

WATCHMEN

brass quintet

DAVID MORNEAU

Imagine an America different from the one we know. What if Nixon had never been found out? What if he had been able to strip term limits from the Constitution and gone on to a fourth term in office? What if America had prevailed in Vietnam, making it the 51st state in the Union, and now stands on the brink of nuclear war with the Soviet Union ?

This alternate America is the setting for Alan Moore's 1985 graphic novel, *Watchmen*. The characters are a group of retired superheroes, once useful to the government but now forced into seclusion because of bad publicity and litigation. The story opens with the assassination of one of their own. In the search for the perpetrator, a more sinister plot is uncovered: New York City is going to be attacked and it is going to look like an alien race is responsible. By sacrificing millions innocent lives, the US and Russia will have to unite against a common enemy. The impending nuclear holocaust will be averted. Despair and desperation have led to madness.

Though inspired by the book, my music does not attempt to retell the story. Instead, I have selected striking scenes and ordered them to follow the emotional arc of the story.

Duration – circa 10'

1. A Brother to Dragons
2. The Darkness of Mere Being
3. Watchmaker
4. The Abyss Gazes Also
5. Look On My Works, Ye Mighty...
6. Absent Friends

WATCHMEN
A BROTHER TO DRAGONS

DAVID MORNEAU

Bright & Energetic (♩=130)

Trumpet 1 in Bb
Trumpet 2 in Bb
Horn in F
Trombone
Tuba

f *f* *ff* *ff* *f* *ff*

A

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *mf* *mf* *mf*

11

Musical score for measures 11-15. The score consists of five staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last three are in bass clef. The music includes various dynamics such as *mf*, *f*, and *mf*, along with slurs and accents.

16 **B**

Musical score for measures 16-19, marked with a **B** section. The score consists of five staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last three are in bass clef. The music includes dynamics such as *mf* and *mp*, along with slurs and accents.

20

Musical score for measures 20-24. The score consists of five staves. The first staff (treble clef) has dynamics *f*, *mf*, *mf*, and *mf*. The second staff (treble clef) has dynamics *f* and *mf*. The third staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mf* and *f*. The fourth staff (bass clef) has dynamics *mf* and *f*. The fifth staff (bass clef) has dynamics *f* and *mf*. There are also dynamic markings *mp* in the fourth and fifth staves.



25

Musical score for measures 25-29. The score consists of five staves. The first staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mf* and *mf*, and includes the marking "st mute". The second staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mf* and *mf*, and includes the marking "st mute". The third staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mp* and *mp*. The fourth staff (bass clef) has dynamics *mp* and *mp*. The fifth staff (bass clef) has dynamics *mp* and *mp*. There are also slurs and fingerings (e.g., "2") in the first and second staves.

31

open

open

C

37

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

41 **D**

f

f

f

f

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 41 through 44. It is marked with a 'D' chord symbol above the first staff. The music is written for five staves. The first three staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The first three staves have a dynamic marking of *f* (forte). The music consists of rhythmic patterns with accents and slurs. The bottom staff has a dynamic marking of *f* and includes a double bar line with a repeat sign at the beginning of the system.

45 **E**

ff

sfz

ff

ff

ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 45 through 48. It is marked with an 'E' chord symbol above the first staff. The music is written for five staves. The first three staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The first three staves have dynamic markings of *ff* (fortissimo) and *sfz* (sforzando). The music consists of complex rhythmic patterns with accents and slurs. The bottom staff has a dynamic marking of *ff* and includes a double bar line with a repeat sign at the beginning of the system.

50

tr

f *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

f *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

f *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

ff *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*



54

mf *f* *ff* *ff* *ff*

sub mf *f* *ff* *ff* *ff*

15 C

Musical score for measures 15-22. The score consists of five staves. Measure 15 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *pp*. Triplets are marked with a '3'. A key signature change to C major occurs in measure 20, indicated by a 'C' in a box in the top right corner. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 5/4 in measure 20 and back to 4/4 in measure 21.

23

Musical score for measures 23-26. The score consists of five staves. Measure 23 starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Dynamics include *pp*. Triplets are marked with a '3'. The score concludes with 'fade to silence' instructions in measures 24, 25, and 26. A double bar line is present at the end of measure 26.

WATCHMAKER

Quick & Precise (♩=120)

Trumpet 1 in B♭ *Straight mute* *mf*

Trumpet 2 in B♭ *Cup mute* *mf*

Horn in F

Trombone

Tuba *p*



6 A

mf *Mute* *Straight mute* *f* *f* *f*

<mf *mf* *f* *f* *f*

12

f

f

3

3



20

B

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mute out

mp

68

p
mp
f
f
f
mf
f

74 **G**

mf
mf
mf
mf
mf
f
f
f
f
f
f

The musical score consists of five staves. The first staff is in treble clef, and the others are in bass clef. The time signature is 4/4, with a 7/8 measure in the middle. Dynamic markings include *ff*, *mp (sub)*, and *f*. The notation includes various rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are also some slurs and accents present in the score.

