

# Three Sketches

for flute sextet

Robert Davidson

# Program Note

I wrote *Three Sketches* while travelling in Zimbabwe and South Africa, and though the antics of Robert Mugabe visibly destroying his country infuriated and bewildered me while I was there, nothing of this comes through in the music (to my knowledge). Being in a culture with such a stupendous musical heritage, I think I was drawn to exploring what I value in my own Western background - counterpoint and the power of the cadence. In the second movement, the "engine" of functional harmony is explored in a primal way, stretching out and overlapping chords to bring out their directionality.

*Three Sketches* was commissioned by the International Flute Convention held in Brisbane in May 1999

## Performance Notes

In the second movement, there is no specified tempo. The tempo is set instead by each individual performer's breath.

Each note is sustained until a rest appears; the duration of these notes should be timed to allow each passage of long notes to be played comfortably with one breath, and with a discretion sensitive to the overall rhythmic flow of the music.

The notes and rests are performed in the horizontal order they appear in the score, with players being careful to remain aware of each other's parts (each performer plays from the full score).

Light amplification is required for the ensemble to produce an equal balance, boosting the alto and bass flutes.

# Three Sketches

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$\text{♩} = 112$  A

This system of music features six staves: Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Flute 3, Alto Flute, and Bass Flute. The time signature is 5/8. The Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, and Flute 3 parts begin with a *mf* dynamic and play a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Alto Flute and Bass Flute parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of quarter notes. The Flute 1 part includes a section marked 'normale (vib.)' and *mp esp.* starting at the end of the system. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs. Dynamics *fpp* are indicated at the end of the system for Flute 3, Alto Flute, and Bass Flute.

10

This system continues the music from the first system, starting at measure 10. The Piccolo part is silent. The Flute 1 part features a complex rhythmic pattern with a triplet of eighth notes and a sixteenth-note run, marked with a *mf* dynamic. The Flute 2 and Flute 3 parts play a simple quarter-note accompaniment. The Alto Flute and Bass Flute parts are marked 'sim.' (sustained) and play a rhythmic accompaniment. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

Three Sketches

4  
18

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

B

*mf*  
senza vibrato

*mf*  
senza vibrato

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

27

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

C

normale (vib.)

*mp* esp.

normale (vib.)

*mp* esp.

*p*

*p*

*p*

36

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*fp* *fp*

*fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

*fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

43

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*fp* *fp*

*sim.*

*sim.*

*sim.*

Three Sketches

6  
49

D normale (vib.)

Musical score for measures 49-55. The score is for six parts: Piccolo (Picc.), Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Flute 3 (Fl. 3), Clarinet in A (A. Fl.), and Clarinet in B (B. Fl.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/8. The Piccolo and Flute 1 parts play a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to D5. Flute 2 and Flute 3 play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, starting on G4 and moving up stepwise. The Clarinet in A and Clarinet in B parts play a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes, starting on G3 and moving up stepwise. The dynamic marking is *f* (forte) throughout. The Piccolo and Flute 2 parts have a *stacc.* (staccato) marking. A box labeled 'D normale (vib.)' is positioned above the first measure.

56

E

Musical score for measures 56-61. The score is for six parts: Piccolo (Picc.), Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Flute 3 (Fl. 3), Clarinet in A (A. Fl.), and Clarinet in B (B. Fl.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/8. The Piccolo, Flute 1, and Flute 2 parts play a melodic line starting on G4, moving up stepwise to D5. Flute 3 plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, starting on G4 and moving up stepwise. The Clarinet in A and Clarinet in B parts play a simple harmonic accompaniment of quarter notes, starting on G3 and moving up stepwise. The dynamic marking is *mf* (mezzo-forte) for the Piccolo, Flute 1, and Flute 2 parts, and *mp* (mezzo-piano) for the Flute 3, Clarinet in A, and Clarinet in B parts. The Piccolo, Flute 1, and Flute 2 parts have first and second endings marked '1.' and '2.'. A box labeled 'E' is positioned above the first measure.

Three Sketches

63

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

70

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

F

*p stacc.*

*fp fp fp fp sim.*

*fp fp fp fp fp*

Three Sketches

8  
76

Picc.

Fl. 1  
*mp*

Fl. 2  
*mp*

Fl. 3

A. Fl.  
*più ff*

B. Fl.  
*sim.*  
*più ff*

82

G

Picc.  
*f*  
stacc.

Fl. 1  
*mf*  
stacc.  
*f*

Fl. 2  
*mf*  
stacc.  
*f*

Fl. 3  
*mf*  
stacc.  
*f*

A. Fl.  
*mf*  
stacc.  
*f*

B. Fl.  
*mf*  
*f marc.*



88

Picc. *ff*

Fl. 1

Fl. 2 *ff*

Fl. 3 *ff*

A. Fl. *ff*

B. Fl. *ff* stacc.

94

**H** Più mosso ♩ = 150

Picc. *p marc.*

Fl. 1 *p marc.*

Fl. 2 *p marc.*

Fl. 3 *p marc.*

A. Fl. *p marc.*

B. Fl. *p marc.*

Three Sketches

I ♩ = 132

10  
103

Picc. Fl. 1 Fl. 2 Fl. 3 A. Fl. B. Fl.

*mf* *mf* *mf*

109

Picc. Fl. 1 Fl. 2 Fl. 3 A. Fl. B. Fl.

*mf* *mf* *mf*

Three Sketches

8<sup>va</sup> --- 11

112

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*mp*

*mf* senza vibrato

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf* senza vibrato

115

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

Three Sketches

12  
118

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*pizz.*

6

6

6

6

6

6

121

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*pizz.*

6

6

6

6

6

6

Three Sketches

124 *8va* 13

Picc.  
Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Fl. 3  
A. Fl.  
B. Fl.

