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ASSIMILATION

A Composition

Submitted to the Mary Pappert School of Music

Duquesne University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements for
the degree of Master of Music

By

Thomas C. Childs

May 2008

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Thomas C. Childs

2008

NAME: Thomas C. Childs

TITLE: Assimilation

DEGREE: Master of Music in Composition

DATE: May 2008

APPROVED: _____

David Stock, M.F.A.
Professor of Music and Project Director
Duquesne University

APPROVED: _____

David Cutler, D.M.
Associate Professor of Music
Duquesne University

APPROVED: _____

Patrick Burke, M.M.A.
Professor of Music
Duquesne University

APPROVED: _____

Sister Carole Riley, C.D.P., Ph.D
Professor of Piano and Music Education
Duquesne University

APPROVED: _____

Edward Kocher, Ph.D.
Professor of Music
Dean, Mary Pappert School of Music
Interim Director of Graduate Studies
Duquesne University

ABSTRACT

ASSIMILATION

By

Thomas C. Childs

May 2008

Thesis Supervised by David Stock, M.F.A.

Assimilation is a work sonically exploring the tendency to seek conformity at the expense of unique ideas and creativity. The piece is based on two rhythmic motives: a brief, flitting motive used as the basis for independent exploration of melody and the second a heavier, steady pulse, the majority that demands conformity. Throughout the piece several melodic ideas are explored in contrast to the whole, only to be assimilated back into the steady ongoing march of the second motive. Assimilation is scored for full symphony orchestra and has a duration of approximately seven minutes.

DEDICATION

ASSIMILATION is dedicated to David Stock and David Cutler, my teachers and mentors throughout the course of my graduate study at Duquesne University, who have been invaluable in advancing my knowledge and skill in composition.

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Concert Score

Instrumentation List

Piccolo	Trumpet in C (3)
Flute (2)	Trombone (3)
Oboe (2)	Tuba
English Horn	Timpani
Clarinet in Eb	Percussion (2)
Clarinet in Bb (2)	Violin I
Bass Clarinet in Bb	Violin II
Bassoon	Viola
Contrabassoon	Cello
Horn in F (4)	Bass
Percussion 1: Bass Drum, Snare, Woodblocks (high & low), Bell Tree, Triangle	Percussion 2: Xylophone, Glockenspiel, Castanets, Suspended Cymbal, Sizzle Cymbal, Tambourine

Duration: apx. 7 minutes

Note:  throughout all meter changes

Assimilation

9 A (B)

Instrumentation and Dynamics:

- Picc.**: *f*
- Fl.** 1 & 2: *mp* (initially), *mf* (later)
- Ob.** 1 & 2: Rest
- E. Hn.**: Rest
- E♭ Cl.**: Rest
- B♭ Cl.** 1 & 2: *mf* (later)
- B. Cl.**: *ff*
- Bsn.**: *ff*
- C. Bn.**: *ff*
- Hn.** 1, 2, 3, 4: *p* (initially), *ff* (later)
- C Tpt.** 1, 2, 3: *p* (initially), *ff* (later)
- Tbn.** 1, 2, 3: *f* (initially), *fp* (later)
- Tuba**: *fp*
- W. Bl.**: *mp* (initially), *f* (later)
- Glock.**: *f* (initially), *mf* (later)
- Vln.** I & II: *pp* (initially), *ff* (later)
- Vla.**: *mp* (initially), *ff* (later)
- Vc.**: *ff* (initially), *p* (later)
- Cb.**: *ff* (initially), *fp* (later)

Performance Instructions:

- W. Bl.**: W. BL. (low)
- Glock.**: GLOCK, XYL
- Vln. II**: *pp* div. >
- Vln. II**: *pp* (initially), *ff* (later), *pp* (later)
- Vln. II**: *pizz.*
- Vla.**: *pizz.*
- Vc.**: *pizz.*
- Cb.**: *pizz.*
- Vln. II**: *arco*
- Vc.**: *arco*
- Cb.**: *arco*
- Tbn. 3**: (pitch sliding downward)

Assimilation

15

B

Musical score for 'Assimilation' featuring various instruments including Piccolo, Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets, Bassoons, Horns, Trumpets, Trombones, Tuba, Timpani, Snare, Xylophone, Violins, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ff*, *mf*, *mp*, *pp*, and *p*, as well as performance instructions like 'arco' and 'col legno batt.'. A 'CAST.' marking is present in the Xyl. part. A box labeled 'B' is located above the first staff.

