

May 2021

Music by Alexander Wu

Text by Marianne Moore

Ennui

for baritone voice, trumpet,
trombone, and bass clarinet

Duration: c. 5'

Ennui

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Text

He often expressed
A curious wish,
To be interchangeably
Man and fish;
To nibble the bait
Off the hook,
Said he,
And then slip away
Like a ghost
In the sea.

Poem by Marianne Moore. It is in the public domain.

For my mother,
who shares the same curious wish.

Ennui

C Score

Marianne Moore

Alexander Wu

♩ = 76

Baritone

Trumpet in C

Tenor Trombone

Bass Clarinet in B \flat

This block contains the first three measures of the score. The Baritone part is silent. The Trumpet in C part is silent until measure 3, where it plays a short melodic phrase starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and ending with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Tenor Trombone part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with triplets, starting at a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Bass Clarinet in B \flat part plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment at a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic.

4

Bar.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Cl.

This block contains measures 4 through 6. The Baritone part is silent. The C Trumpet part plays a melodic line with triplets, starting at a *sub. p* dynamic and moving to *mp*. The Tenor Trombone part plays a melodic line with a long slur, starting at *sub. f*, reaching *fp* and *f* dynamics, and ending at *mp*. The Bass Clarinet part plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment at a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic.

7

mf

Bar.

He of -

C Tpt.

mf *f* *mp*

Tbn.

mf *f* *mp*

B. Cl.

mf *f* *molto* *ff* *mp*

11

Bar.

- ten ex - pressed a cu - ri - ous

C Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Cl.

14 *sub. p*

Bar. *mf* *f*

wish, a cu - ri - ous

C Tpt. *p*

Tbn. *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

17 *sub. p*

Bar. wish, To be in - ter - change - a - bly,

C Tpt. *mf*

Tbn. *sub. p* *mf* *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

C Score

20

5

Bar. *f* *mp*
in-ter-change-a-bly Man and fish, fish.

C Tpt. *p* *f* *fp*

Tbn. *mp* *f* *fp*

B. Cl. *mp* *f* *fp*

24

Bar. *mf* *f* *mp*
and man and fish;

C Tpt. *mf* *fp*

Tbn. *mf* *fp*

B. Cl. *mf* *fp* *p*

* The circle above the note indicates falsetto.

27 *p* < *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Bar.

To nib - ble the bait, to nib

C Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Cl.

30 *f*

Bar.

ble the bait, to nib - ble the bait off

C Tpt.

Tbn.

B. Cl.

** The dashed slur indicates an uninterrupted phrase.

34

Bar. *f* *** ←

the hook,

C Tpt.

Tbn. *mf* *sub. p* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *mp*

39

Bar.

C Tpt. *p* *f*

Tbn. *sub. p* *f*

B. Cl. *p* *f*

*** The headless stem indicates an audible breath. ← indicates inhalation, and → indicates exhalation.

43

Bar. *p*
To be in - ter-change-a-bly

C Tpt. *fp*

Tbn. *fp*

B. Cl. *fp*

47

Bar. *f* *p*
Man and fish;

C Tpt. *mf* *p* *mf*

Tbn. *mf* *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf* *p* *mf*

mf

C Score

p

mf

f 9

51

Bar.

Musical staff for Baritone (Bar.) showing a vocal line with lyrics "To nib - - ble the". The staff includes a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and a melodic line with a long slur and a dashed line above it. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*.

To nib - - ble

the

C Tpt.

Musical staff for C Trumpet (C Tpt.) showing a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *f* transitioning to *p*.

Tbn.

Musical staff for Trombone (Tbn.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *f* transitioning to *p*.

B. Cl.

Musical staff for Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamic markings of *f* and *p*.

53

Bar.

Musical staff for Baritone (Bar.) showing a vocal line with lyrics "bait off the hook, Said". The staff includes a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a melodic line with a long slur and a dashed line above it. Dynamics include *f* and *p*.

bait

off

the hook,

Said

C Tpt.

Musical staff for C Trumpet (C Tpt.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *f*.

Tbn.

Musical staff for Trombone (Tbn.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *f*.

B. Cl.

Musical staff for Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.) showing a rhythmic accompaniment with a dynamic marking of *p*.

55

Bar. *mp* *mf*

he, And then, And then,

C Tpt. *p sempre*

Tbn. *p* *f*

B. Cl. *f*

57

Bar. *f*

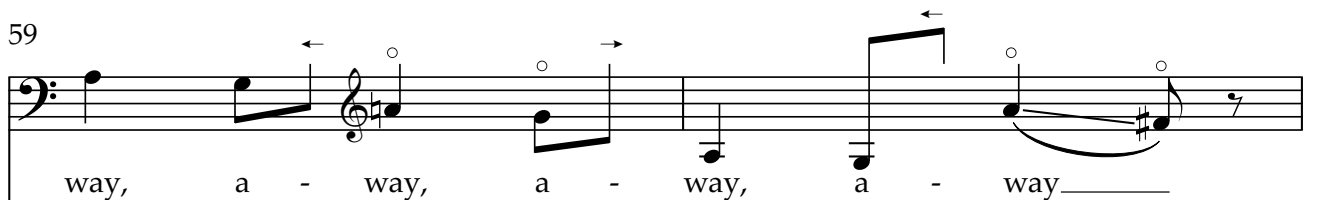
And then slip a - way, a -


C Tpt.

Tbn. *p*


B. Cl. *p* *f*

59

Bar. 
way, a - way, a - way, a - way

C Tpt. 
f

Tbn. 
f

B. Cl. 
p *f*

61

Bar. 
Like a ghost,

C Tpt. 
p

Tbn. 
p

B. Cl. 
p

64

Bar. 

C Tpt. 
f sempre

Tbn. 
f sempre

B. Cl. 
f sempre

66

Bar. 
mf
And

C Tpt. 

Tbn. 

B. Cl. 

69

Bar. 
 then slip a - way

C Tpt. 

Tbn. 
mp *f* *p*

B. Cl. 
mp *fp* *f*

poco rall. . . a tempo

73

Bar. 
 Like a ghost in the sea.

C Tpt. 
p *mf* *f* *ff*

Tbn. 
f *f* *p* *molto* *ff*

B. Cl. 
p *mf* *f* *ff*