

Sun Compass

for wind ensemble and rhythm section

Sid Richardson
(2025)

Sun Compass

Instrumentation

2 Flutes (Fl. 2 doubling Piccolo)
2 Oboes (Ob. 2 doubling English Horn)
2 Clarinets in Bb (Cl. 2 doubling Bass Clarinet in Bb)
2 Bassoons (Bsn. 2 doubling Contrabassoon)

1 Alto Saxophone in Eb
1 Tenor Saxophone in Bb
2 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
1 Trombone
1 Tuba

2 Percussion

1 Piano
1 Drum Kit
1 Double Bass

Percussion List:

Perc. 1
Glockenspiel
3 Suspended Cymbals (low, medium, high)
Tam-Tam (shared with Perc. 2)
Xylophone (shared with Perc. 2)
5 Temple Blocks
2 Bongos
2 Congas
Bass Drum (shared with Perc. 2)

Perc. 2
Triangle
Tam-Tam (shared with Perc. 1)
Xylophone (shared with Perc. 1)
Claves
3 Wood Blocks (low, medium, high)
4 Timbales
Bass Drum (shared with Perc. 1)

Duration

circa 13 minutes

Performance Notes

The piano and double bass may require amplification to achieve the proper balance in the hall with the wind ensemble.

Throughout the score, the rhythm section is given latitude to improvise its parts as indicated by slash notation. The first improvised section, mm. 19-28, is unique in that the rhythm section plays double time in relation to the ensemble and conductor. The rhythm section in effect plays two bars for each notated bar at quarter equals metronome mark 144 in mm. 19-27. In bar 28, they sync back up with the conductor's time at quarter equals m.m. 72.

It should be understood that the rhythm section will play primarily in a swing feel throughout the score, except where otherwise notated in the drum part. Where a swing feel is desired in a part from the wind ensemble, such as in the section beginning at bar 31, it is indicated at the beginning of the passage.

Flutter tonguing is indicated by the abbreviation "fl." in the respective part. In the case of bassoon flutter tonguing, the technique of which may vary more widely on the player than that of flute, say, a growl effect or even a trill may be substituted if necessary.

The score calls for woodwind instruments to at times sustain a note and "build up harmonics to as high as possible." The desired effect in such cases is a multiphonic where several distinct pitches can be heard above the notated fundamental. If the players can't produce a multiphonic, it is suitable to simply play the pitch loudly and with a dark and nasty tone.

Program Notes

Sun Compass takes its primary inspiration from desert navigation and, more broadly, from the idea of the exploration of an “imaginary landscape” along the lines of Paul Klee’s conception. I am drawn to solar navigation because of its propitious, mystical overtones in ancient cosmology. There are many forms of sun compasses, such as those invented by William Austin Burt and Ralph Bagnold, which make use of the sun’s direction rather than magnetism to calculate one’s bearing on the earth. Their complex calculations serve as an aid to explorers traversing long distances in sunlit landscapes such as the desert, the arctic, or grassland steppes and plains.

Sun Compass seeks to navigate musical “deserts” through the cooperation of its diverse instrumental parts, namely a rhythm section of jazz players and a small wind band. On its journey, the ensemble confronts many differentiated musical objects, which reorient the ensemble and listener to different styles, feels, and textures. Through repetition, juxtaposition, and variation, these objects are recast and reconsidered as the band traverses imaginary landscapes of the mind and soul.

Sun Compass was written for Bill Drury in celebration of his decades-long tenure as a conductor of New England Conservatory's Wind Ensembles, a role in which he has dedicated himself to the service of his students and touched many lives through music and his ineffable good nature.

Revised April 26, 2025

Sun Compass

Sid Richardson
(b. 1987)

Dedicated to Bill Drury

♩ = 72 **Questing**

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe 1

Oboe 2

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

E♭ Alto Saxophone

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

F Horn 1

F Horn 2

C Trumpet 1

C Trumpet 2

Trombone

Tuba

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Piano

Drum Kit

Double Bass

[illegible]

Pno.

Kit

Db.