Assimilation

22

C

Musical score for 'Assimilation', page 22, rehearsal mark C. The score includes parts for Piccolo, Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), English Horn, E-flat Clarinet, B-flat Clarinet (1 and 2), Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Contrabassoon, Horns (1-4), Trumpets (1-3), Trombones (1-3), Tuba, Timpani, Wood Block (high and low), Castanets, Violins (I and II), Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *p*, *pp*, *mp*, and *soaring*.

Assimilation

28

Picc. *p*

1 *p*

2 *p*

1 *f*

2 *p*

E. Hn. *f*

E♭ Cl. *p*

1 *p*

2 *f*

B♭ Cl. *p*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn. *p*

C. Bn. *p*

1 *p*

2 *p*

3 *f*

4 *p*

1 *p*

2 *p*

3 *p*

1 *p*

2 *f*

3 *p*

Tuba *p*

Timp.

W. Bl. *mp*

Perc. 2

I *p*

II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *mf*

Cb.

harm. mute

open 1

open

a 2

a 2

a 2

(G#)

Assimilation

34



Picc. *f*

1 *p*

Fl. 2 *f*

1 *p*

Ob. 2 *p*

E. Hn. *p*

E♭ Cl. *p*

1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *f*

C. Bn. *p*

Hn. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

4 *mf*

C Tpt. 1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *fp*

2 *fp*

3 *fp*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *mf*

W. Bl. *mp*

Perc. 2 *mp*

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mf*

Cb. *sub. p*

SNARE

spice.

sub. *p*

(G#)

Assimilation

42 E

Picc. *f*

1 *f*

2 *f*

1 *pp*

2 *pp*

1 *pp*

2 *pp*

E. Hn.

E Cl. *mf* *pp*

1 *mf* *ff* *sub p*

2 *mf* *p*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf* *ff* *agitato*

C. Bn. *mf*

1 *mf*

2 *mf*

3 *mf*

4 *mf*

1 *mf*

2 *f*

3 *f*

1 *fp* *fp*

2 *fp* *fp*

3 *f*

Tuba *f*

Timp. *f*

Snare *mf* *r. sh.* *sfz*

Perc. 2

Vln. I *spicc.* *p*

Vln. II *spicc.* *p*

Vla. *spicc.* *p*

Vc. *spicc.* *p*

Cb. *spicc.* *p*

Assimilation

49

This page of the musical score, titled "Assimilation" and numbered 49, contains the following parts and markings:

- Picc.**: Piccolo flute part, mostly silent.
- Fl.**: Flute parts (1 and 2), playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.
- Ob.**: Oboe parts (1 and 2), playing a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *ff*.
- E. Hn.**: English Horn part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *ff*.
- E♭ Cl.**: Eb Clarinet part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.
- B♭ Cl.**: Bb Clarinet parts (1 and 2), playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.
- B. Cl.**: Bass Clarinet part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *ff*.
- Bsn.**: Bassoon part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *ff*.
- C. Bn.**: Contrabassoon part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *ff*.
- Hn.**: Horn parts (1, 2, 3, 4), mostly silent.
- C Tpt.**: C Trumpet parts (1, 2, 3), mostly silent.
- Tbn.**: Trombone parts (1, 2, 3), mostly silent.
- Tuba**: Tuba part, playing a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *f* and *ff*.
- Timp.**: Timpani part, mostly silent.
- Snare**: Snare drum part, playing a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *mf* and *ff*. Includes a box labeled "SNARE".
- Xyl.**: Xylophone part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *ff*. Includes a box labeled "XYL." and a "cresc." marking.
- Vln.**: Violin parts (I and II), playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.
- Vla.**: Viola part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.
- Vc.**: Violoncello part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.
- Cb.**: Contrabass part, playing a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, and *ff*.

Assimilation

78 H

Picc.

1
Fl.

2
Ob.

1
E. Hn.

E♭ Cl.

1
B♭ Cl.

2
B. Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1
Hn.

2
3
4

1
C Tpt.

2
3

1
Tbn.

2
3

Tuba

Timp.

Bell Tr. BELL TREE *pppp* B. DR.

