PIERCE GRADONE

BRASSPLOITATION

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

for tuba and piano

JAMESCREST MUSIC

Brassploitation

for tuba and piano

Duration: ca. 9’

Commissioned by L.T. Townshend

Premiered by Darren Workman on October 4, 2010, in Austin, Texas.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

Program Notes

When asked to write a piece for tuba and piano, I was a bit hesitant. Firstly, I’ve always been uncomfortable with the traditional “instrument plus piano accompaniment”ensemble. Secondly, the idea of using a primarily bass-oriented instrument seemed to be an immediate obstacle in writing such a soloistic piece. I soon began to recall Paul Hindemith’s *Sonatas* for various instruments, including the one for tuba, and his democratic approach to chamber music for all instruments. I then began to consider my own associations with the tuba, which were mainly limited to the low brass in a New Orleans brass band, and then to the film scores of gritty 1970’s crime and exploitation films, such as Herbie Hancock’s score for *Death Wish*, Mikis Theodorakis’ score for *Serpico*, and *Don Ellis’* score for The French Connection. With these admittedly disparate influence, create a piece would attempt to synthesize Hindemith’s Sonata paradigm with the rhythmic, funk-infused music of the film scores, creating a strange hybrid of neo-classical formal and contrapuntal structures with the raw, relentless rhythms of early 1970’s jazz-fusion and funk. What resulted was *Brassploitation*, a title referring both to the film scores upon which it is basedand the exploitation of the tuba as soloist, accompanist, and rhythm section.

TUBA/BASS TROMBONE

for L.T. Townshend

BRASSPLOITATION

for bass trombone and piano

PIERCE GRADONE
(2011)

Abrupt, stilted (♩=78)

Bass Trombone

p *poco staccato*

Piano

p

resonant, contrast with trombone

5

B.Tbn.

Pno.

8vb

accel.

10

B.Tbn.

f

Pno.

cresc. poco a poco

f

8vb

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A **Moving forward** (♩ = 86)

2+3

B.Tbn.

Pno.

mp *f* *fp* *f* *p* *f*

16

B.Tbn.

Pno.

poco staccato

fp *fp* *f* *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

19

B.Tbn.

Pno.

fp *f* *ff* *mf* *fp* 8vb

24

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f *mf* *f* (8vb)

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B

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f

f forceful!

f

32

B.Tbn.

mf

mp

p

Pno.

mp

ppp

p

pp

C

36

B.Tbn.

fp

mf

fp

f

p

Pno.

f

pp

f

subito p

mp

40

B.Tbn.

fp

f

Pno.

f

8vb

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45

B.Tbn.

Pno.

sf fp p sf pp

Ped. Ped.

49

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f p f fp mf p p f p f p

Ped. Ped.

55

2+3

D

B.Tbn.

Pno.

mf mp f f fp f p suddenly delicate

60

B.Tbn.

Pno.