THE ABYSS GAZES ALSO

Deliberate

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-4. The score is for five instruments: Trumpet 1 in Bb, Trumpet 2 in Bb, Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba. The time signature is 4/4, which changes to 6/4 at measure 3 and 5/4 at measure 4. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The score includes dynamic markings: *mp*, *mf*, *pp*, *sfz*, and *ff*. Performance instructions include "flutter tongue" and "gliss.". The Trombone and Tuba parts feature a melodic line with dynamics *mp*, *mf*, and *pp* across measures 1-3, and a *ff* dynamic in measure 4. The Trumpet and Horn parts have *sfz* dynamics in measure 3 and *ff* dynamics in measure 4. The Trombone part has a *gliss.* instruction in measure 4.

Musical score for the second system, measures 5-8. The score is for five instruments: Tpt. (Trumpet), Tpt. (Trumpet), Hn. (Horn), Tbn. (Trombone), and Tba. (Tuba). The time signature is 4/4, which changes to 6/4 at measure 5 and 5/4 at measure 8. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The score includes dynamic markings: *mp*, *mf*, *pp*, *sfz*, and *ff*. Performance instructions include "flutter tongue" and "gliss.". The Trombone and Tuba parts feature a melodic line with dynamics *mp*, *mf*, and *pp* across measures 5-7, and a *ff* dynamic in measure 8. The Trumpet and Horn parts have *sfz* dynamics in measure 5 and *ff* dynamics in measure 8. The Trombone part has a *gliss.* instruction in measure 8.

9

Tpt. *mf* *ff*

Tpt. *mf* *ff*

Hn. *mf* *ff*

Tbn. *mf* *ff* *gliss.*

Tba. 3

LOOK ON MY WORKS, YE MIGHTY...

Bright, energetic (♩=100)

Trumpet 1 in Bb

Trumpet 2 in Bb

Horn in F

Trombone

Tuba

f

mp

f

mp

f

mp

6

A

f

f

f

f

f

11 B

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



16

mp
mp
mf *mp*
mf
mf

19

C

f *mp* *p* *mf*

G.P. G.P. G.P. G.P. G.P.

24

D

mf *mp* *f* *f*

20 *mp* *f* *f*

28

Musical score for measures 28-33. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamic markings are *mf* (mezzo-forte) and are placed below the notes in the fifth, sixth, and seventh measures.



E

34

Musical score for measures 34-38. The score consists of five staves. The top staff is in treble clef, and the bottom staff is in bass clef. The music is in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamic markings are *mf* (mezzo-forte), *f* (forte), and *mp* (mezzo-piano), and are placed below the notes in the second, third, fourth, and fifth measures.

39

f *mf* *f*

F

42

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

F

ABSENT FRIENDS

Dark and Brooding (♩=60)

Musical score for measures 1-9. The score is for five instruments: Trumpet 1 in B♭, Trumpet 2 in B♭, Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba. The tempo is marked as ♩=60. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 and back to 4/4. Dynamics include *pp*, *p*, and *pp*. A triplet of eighth notes is present in the Horn part at the end of measure 9.

Musical score for measures 10-14. The score is for five instruments: Trumpet 1 in B♭, Trumpet 2 in B♭, Horn in F, Trombone, and Tuba. The tempo is marked as ♩=60. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 and back to 4/4. Dynamics include *mp*, *mfp*, *p*, and *pp*. Triplet markings are present in the Horn and Trombone parts.

18 **A**

Musical score for section A, measures 18-25. The score consists of five staves. The first two staves are treble clef, and the last three are bass clef. The music includes triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings such as *p*, *mp*, and *p*. The key signature has one flat.

B **C**

26 Funeral March

Musical score for section B and C, measures 26-33. The score consists of five staves. The first two staves are treble clef, and the last three are bass clef. The music includes triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings such as *mp*, *sim*, and *mf*. The key signature has one flat.

34 D

mp mp mp mf f f f mf f

mf f



41 Eulogy

mp mp mp mp f

Cup mute

mp mfp mf f

mp

49

E
Hymn



58

F

Straight mute

66

f

f

f

f

f

Straight mute

Straight mute

3

mp

p

Sit with ho

Sit with ho

Sit with ho

mp

p

p

p

Reverie (♩=52)

75

pp

pp

3

fade to silence

fade to silence