Bb7

Ebmaj7(#11)/G

A7(b13)/G

Snare + Kick

Crash

Ride + Hi-hat ped.

pizz., solo

sfz

sf

mf

f

mp

ff

Ragging

Ragging

Fl. 1 *sfz* *f* *ff* *f*

Fl. 2 *sfz* *f* *ff* *f*

Ob. 1 *sfz* *f* *ff* *f*

Ob. 2 *sfz* *sfz* *f* *ff* *f*

Cl. 1 *f* *mf* *ff* *f*

Cl. 2 *f* *ff* *f*

Bsn. 1 *sfz* *sfz* *f* *ff*

Bsn. 2 *sfz* *sfz* *f* *ff*

Alto Sax. *f* *mf* *ff* *f*

Ten. Sax. *sfz* *sfz* *f* *ff*

Hn. 1 *sfz* *sfz* *ff* *ff*

Hn. 2 *sfz* *sfz* *ff*

C Tpt. 1 *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *ff* *f*

C Tpt. 2 *sfz* *sfz* *ff* *f*

Tbn. *sfz* *f* *ff*

Tba. *sfz* *f* *ff*

Perc. 1 **Bongos + Congas** *mf* *f* **Susp. Cym.** $\oplus$ (damp)

Perc. 2 **Timbales** *f* *mp* *f* **Wood Blocks** *ff*

Ragging

Pno. *mf* *f* *ff*

Kit **Hi-hat** (straight time) **Tom-tom** *ff*

Db. *tutti* *ff*

12

Fl. 1

ff strident

Fl. 2

ff strident

to Piccolo

Ob. 1

ff strident

Ob. 2

ff strident

sfz 3

Cl. 1

ff strident

Cl. 2

ff

to Bass Clarinet

Bsn. 1

ff strident

sfz

f

fl. (or growl)

fff

ord.

ff 3

Bsn. 2

ff strident

sfz

ff 3

Alto Sax.

ff strident

Ten. Sax.

f

sfz

Hn. 1

open

ff strident

f

p

Hn. 2

ff strident

C Tpt. 1

f < *ff* strident

f 3

C Tpt. 2

ff strident

f 3

Tbn.

f

sfz

f

sfz

Tba.

ff strident

sfz

Perc. 1

Tam-tam

l.v.

mf

Bongos + Congas with hands

f 5

mp

p

mf

Perc. 2

WB

Timbales

f

mf

ppp

f

15 sub. ♩ = 72 Tempo Primo

Pno.

Kit

rim shot

ord.

sfz

snap pizz.

Db.

ffz

18

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Kit.

Db.

Bongos + Congas

Susp. Cym.

WB

(♩ = 144) Double time from conductor's time (two bars for each notated bar).
Improvise in a fast, free jazz style centered on A7 altered.
Use the following cells as a guide for motivic generation (*ad lib.*).

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Improvise in a fast, free jazz style centered on A7 altered.
Use the following cells as a guide for motivic generation (*ad lib.*).

pizz. ord.

6

23

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Kit

Db.

ord.

mf

ff

build up harmonies to as high as possible (multiphonic)

fp nasty

fff

ord.

f

ff

mf

f

ff

Susp. Cym.

l.v.

p

molto

ff

WB

f

mp

f

♩ = 72 In conductor's tempo

ff

♩ = 72 In conductor's tempo

ff

♩ = 72 In conductor's tempo

ff

34

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

match level with brass

mf

p

*mf**p*

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

con sord.

mf

p

con sord.

mf

p

with closed plunger

mf

p

with closed plunger

mf

p

with closed plunger (or Harmon mute)

mf

p

open

p

closed

*mf**p*

open

p

closed

*mf**p*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

F7(♯9)

F7(♯9)

Gm7(♭5)

F7/C

Bbm9

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

swing

mf

mf

mf

mf

F7(♯9)

F7(♯9)

Gm7(♭5)

F7/C

Bbm9

f

mf

mf

mf

mf

Pno.

Kit

Db.

[illegible]

10

44

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Kit

Db.

