

*Commissioned by
Jim Lowe, Janice Lee Sperling MD,
and British Horn Trust*

SONATA

*for
Eight Horns*

(Op. 53)

by

ANDREW DOWNES

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ANDREW DOWNES: SONATA FOR 8 HORMS Opus 53 (1994) (5 movements - 26')

Commissioned by Jim Lowe, Janice Lee Sperling MD and the British Horn Trust, for Ellen Campbell and the Horn Octet of the University of New Mexico, this Sonata for 8 Horns was premiered at the University of New Mexico 1995 Composers' Symposium on 29th March 1995. Subsequent performances in the USA followed at Interlochen Centre for the Arts and the International Horn Society Convention in Oregon. The first British performance was on December 5th 1995 in the Adrian Boult Hall, Birmingham.

Stanislav Suchanek, who played first horn in the first performance, introduced the work to his colleagues in the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, with the result that the first Czech performance, by the Horns of the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, took place at the International Horn Class '97 at Nove Straseci on 2nd August 1997. These players performed the work again on 21st January 1998 in the Suk Hall of the Rudolfinum, Prague; in August 1998, at the Lichtenstein Palace, Prague; and again in the Suk Hall in December 2001; with further performances planned for August 2002. In January and March 2000 they recorded the sonata for Czech Radio and for their CD entitled 'Czech Philharmonic Horns' (Classicprint label CPVP12CD), released in September 2000. The recording was voted CD of the month on musicweb and it has been broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and on Dutch Radio.

As a result of the CD, Andrew Downes was commissioned to compose a Concerto for 4 Horns and Orchestra, which was performed by the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Vladimir Valek in the Dvorak Hall, Prague, on 28th February and 1st March 2002, and a work for 8 Wagner Tubas for the following Czech Philharmonic season. Downes' Sonata for Brass Sextet, dedicated to Stanislav Suchanek and the Czech Philharmonic Brass, as a token of the composers' gratitude for the wonderful interpretation of his Sonata for 8 Horns, was premiered in the Dvorak Hall, Prague, on 21st February 2001.

Andrew Downes' Sonata for 4 Horns and his Suite for 6 Horns have now been recorded in Vienna on the Aricord label by the Vienna Horn Society. Sample tracks of the Sonata for 8 Horns and the Suite for 6 Horns can be heard on:
www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~downlyn

Reviews on the Sonata for 8 Horns:-

'This is an excellent addition to the horn ensemble repertoire... has plenty to engage all eight players, as well as the listener.. a challenging and satisfying piece.'

John Pineguy - THE HORN MAGAZINE

'...25 minutes of real quality, immediately attractive, deeply-felt, elegantly idiomatic in scoring, and profoundly memorable. The music paints the wide open spaces of New World landscapes, buoyed up with the upbeat rhythms of Africa. Melodies ride broadly over compelling textures or dance gravely in echoes of the Renaissance. A scherzo movement revels in the horn's natural 'hunting' quality.'

THE BIRMINGHAM POST

"... an amazing piece. Full of interest, contrast and logical musicality. It is not just a showpiece. In fact, most of the music is thoughtful. We are not in the world of pomposity or braying hunting horns. It is, first and foremost, good music. The sweetness of some of the horn playing is simply exquisite. The performance is unequalled. All who have heard this recording has praised it highly and rightly so.

Andrew's music... has lovely themes. He has a wonderful knack of writing fascinating slow movements too. There is a poignancy that is superlative. I know no other living composer who is so good at this. I also admire the fact that the music is always controlled. While recklessness in horn writing is very exciting, here we have a refinement that is laudable. Reflective horn playing is an art in itself! Immaculate music, immaculately played. A real winner both in composition and performance. ...This is a must. It deserves to be a great success!"

Dr David Wright - Review on www.musicweb.uk.net - CD of the month (September 2000)

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ISMNs: (M) 57019 096 6 (score)
(M) 57019 097 3 (parts)

SONATA FOR 8 HORMS

PROGAMME NOTE BY ANDREW DOWNES

This work was composed during 1994 for the University of New Mexico Horn Octet, and was first performed by that ensemble in Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA in March 1995.

It is in five movements, and the main ideas of each are organically derived from each other.

The First Movement displays a wide range of emotions, beginning slowly, quietly and mysteriously, but developing towards a triumphant climax, accompanied by boldly defined arpeggios, which appears twice. Just before the second of these climaxes, there is a section of music derived from the quiet opening which is perhaps suggestive of a wide American landscape.

Most of the Second Movement is Scherzo-like in character, giving a sense of the "hunting horn" origins of the instrument. However, the movement ends with a more reflective section based on plainsong-like music. During the movement, there are passages in multi-tempo, giving, hopefully, a sense of the freedom and joy of much African tribal music.

The Third Movement has something of the elegance and grace of a stately Renaissance dance, but is combined with hints of a more robust Irish-like folk dance, and again with some of the freedom of African music.

