

ALEX TEMPLE

DAY OF SCREAMING  
(2024)

FOR THREE BASS CLARINETS

# ABOUT THE PIECE

You may have heard about Transgender Day of Remembrance, a somber yearly memorial for the shockingly large number of trans people murdered for who they are. You may also be familiar with the more cheerful Transgender Day of Visibility, an annual chance to declare that no matter what happens, we are not going away. But in 2015, a tumblr user called 37q proposed a third event: Trans Day of Screaming.

The post simply reads: "trans day of screaming will be friday november 6 spread the word." Later, another poster by the name of willsparkling fleshed out the idea, adding: "the screaming starts whenever u want. group screaming is great but individual screaming is fine too. if you think you might be trans you too can scream because cisnormativity probably still informs your questioning"

It was a joke, but it was one that resonated emotionally for many trans people — a perfect expression of what it's like to live in a world that wants to erase you. So when Shawn Copeland approached me about writing a piece for a project themed around queer and trans activism, I decided to turn the joke into music. *Day of Screaming* asks its performers to get in the right frame of mind by spending fifteen seconds thinking about an injustice they've experienced, before immediately launching into a protracted shriek on the highest notes they can play, held until they run out of breath. This visceral howl sets the stage for a piece that explores many different varieties of scream.

It's not all caterwaul all the time, though. There are also moments of calm, as well as a (hopefully) cathartic climax that weaves fragments from songs by 14 contemporary trans and/or nonbinary artists — SOPHIE, Dorian Electra, Janelle Monáe, Macintosh Plus and more — into a dense, joyous collage.

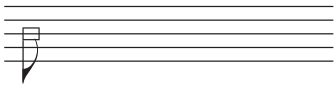
# PERFORMANCE NOTES

*Day of Screaming* should be performed from the score. Most of the piece has separate written parts for each player, but some passages have only a single line of music. In these sections, everyone should play together.

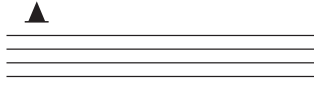
Performers must be comfortable improvising, and have bass clarinets that extend down to concert Bb1.

While trans clarinetists may find the piece particularly meaningful, anyone is welcome to play it.

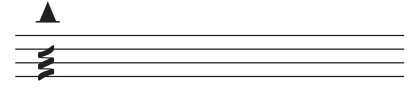
# NOTATION KEY



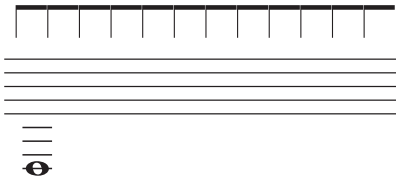
short, sharp, dramatic gasp



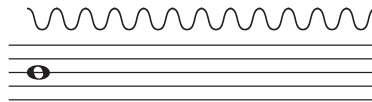
play highest note possible



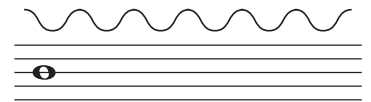
play highest note possible while screaming into the instrument



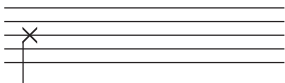
split tones / spectral harmonics:  
arpeggiate through partials *ad lib.*



wide, fast vibrato



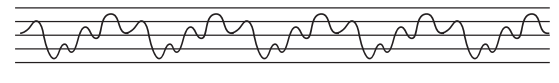
wide, slow vibrato



slap tongue (staccato)



slap tongue (held)



noisy, chaotic free improvisation

# INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

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# DAY OF SCREAMING

15" 30" (exact rest length)

Prepare to play by thinking about an injustice you've experienced

All

*ff ffff* Don't try to match pitch or vibrato speed with each other

12" 15"

4 dry s.t. → pitched s.t.  
staccato → legato

improvise on these pitches, gradually decelerating

*f* ————— *pp*

*ff ffff*

**A** ♩ = 112

8

1 *ff* Don't try to match vibrato speed *sim.* *ffff* 5"

2 *ff* Don't try to match vibrato speed *sim.* *ffff*

3 *ff* Don't try to match vibrato speed *sim.* *ffff*

DAY OF SCREAMING

12

1 *ff* 5 *ffff* 8"

2 *ff* *ffff*

3 *ff* 3 *ffff* (no pause before m. 17!)