[illegible]

12

[illegible]

[illegible]

57 sub. ♩ = 144 Blistering

The musical score for 'The Sound of Silence' is presented in a three-staff format. The top staff is for Piano (Pno.), the middle for Kit (drums), and the bottom for Double Bass (Db.). The key signature is one flat (Bb), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. Chord symbols are placed above the piano staff and below the double bass staff. Dynamics such as *f* (forte), *sim.* (simulated), and *backbeat* are indicated. The piano part features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, while the double bass part provides a steady rhythmic foundation with eighth notes. The kit part includes a drum pattern with snare and bass drum hits.

14

[illegible]

65

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Kit

Db.

to Contrabassoon

senza sord.

mf

sfz

3

f

ff

f

Susp. Cym.

l.v.

f

Xylo

mf

sfz

mf

3

f

mf

G $\flat$ 7

A $\flat$ 7

C7(#9)

F7

G $\flat$ 7

A $\flat$ 7

F7

[illegible]

73 Piano Solo

	Cmaj7 solo	F9(add13) <i>sim.</i>	D♭6	Cmaj7	F9(add13)	B♭maj7	E♭9(add13)	A♭maj7	A♭m(maj7)	G7	G♭7(♭9)	Cmaj7
Pno.												
Kit	Keep beat going in solo, largely on cymbals	<i>sim.</i>										
Db.												



	85	8b m7(b5)	A maj7(#11)	Ab m(b5)	G maj7(#11)	D maj7/F#	Dm7	D maj7	8b m(maj7)	Em(b5)	A7	F#m7(b5)	B7	G maj7(#11)	C#m(b5)/G	
Pno.																
Kit																
Db.																



	97	A°	B♭maj7	Cmaj7	B♭maj7	Amaj7(♯11)	E♭9(add13)	A♭6/9	A♭m(maj7)	A♭
Pno.										
Kit										
Db.		A°	B♭maj7	Cmaj7	B♭maj7	Amaj7(♯11)	E♭9(add13)	A♭6/9	A♭m(maj7)	(to bow)

18

105

♩ = 72

Questing

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1

Clarinet

Bsn. 1

Contrabassoon

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

Temple Blocks

BD with brushes, circular scraping

Tam-tam

105

♩ = 72

Questing

Ab 6/8

Ab m(maj 7)

Ab 9

(end solo)

2-bar cymbal fill

(end)

arco

♩ = 100 Swinging

109

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Cbsn.

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

100 Swinging

ff

sub. p possibile

mf

ff

sub. p possibile

f

ff

sub. p possibile

f

ff

sub. p

to Bassoon

tutti

ff

sub. p possibile

f

mf

ff

p

mf

f

ff

(open)

p

ff

con sord.

f < ff

ppp

f

mf

ff

con sord.

f < ff

ppp

f

mf > p f

f < ff

Congas + Bongas (with sticks)

(with sticks)

Perc. 1

pp

mf

f

Perc. 2

♩ = 100 Swinging

The musical score consists of three staves: Piano (Pno.), Kit (Drums), and Double Bass (Db.). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4.

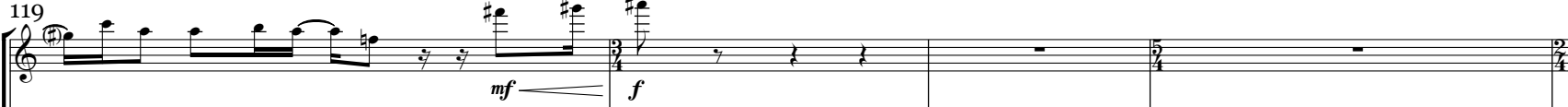
- Piano (Pno.):** The first three measures are whole rests. In the fourth measure, a half note chord of Bb5 (Bb) is played. This is followed by a series of whole-tone lines (diagonal slashes) for the next two measures. In the seventh measure, a half note chord of Ab (sus4) is played, followed by more whole-tone lines.
- Kit (Drums):** The first three measures are whole rests. In the fourth measure, a drum pattern is played, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic. This pattern consists of a quarter note on the snare, followed by eighth notes on the snare and tom. In the seventh measure, a different drum pattern is played, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic, featuring a quarter note on the snare, followed by eighth notes on the snare and tom.
- Double Bass (Db.):** The first three measures are whole rests. In the fourth measure, a half note chord of Bb5 (Bb) is played, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a pizzicato (*pizz.*) instruction. This is followed by a series of whole-tone lines (diagonal slashes) for the next two measures. In the seventh measure, a half note chord of Ab (sus4) is played, followed by more whole-tone lines.