127 **J**

Picc.  
Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Fl. 3  
A. Fl.  
B. Fl.

Three Sketches

14  
130

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

133

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

Three Sketches

K

138

Picc. *mp* dolce, cantabile normale (vib.)

Fl. 1

Fl. 2 *p* dim. 6 6 6 6

Fl. 3 *p* dim. 6 6 6 6

A. Fl.

B. Fl. *mp* dolce, cantabile normale (vib.)

142

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl. *p mp*

Three Sketches

16  
150

L **Tempo I** ♩ = 112

Musical score for measures 16-24. The score includes parts for Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Flute 3, Clarinet A, and Clarinet B. The music is in 2/4 time and features various dynamics and articulations.

Measures 16-24:  
Picc.: *mp esp.*, *senza vibrato*, *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
Fl. 1: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
Fl. 2: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
Fl. 3: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
A. Fl.: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
B. Fl.: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*

158

Musical score for measures 158-166. The score includes parts for Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Flute 3, Clarinet A, and Clarinet B. The music is in 2/4 time and features various dynamics and articulations.

Measures 158-166:  
Picc.: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
Fl. 1: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
Fl. 2: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
Fl. 3: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
A. Fl.: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*  
B. Fl.: *fp*, *fp*, *sim.*



167 **M**

Picc. *mf* senza vibrato

Fl. 1 *mf* senza vibrato

Fl. 2 *mf* stacc.

Fl. 3 *mf* senza vibrato

A. Fl. *mf* senza vibrato

B. Fl. *mf* senza vibrato

173 **N** ♩ = 150

Picc. *fp fp fp* sim.

Fl. 1 *fp fp fp* sim.

Fl. 2 *fp fp fp* sim.

Fl. 3 *fp fp fp* sim.

A. Fl. *fp fp fp* sim.

B. Fl. *fp fp fp* sim.

Three Sketches

18  
181

Musical score for measures 18-181. The score is arranged in six staves: Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Fl. 3, A. Fl., and B. Fl. The music is written in treble clef for all parts. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. The score consists of 16 measures. The Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2, and A. Fl. parts play a melodic line of quarter notes, while the Fl. 3 and B. Fl. parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include accents and hairpins.

190

Musical score for measures 190-199. The score is arranged in six staves: Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Fl. 3, A. Fl., and B. Fl. The music is written in treble clef for all parts. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The time signature is 2/4. The score consists of 10 measures. The Picc., Fl. 1, A. Fl., and B. Fl. parts play a melodic line of half notes, while the Fl. 2 and Fl. 3 parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *pp* and *p stacc.*

## II Senza tempo (see performance notes)

193

Picc. *p*

Fl. 1 *p*

Fl. 2 *p*

Fl. 3 *p*

A. Fl. *p*

B. Fl. *p*

196

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

Three Sketches

20

199

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

202

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

**Allegro** ♩ = 120

205

Picc.

Fl. 1 *stacc., marcato*  
*f*

Fl. 2 *stacc., marcato*  
*f*

Fl. 3 *mf* *sim.*

A. Fl. *mf* *sim.*

B. Fl.

210

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

216

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

221

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

227

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

233

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

O

239

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*mf esp.*

*stacc.*

*ff* *p*

*stacc.*

*stacc.*

*stacc.*

*p*

*p*

*mf esp.*

245

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.



251

Picc.  
Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Fl. 3  
A. Fl.  
B. Fl.

This musical system covers measures 251 to 256. The Piccolo part features a melodic line with a slur over measures 251-256 and a dynamic marking of *fz* at the beginning. The Flute 1 part has a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and a dynamic marking of *fz*. Flute 2 and Flute 3 play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Alto Flute and Bass Flute parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and a dynamic marking of *fz*.

257

Picc.  
Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Fl. 3  
A. Fl.  
B. Fl.

This musical system covers measures 257 to 262. The Piccolo part continues its melodic line with a slur over measures 257-262 and a dynamic marking of *fz*. The Flute 1 part has a complex rhythmic pattern with slurs and a dynamic marking of *fz*. Flute 2 and Flute 3 play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Alto Flute and Bass Flute parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and a dynamic marking of *fz*.

Three Sketches

26

P

264

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

270

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

276

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*mf cresc.*

*mp*

282

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*f*

Three Sketches

28

Picc. 287

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

Q

293

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

300

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

308

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

*cresc.*

Three Sketches

30

R

316

Picc. *ff* *stacc.*

Fl. 1 *ff* *stacc.*

Fl. 2 *ff* *stacc.*

Fl. 3 *ff* *stacc.*

A. Fl. *ff* *stacc.*

B. Fl. *ff*

322

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

327

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

This musical system covers measures 327 to 331. It features six staves: Piccolo (Picc.), Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Flute 3 (Fl. 3), Flute A (A. Fl.), and Flute B (B. Fl.). The Piccolo part is highly active with sixteenth-note patterns. The Flute 1 part has a melodic line with some grace notes. Flutes 2 and 3 play similar rhythmic patterns. Flute A has a more melodic line, and Flute B provides a bass line with eighth notes.

332

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

This musical system covers measures 332 to 336. It features the same six staves as the previous system. The Piccolo part continues with its active sixteenth-note patterns. Flute 1 has a melodic line with grace notes. Flutes 2 and 3 play rhythmic patterns. Flute A has a melodic line, and Flute B provides a bass line with eighth notes.

337

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

343

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.



349

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

354

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

360

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.

367

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Fl. 3

A. Fl.

B. Fl.