) at the beginning of the Piano and Vibraphone parts, and 'sfz' (sforzando) in the Piano staff. Slurs and accents are used throughout to indicate phrasing and emphasis.

60

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

fp

mf

f

pp

fp

mp

62

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

The musical score consists of six staves. The Flute (Fl.) staff has a treble clef and contains a melodic line with slurs and fingerings (5, 6, 7) and a dynamic marking of *sfz*. The B♭ Clarinet (B♭ Cl.) staff also has a treble clef and contains a similar melodic line with slurs and fingerings (5, 6, 7) and a dynamic marking of *sfz*. The Violin (Vln.) staff has a treble clef and contains a sixteenth-note pattern with slurs and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The Viola (Vc.) staff has a bass clef and contains a sixteenth-note pattern with slurs and a dynamic marking of *p*. The Piano (Pno.) staff has a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and contains a complex texture with a dynamic marking of *mf* in the right hand and *fp* in the left hand. The Vibraphone (Vib.) staff has a treble clef and contains a few notes with a dynamic marking of *fp*. The score is divided into measures 62, 63, and 64, with a 6/4 time signature in measure 62 and 64, and a 3/4 time signature in measure 63. The piece ends with a double bar line in measure 64.

F L'istesso tempo

65

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

mf *p* *pp* *tr* *3* *pp* *pp* *n* *p* *pp* *pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score is for measures 65-70. It features six staves: Flute (Fl.), B♭ Clarinet (B♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Piano (Pno.), and Vibraphone (Vib.). The music is in 4/4 time and marked 'L'istesso tempo'. The Flute part begins with a sixteenth-note sextuplet (marked '6') in measure 65, followed by a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *pp*. The B♭ Clarinet part has a triplet (marked '3') in measure 65 and a tremolo in measure 66. The Violin part has a tremolo in measure 65 and a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *p*, and *pp*. The Viola part has a tremolo in measure 65 and a melodic line with dynamics *n*, *p*, and *pp*. The Piano part has a tremolo in measure 65 and a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *tr*. The Vibraphone part has a tremolo in measure 65 and a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *tr*.

71

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

Vib.

pp

p

mp

pp

pp

mp

mf

p

mp

p

Tremolo with light pressure

5

3

6

3

7

76

Fl.

pp *p* *pp*

B♭ Cl.

Blend into vibraphone

pp *n*

Vln.

pp *n*

Vc.

p *pp*

Pno.

mp

Vib.

mp *p* *p* *p*

Allow all sound to evaporate