20

[illegible]

119

Fl. 1

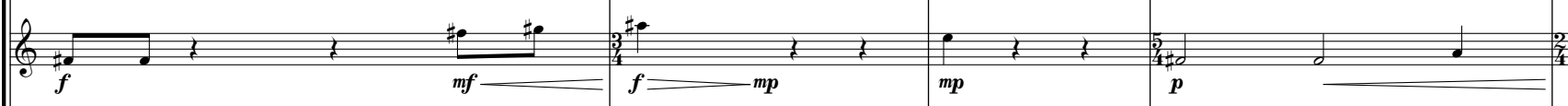


mf *f*

Picc.



Ob. 1



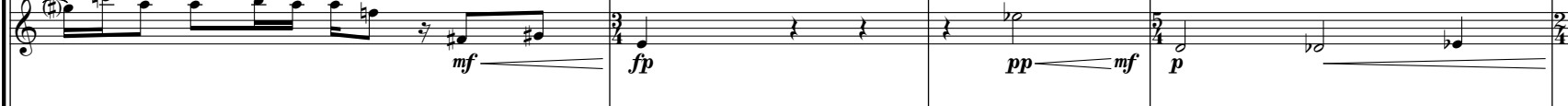
f mf *f* mp mp *p*

Eng. Hn.



f mf *f* mp *p*

Cl. 1



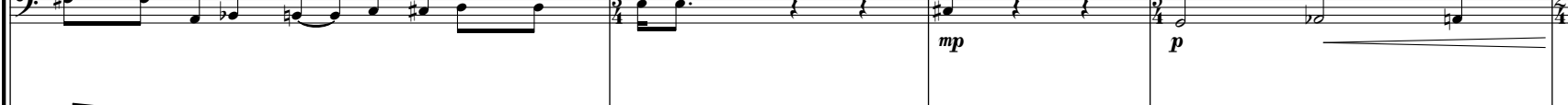
mf *fp* pp mf *p*

Cl. 2



mf *fp* pp mf *p*

Bsn. 1



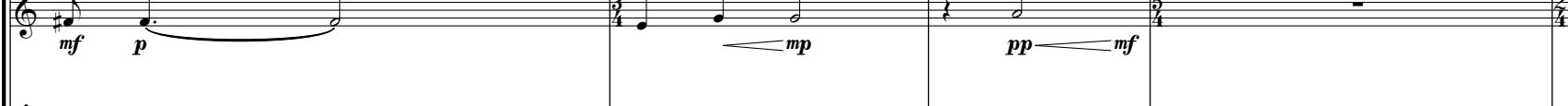
f mp *p*

Bsn. 2



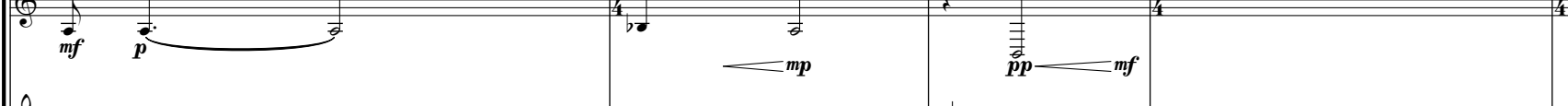
f mp *p*

Alto Sax.



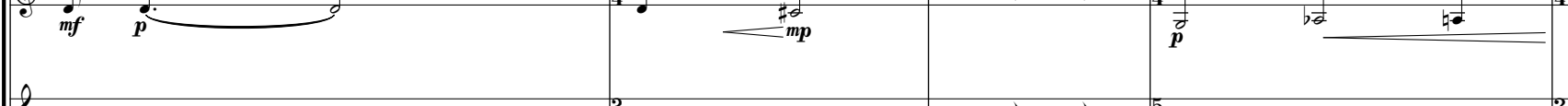
mf *p* mp pp mf

Ten. Sax.