8va mf f

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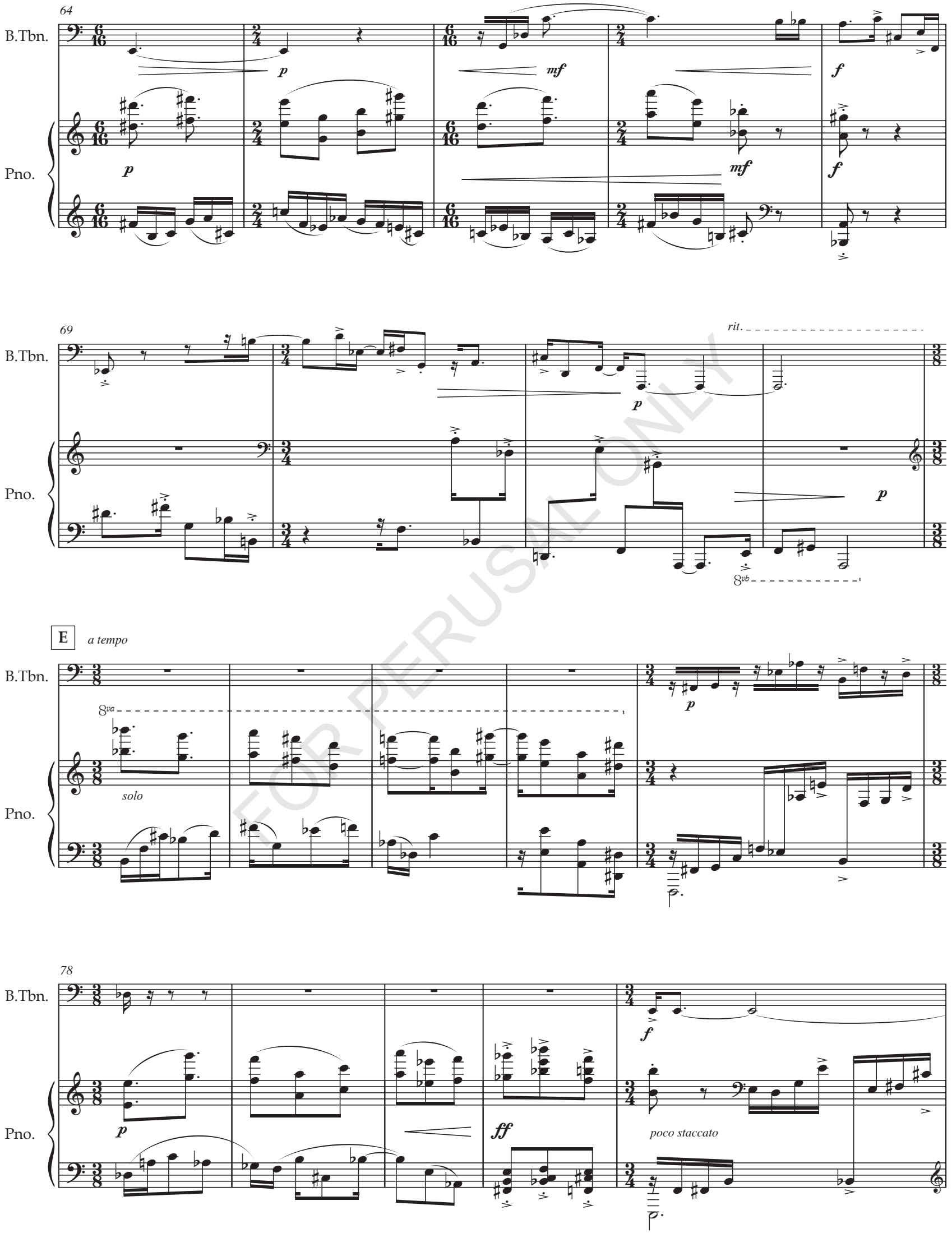

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83

B.Tbn.

Pno.

p

p

5

6

Ped.

F

B.Tbn.

Pno.

quiet, but with energy

simile

Ped. Ped. Ped.

89

B.Tbn.

Pno.

pp *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

92

B.Tbn.

Pno.

pp *f*

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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95

B.Tbn.

Pno.

p *mf*

Ped. Ped.

98

B.Tbn.

Pno.

pp *f*

Ped.

101

B.Tbn.

Pno.

p *f*

Ped. Ped.

G

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f *p* *f*

Ped. Ped.

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107

B.Tbn.

Pno.

p *f* *p* *f*

f

110

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f

8va

113

B.Tbn.

Pno.

Ped. Ped.

H

115

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f 8va *p*

f

Ped. Ped. Ped.

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118

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f *p* *f*

(8va)

f

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

I **2+3**

B.Tbn.

ff

8va

Pno.

127

3+2

B.Tbn.

p *p*

(8va)

Pno.

p *mf* *subito p*

8vb

con Ped.

Ped.

131

B.Tbn.

mf

(8va)

Pno.

mf *subito p* *f*

8vb

Ped. Ped.

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136

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f *ff*

(8va)

mp *ff*

8vb

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

141

2+3

B.Tbn.

Pno.

J **Hesitant, gradually slowing** (♩ = 82)

rit.

B.Tbn.

p

Pno.

pp

Ped.

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Dark and sustained (♩ = 74)

152

B.Tbn.

Pno.

mf *p* *cantabile*

mp *p*

Ped.

156

B.Tbn.

fp *mf* *fp* *mf*

Pno.

p

Ped.

161

B.Tbn.

mf *p* *mp* *p* *mf* *pp*

Pno.

pp

Ped.

K

167

B.Tbn.

f *p* *mp*

Pno.

f abruptly

Ped.

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172

3+2

B.Tbn.

Pno.

p

fp *f*

f

Ped. Ped. Ped.

175

B.Tbn.

Pno.

ppp

5

8va

pp

3

Ped. Ped.

178

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f

fp *f*

f

fp *fp*

f

L **Moving forward** (♩ = 86)

182

B.Tbn.