Xyl. XYL *mp*

Vln. I *mp* *cresc.* *ff*

Vln. II *pp* *cresc. div.* *ff*

Vla. *pp* *cresc.* *ff*

Vc. *pp* *cresc.* *ff*

Cb. *pp* *cresc.* *pizz* *arco* *ff*

Assimilation

89

I

Picc.
1

Fl.
2

Ob.
1
2

E. Hn.
B♭ Cl.
B♭ Cl.
1
2

B. Cl.
Bsn.
C. Bn.

Hn.
1
2
3
4

C Tpt.
1
2
3

Tbn.
1
2
3

Tuba

Timp.

Xyl.
SIZZLE
(w/ hard sticks)
mp

Vln.
I
II

Vla.
solo
mf

Vc.
solo
mf

Cb.
pizz.
mf
f

f
pp
mf
mp
f
pp
mf
pp
mf
f
pp
mf
pp
mf
f

Assimilation

100

J

This musical score is for a piece titled "Assimilation" (Section J), marked with a tempo of 100. The score is arranged for a full orchestra and includes the following instruments and parts:

- Picc.**: Piccolo
- Fl.**: Flutes (1 and 2)
- Ob.**: Oboes (1 and 2)
- E. Hn.**: English Horn
- Es. Cl.**: E-flat Clarinet
- Bs. Cl.**: Bass Clarinet (1 and 2)
- B. Cl.**: Bass Clarinet
- Bsn.**: Bassoon
- C. Bn.**: Contrabassoon
- Hn.**: Horns (1, 2, 3, 4)
- C. Tpt.**: C Trumpets (1, 2, 3)
- Tbn.**: Trombones (1, 2, 3)
- Tuba**
- Timp.**: Timpani
- Perc. 1**
- Sizzle**
- Vln.**: Violins (I and II)
- Vla.**: Viola
- Vc.**: Violoncello
- Cb.**: Contrabass

The score features various dynamics such as *pp*, *p*, *mp*, *f*, *mf*, *sfz*, and *div.* (divisi). Performance instructions include *arco* and *pizz.* (pizzicato). The score is written in 2/4 time and spans 10 measures.

Assimilation

106

RIT.

A TEMPO

Musical score for 'Assimilation' (page 16). The score is divided into two sections: 'RIT.' (Ritardando) and 'A TEMPO' (Allegretto). The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Picc.**: Piccolo flute, rests throughout.
- Fl.**: Flute 1 and 2, rests throughout.
- Ob.**: Oboe 1 and 2, rests throughout.
- E. Hn.**: English Horn, rests throughout.
- E♭ Cl.**: E-flat Clarinet, rests throughout.
- B♭ Cl.**: B-flat Clarinet 1 and 2, play melodic lines in the 'A TEMPO' section, marked *mp*.
- B. Cl.**: Bass Clarinet, plays a melodic line in the 'A TEMPO' section, marked *mp*.
- Bsn.**: Bassoon, plays a melodic line in the 'A TEMPO' section, marked *mp*.
- C. Bn.**: Contrabassoon, rests throughout.
- Hn.**: Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4, rests throughout.
- C Tpt.**: C Trumpets 1, 2, and 3, play melodic lines in the 'A TEMPO' section, marked *f*.
- Tbn.**: Trombones 1, 2, and 3, rests throughout.
- Tuba**: Tuba, rests throughout.
- Timp.**: Timpani, rests throughout.
- Perc. I**: Percussion I, rests throughout.
- Sizzle**: Sizzle track, plays a rhythmic pattern throughout, marked *mp*.
- Vln.**: Violins I and II, play melodic lines in the 'A TEMPO' section, marked *mf*.
- Vla.**: Viola, plays a melodic line in the 'A TEMPO' section, marked *mf*.
- Vc.**: Violoncello, plays a melodic line in the 'A TEMPO' section, marked *mf*.
- Cb.**: Contrabass, plays a melodic line in the 'A TEMPO' section, marked *mf*, with an *arco* instruction.

Assimilation

112

K

This musical score is for the piece "Assimilation" and is page 17. It features a large ensemble of instruments. The score is written in 3/4 time and includes dynamic markings such as *p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. The instruments listed on the left are: Picc., Fl. 1 & 2, Ob. 1 & 2, E. Hn., Eb Cl. 1 & 2, B. Cl., B. Cl., Bsn., C. Bn., Hn. 1, 2, 3, 4, C Tpt. 1, 2, 3, Tbn. 1, 2, 3, Tuba, Timp., Triangle, Sizzle, Vln. I & II, Vla., Vc., and Cb. The score includes various performance instructions like *div.*, *non div.*, and *XVI*. The piece concludes with a *ff* dynamic marking.

