

studying shrapnel

Joel Kirk (2021)

solo valved brass instrument

c. 3 minutes

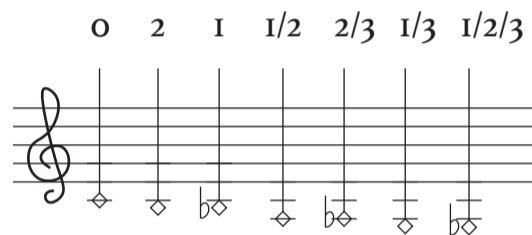
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Program note:

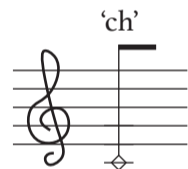
This short piece can be played on any valved brass instrument. It is entirely comprised of percussive fragments which I discovered whilst improvising on my own instrument - the flugelhorn. Following a generally additive structure, these small pieces of debris are continually repeated and repermuted in different combinations through the piece.

Notations:

The pitches written are not always the sounding pitches (air noise sounds roughly a half-step higher than written, but this also can be affected by the mode of articulation). The seven pitches notated in the piece should be played using the traditional valve combinations:



DIAMOND NOTEHEAD denotes air-noise; blowing air through the instrument without buzzing the lips. NO consonant articulation (always “ha” articulation unless indicated otherwise).



DIAMOND NOTEHEAD + “CH” denotes air noise with ‘ch’ articulation; a much more forceful onset which is most effective if instrument is held slightly away from the mouth.



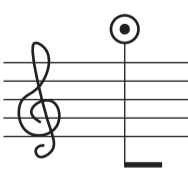
ORDINARY ‘X’ NOTEHEAD denotes tongue-ram (puff of air + tonguestop against mouthpiece).



DIAMOND NOTEHEAD + TREMOLO MARKINGS denotes air noise + flutter tongue (NOT throat growl).



ELABORATE ‘X’ NOTEHEAD denotes to pop the tongue against the roof of the mouth (creates clicking sound); volume of click can be controlled by varying the pressure of the tongue (performer should ensure they are hydrated before performance - the effectiveness of this technique is significantly diminished with a dry mouth).



PIN-POINTED NOTEHEAD indicated to smack the lips together as if forming a ‘p’ plosive. This should be done very strongly (with much suction/pressure) to create a popping sound (extra time should be devoted to practicing this technique to ensure it ‘speaks’ properly each time).

73 *mp* *mf* *mp* **6** 'ch' 'ch' 'ch' 'ch' **2** **2** **2** **6** **6** **2** **4**

81 *sfz* *sfz* *mp* **B** **2** **3** **4** **2** **3** **4** **7** **8** **3** **8**

87 **7** **8** **3** **8**

94 *mf* **2** **2** **2** **2** **7** **8** **3** **8**

106 *mp* *mf* *mp* **7** **8** **3** **8** **2** **2** **7** **8** **2** **4**

114 *sfz* *sfz* *mp* **C** **2** **3** **4** **2** **3** **4** **7** **8** **5** **8**

120 *mf* *mp* *mf* **5** **8** **7** **8** **3** **8** **6**

127 *mp* *mf* **6** **6** **7** **8** **5** **8** 'ch' 'ch' 'ch' 'ch'

134 *mf* *mp* **7** **8** **2** **2** **2**

144

p 4 4 4 *mf* *f*

tr. (exhale) tr. (inhale) tr. (exhale) tr. (inhale)

155

mp

160

mp *f*

tr. (exhale)

169

mp *mf*

tr. (inhale) tr. (exhale) tr. (inhale)

176

p *mf*

186

f *mf* *sfzp* *sfz*

tr. (exhale) tr. (inhale)

ossia (2/4 4/4)

186

f *mf* *sfzp* *sfz*

tr. (exhale) tr. (inhale)

ossia (2/4 4/4)

J. P. L.
Buffalo, USA
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