Child's Play

for wind quintet

by Matthew C. Saunders

(2020, 2023)

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Dr. Matthew C. Saunders (born 1976, Austin, Texas, USA) is a Northeast Ohio composer, conductor, trombonist, husband, and father. He finds inspiration from the vastness of space, the waterways and forests, mountains and prairies of America, the motion of atoms, and the mysteries of existence, and from collaboration with other musicians and his students. After a hard day's work, he relaxes with his wonderful wife, who is the love of his life and his teammate in the extreme sport of parenting. Dr. Saunders is a lover of solitude and camaraderie, Cincinnati-style chili and Carolina barbecue, road trips, movies, and random facts. His favorite dinosaur is the Parasaurolophus. He gets excited about music that he would never write or perform, and does what he can to share that with the world. Dr. Saunders is Professor of Music at Lakeland Community College, where he directs the Lakeland Civic Orchestra.

Child's Play was first composed in 2020 for the bass clarinet duo Just This (Asylin Rice and Ivan Ferguson) and adapted for wind quintet in 2023. It is inspired by Alice Munro's 2007 short story of the same title. I have long included the following quotation from the story in the first day of my First-Year Experience course at Lakeland Community College:

Every year, when you are a child, you become a different person. Generally, it's in the fall, when you re-enter school, take your place in a higher grade, leave behind the muddle and lethargy of the summer vacation. That's when you register the change most sharply. Afterward you are not sure of the month or year but the changes go on just the same. For a long time the past drops away from you easily and, it would seem, automatically, properly. Its scenes don't vanish so much as become irrelevant. And then there's a switchback, what's been all over and done with sprouting up fresh, wanting attention, even wanting you to do something about it, though it's plain there is not on this earth a thing to be done.

Contact Information:

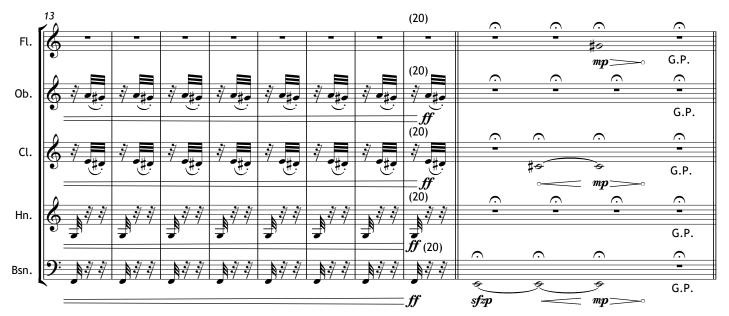
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Transposed Score

"...there is not on this earth a thing to be done."--Alice Munro







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Child's Play (woodwind quintet)/M. Saunders



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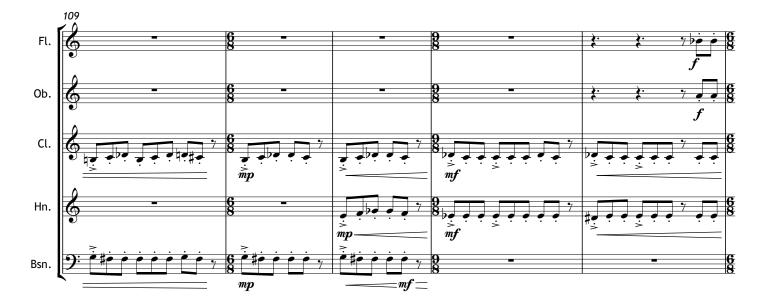
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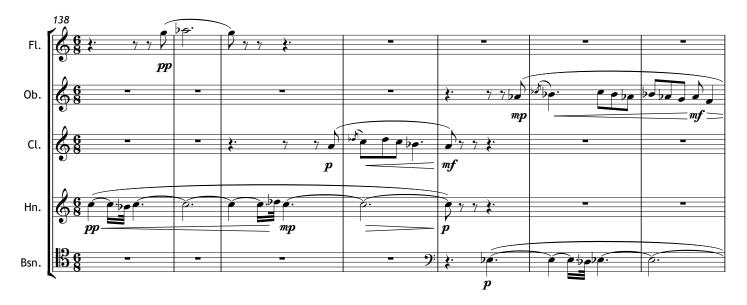


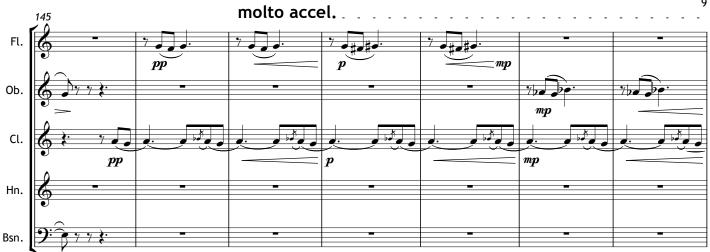


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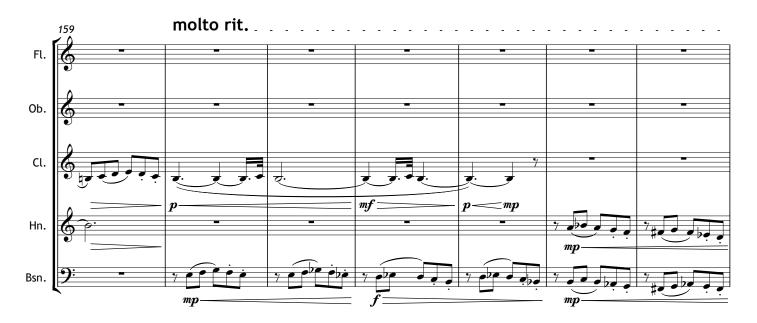












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