Assimilation

119 **L**

This page of the musical score, titled "Assimilation", covers measures 119 through 123. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for each instrument family. The woodwind section includes Piccolo, Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), English Horn, E-flat Clarinet, B-flat Clarinets (1 and 2), Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, and Contrabassoon. The brass section consists of Horns (1-4), Trumpets (1-3), Trombones (1-3), and Tuba. The percussion section includes Timpani, Percussion 1, and Percussion 2. The string section features Violins (1 and 2), Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score is written in a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics such as *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano) are indicated throughout. The woodwinds and strings play melodic lines, while the bassoon and contrabass provide a rhythmic foundation. The brass section remains mostly silent, with some activity in the tuba and trombones in the later measures.

Assimilation

124

M

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The instruments are listed on the left side of the page, with their respective staves. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Dynamics such as *p*, *mf*, *mp*, and *ff* are indicated throughout. Performance instructions like *spicc.*, *div.*, *arco*, and *pizz.* are also present. The score includes parts for Piccolo, Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), English Horn, E-flat Clarinet, Bass Clarinet (1 and 2), Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Contrabassoon, Horns (1, 2, 3, 4), Trumpets (1, 2, 3), Trombones (1, 2, 3), Tuba, Timpani, Snare, Percussion 2, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass.

Assimilation

129

Picc. 1 2

Fl. 1 2

Ob. 1 2

E. Hn. 1 2

E. Cl. 1 2

B. Cl. 1 2

B. Cl. 1 2

Bsn. 1 2

C. Bn. 1 2

Hn. 1 2 3 4

C Tpt. 1 2 3

Tbn. 1 2 3

Tuba

Timp.

Snare

Sus. Cym. [SUS CYM] [TAMB] thumb roll

Vln. I II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb. arco pizz. arco

p *mf* *f* *ff*

Assimilation

137

Picc. *ff*

1 *pp*

Fl. 2 *pp*

1 *mf*

Ob. 2 *f*

E. Hn.

E♭ Cl. *f*

1 *f*

B♭ Cl. 2 *f*

B. Cl. *f*

Bsn.

C. Bn. *f*

1

Hn. 2

3

4

1

C Tpt. 2

3

1

Tbn. 2

3

Tuba *f*

Timp.

SNARE *f*

Xyl. *mf* *XVL*

1 *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

Assimilation

145

N

Picc.

1

Fl.

2

1

Ob.

2

E. Hn.

E♭ Cl.

1

B♭ Cl.

2

B. Cl.

Bsn.

C. Bn.

1

2

Hn.

3

4

1

C Tpt.

2

3

1

2

3

Tbn.

Tuba

Timp.

Glock.

1

Vln.

II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f

f

p

pp

ff

ff

ff

f

mf

mf

mf

mp

mp

sim.

GLOCK.

B. DR.

Assimilation

152

The musical score for 'Assimilation' on page 152 is arranged for a full orchestra. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Picc.**: Piccolo, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- Fl.**: Flutes 1 and 2, playing a melodic line starting in the first measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- Ob.**: Oboes 1 and 2, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- E. Hn.**: English Horn, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- E♭ Cl.**: E-flat Clarinet, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- B♭ Cl.**: B-flat Clarinet 1 and 2, playing a melodic line starting in the third measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- B. Cl.**: Bass Clarinet, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- Bsn.**: Bassoon, playing a melodic line starting in the third measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- C. Bn.**: Contrabassoon, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- Hn.**: Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- C Tpt.**: C Trumpet 1, 2, and 3, playing a melodic line starting in the third measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- Tbn.**: Trombone 1, 2, and 3, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- Tuba**: Tuba, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- Timp.**: Timpani, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- Snare**: Snare Drum, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- Xyl.**: Xylophone, playing a melodic line starting in the final measure with a forte (*ff*) dynamic.
- Vln.**: Violins I and II, playing a melodic line starting in the first measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- Vla.**: Viola, playing a melodic line starting in the third measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- Vc.**: Violoncello, playing a melodic line starting in the first measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- Cb.**: Contrabass, playing a melodic line starting in the first measure with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

The score includes various dynamics such as *p* (piano), *ff* (fortissimo), and *sim* (sustained). The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The page number 152 is prominently displayed at the top left.