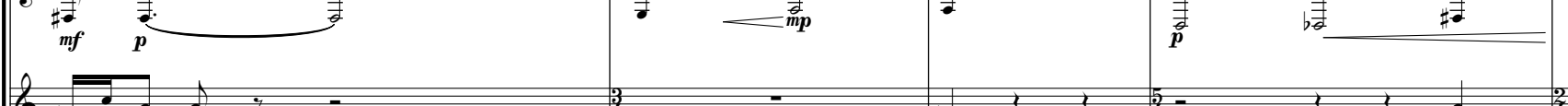
mf *p* mp pp mf

Hn. 1



mf *p* mp *p*

Hn. 2



mf *p* mp *p*

C Tpt. 1



f mp mf

C Tpt. 2



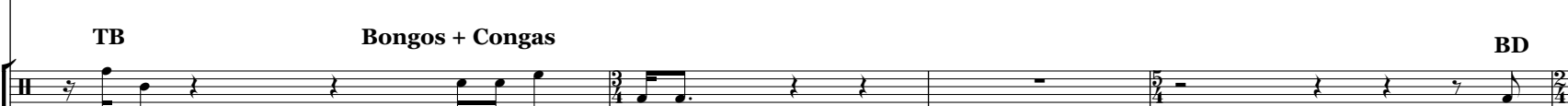
f mp *p*

Tbn.



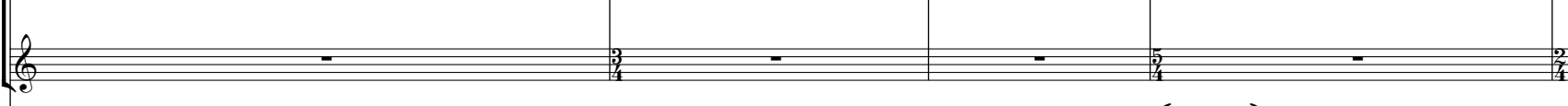
f mp *p*

Tba.



mf mf *fp* mp *p* mf

Perc. 1



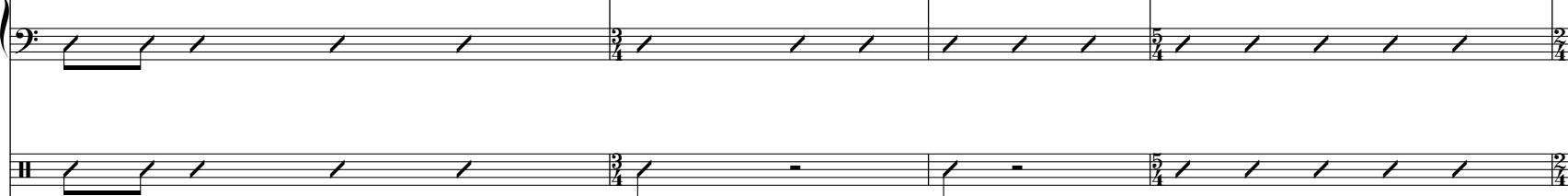
TB Bongos + Congas BD

mf *p* *p*

Perc. 2

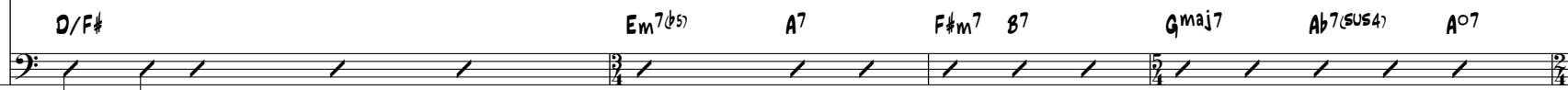


Pno.



D/F# Em7(b9) A7 F#m7 B7 Gmaj7 Ab7(sus4) A°7

Kit



Db.



D/F# Em7(b9) A7 F#m7 B7 Gmaj7 Ab7(sus4) A°7

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

BD

Perc. 2

123

Kit

Db.

[illegible]

137 ♩ = 58 Tranquillo

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Kit

Db.

Tam-tam

137 ♩ = 58 Tranquillo

E♭m7(sus4)/D♭

pp

l.v.

8th

pp

8th

Richardson - Sun Compass

♪ = ♪ (2+3) ²⁵

141

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Alto Sax.

Ten. Sax.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn.

Tba.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Kit

Db.

142

143

144

145

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