15"

17 dry s.t. pitched s.t.  
staccato legato

All

Improvise on these pitches, gradually accelerating

*f* *p*

19  $\text{♩} = 112$

1 *pp* *fff*

2 *fff* *pp* *fff*

3 *fff* *pp* *fff*

30  $\text{♩} = 100$

1 *pp* hushed and conspiratorial *sim.* *n*

2 *pp* hushed and conspiratorial *sim.* *n*

3 *pp* hushed and conspiratorial *sim.* *n*



20"

$\text{♩} = 100$

37

1 *fff* violent *sfp* *fff* *mp*

2 *fff* violent *mp* *sfp* *fff*

3 *fff* violent *mp*

DAY OF SCREAMING

40

5x

Musical score for measures 40-43. It consists of three staves (1, 2, 3) in 2/4 time. Measure 40 starts with a tremolo on staff 1, followed by a half note on staff 2 and a half note on staff 3. Measure 41 continues with a half note on staff 1, a half note on staff 2, and a half note on staff 3. Measure 42 features a tremolo on staff 1, a half note on staff 2, and a half note on staff 3. Measure 43 is a repeat of measure 42. Dynamic markings include *sfp*, *fff*, *mf*, and *mp*. A 5x repeat sign is placed over the final measure.

44

Musical score for measures 44-49. It consists of three staves (1, 2, 3) in 2/4 time. Measures 44-49 show a sequence of notes with dynamic markings *sfp*, *f*, and *fff*. There are various rhythmic patterns, including eighth notes, quarter notes, and half notes, some with trills (*tr*) and accents (*acc*). The score ends with a double bar line.

50

10"

Musical score for measures 50-53. It consists of three staves (1, 2, 3) in 2/4 time. Measure 50 starts with a half note on staff 1, a half note on staff 2, and a half note on staff 3. Measure 51 continues with a half note on staff 1, a half note on staff 2, and a half note on staff 3. Measure 52 features a tremolo on staff 1, a half note on staff 2, and a half note on staff 3. Measure 53 is a repeat of measure 52. Dynamic markings include *sfp*, *f*, and *fff*. A 10-second tremolo is indicated over the final measure.

DAY OF SCREAMING



54 ♩ = 92

1 *pp* surreptitious *p*

2 *pp* surreptitious *p*

3 *pp* surreptitious

60

1 *mf* *f* proclamatory

2 *mf*

3 *p* *mf*

65

1 *ff*

2 *ff*

3 *ff*



69 5" 8" 10"

All *fff* dry s.t. pitched s.t.

*staccato* legato

Improvise on these pitches, gradually accelerating

*fp* *ff*



72 15"

Prepare for the next section by thinking about a time you've been defiant in the face of an oppressor ♩ = 84 Against Me!, "Transgender Dysphoria Blues"

1 *fff* *ff* rough-edged

2 *fff* *n*

3 *fff* *n*

74

Ash Nerve, "Hollywood Forever"

1 *mp* *ff* *f* warm, lyrical, vulnerable

Backxwash, "Devil in a Moshpit"

2 *ff* abrasive *mf*

3 *f* *mf*

77

Macintosh Plus, "リサフランク420 / 現代のコンピュー"

1 *mp* *f* like a looping record *mf*

Feminazgûl, "The Rot in the Field is Holy"

2 *ff* ritualistic *fp* *f*

Janelle Monáe, "Water Slide"

3 *fp* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* playful and flirty

DAY OF SCREAMING

80

1 *mp* *p*

2 1.8.7, "When Worlds Collide"  
*eerie* *n* *mf* *f* 5

3 100 geecs, "money machine"  
*ff* wild and messy



82

1 **G** ♩ = 120  
Moe Shop f. Puniden, "Virtual"  
*fp* *ff* funky, slightly ahead of the beat

2 Jazmin Bean, "Saccharine"  
*unctuous* *f*

3 Arca, "Prada/Rakata"  
*f* methodical and artificial

85

1  
2  
3

SOPHIE, "It's Okay to Cry"  
*f* sensuous and breathy

Dorian Electra, "Sodom and Gomorrah"  
*ff* sexy, four on the floor



89

1  
2  
3

Kim Petras, "Coconuts"  
*f* braggadocious

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*



92

All

**H**

4"

Hold until out of breath

*fff* ecstatic

*ffff* triumphant