Pno.

blaring

accel.

3+2

fp *f* *fp* *f*

mp

f

f

ff

Ped. Ped.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

186

B.Tbn.

Pno.

189

B.Tbn.

Pno.

193

B.Tbn.

Pno.

197

B.Tbn.

Pno.

poco staccato

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200

B.Tbn.

Pno.

ppp

203

M

B.Tbn.

p fp mf fp f p

Pno.

p f

207

B.Tbn.

mp fp f p

8va 8va 8vb

Pno.

mp f

211

B.Tbn.

fp mf

Pno.

p f p

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

rit.
N Dark and sustained (♩ = 74)
216
B.Tbn.
Pno.
p
pp
220
Suddenly agitated, slightly faster (♩ = 82)
224
f
rit.
O Tempo II (♩ = 86)
228
2+3
ff
fp
FOR PERUSAL ONLY

233

B.Tbn.

Pno.

p

p

Ped.

3+2

2+3

2+3

237

B.Tbn.

Pno.

mp

8va

f

Ped.

Ped.

P

240

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f

Ped.

Ped.

243

B.Tbn.

Pno.

p

f

p

f

Ped.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

246

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f *p* *f*

249

B.Tbn.

Pno.

8va

Ped.

252

B.Tbn.

Pno.

f

f

Ped. Ped. Ped.

255

B.Tbn.

Pno.

p *f* *p*

f

Ped. Ped. Ped. Ped.

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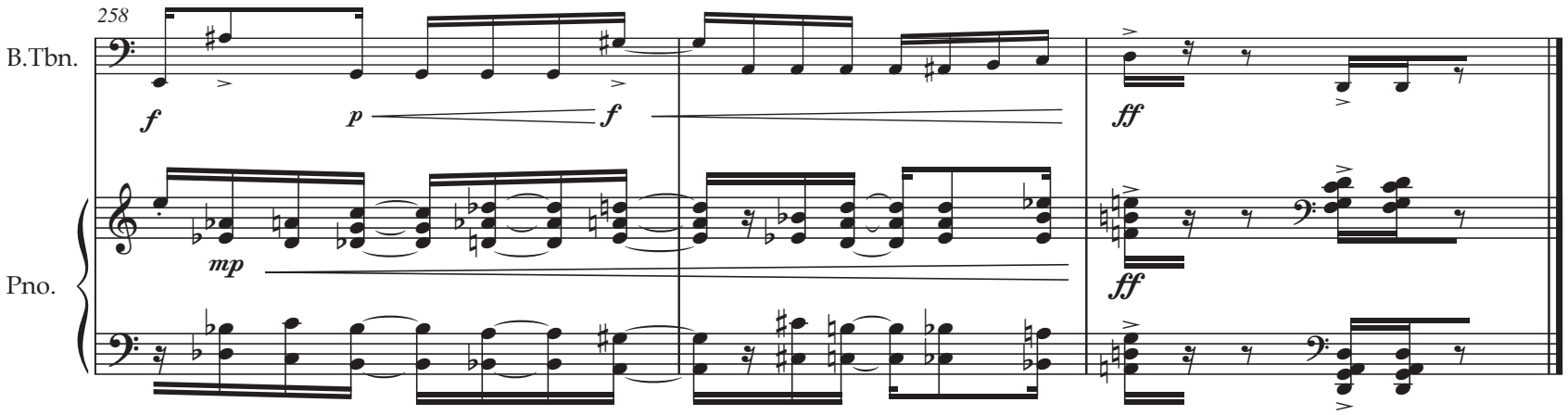

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OTHER WORKS AVAILABLE

LUNGFULS OF DUSK
soprano, alto flute and harp

TRACES
clarinet, violin, cello and piano

NET(WORK)
piano trio and electronics

SIGNS AND WONDERS
for wind quintet

BIZZARIE DI FIGURE
chamber orchestra

IN MEMORY'S TWILIGHT
flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano and percussion

BRITTLE, NOT BREAKING
chamber orchestra

THE NORMS OF EPIC
four female voices

RUCKUS
oboe, clarinet, horn, violin, viola, cello, and bass

AUTOMATON
bass clarinet

TIME, THICKENED
flute, clarinet, violin, cello, harp, piano and percussion

APERTURA
flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, violin, cello, and piano

LOGGERHEADS
trombone choir

THE ART OF FALLING
piano

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