In the Fourth Movement, the music is joyful and fast moving, giving the composer a sense of moving quickly through a warm and sunny landscape. Even the slower middle section does not detract from this feeling. Again, the feeling of Africa is never far away.

The Finale contains music influenced by "blues" and the European Renaissance, but once again it is the melody, harmony and rhythm of Africa which most draws the composer towards it.

As always, this composer finds it impossible to convey, through words, the heartfelt passion, tragedy and joy which can only be experienced through the sound of the music, but he fervently hopes that these few words, inadequate though they may be, help his audience to enjoy this work.

ANDREW DOWNES
January 1995

Score in F

Sonata for Eight Horns (Op. 53)

*For Ellen Campbell & The Horn Octet
of The University of New Mexico*

Andrew Downes

Very Slow ($\text{♩} = 50$)

1st Horn

2nd Horn

3rd Horn

4th Horn

5th Horn

6th Horn

7th Horn

8th Horn

J.J.J.J.J.

C D

Preview File Only

F

A musical score for section F consisting of five staves. The first two staves begin with dynamic ff. The third staff starts with dynamic ff and includes the instruction "Broadly". The fourth staff begins with dynamic f. The fifth staff begins with dynamic f.

G

A musical score for section G consisting of five staves. The first two staves begin with dynamic ff. The third staff begins with dynamic ff. The fourth staff begins with dynamic ff. The fifth staff begins with dynamic ff.

H

I

legato

p

soft tongued

p

legato

p

legato

p

soft tongued

p

legato

p

soft tongued

p

misterioso

p

soft tongued

p

soft tongued

p

p

Very Broadly

J

fff

Very Broadly

p

broad, but gentle

mp

broad, but gentle

mp

f < ff

p

K



Musical score page K. The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fifth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The sixth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music includes various note heads, stems, and rests. Measure numbers 16, 16, 16, 16, 16, and 16 are indicated above the staves. A dynamic marking "mf" appears in measures 16, 16, and 16.

L



Musical score page L. The score consists of six staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The fifth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The sixth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music includes various note heads, stems, and rests. Measure numbers 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, and 1 are indicated above the staves. Dynamic markings "f", "(2+3+3)", "ff", "ff", "ff", and "ff" appear in measures 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, and 1 respectively.

M

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

Broadly

ffff

Broadly

ffff

N

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

A musical score page featuring four staves of music for an orchestra and piano. The top staff is for the Oboe (O), the second for the Bassoon (B), the third for the Clarinet (Cl), and the bottom for the Piano (P). The score consists of six measures. Measure 11: Oboe plays eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 12: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 13: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 14: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 15: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 16: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 17: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 18: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 19: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs. Measure 20: Oboe eighth-note pairs, Bassoon eighth-note pairs, Clarinet eighth-note pairs, Piano eighth-note pairs.

A musical score page featuring four staves of music. The top staff uses a treble clef and includes dynamic markings *mp* and *p*, along with performance instructions *(Gentle)*. The second staff uses a treble clef and includes dynamic markings *p* and *p*, along with performance instructions *(Gentle)*. The third staff uses a treble clef and includes dynamic markings *p* and *p*, along with performance instructions *(Gentle)*. The bottom staff uses a treble clef and includes dynamic markings *p* and *p*, along with performance instructions *(Gentle)*. The score is set against a background with a large blue watermark reading "Preview".

Poco rall.

The musical score consists of two staves. The top staff uses treble clef and has four measures. The first measure starts with a quarter note followed by a sixteenth-note pair. The second measure starts with a quarter note followed by a sixteenth-note pair. The third measure starts with a quarter note followed by a sixteenth-note pair. The fourth measure starts with a quarter note followed by a sixteenth-note pair. The bottom staff uses bass clef and has four measures. The first measure starts with a half note followed by a sixteenth-note pair. The second measure starts with a half note followed by a sixteenth-note pair. The third measure starts with a half note followed by a sixteenth-note pair. The fourth measure starts with a half note followed by a sixteenth-note pair. A dynamic marking 'p' is placed above the bottom staff's first measure.

Preview File Only

II

Allegro (♩ = 90)

A

1st Horn *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*

2nd Horn *mp* *cresc. poco a poco* *mf*

3rd Horn *mf*

4th Horn *mf*

5th Horn *mf*

6th Horn *mf*

7th Horn

8th Horn

mf *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

mf *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

mf *cresc.* *f*

mf *cresc.* *f*

cresc. *f*

mf *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

mf *cresc. poco a poco* *f*

B

f *cresc.* *ff* *Gentle* *mf* *mp* *p*
f *cresc.* *ff* *Gentle* *mf* *mp* *p*
f *cresc.* *ff* *Gentle* *mf* *mp* *p*
Broad *ff* *Broad* *mp*
Broad *ff* *Broad*
Broad

C

p *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf*
p *p* *mf*
molto legato *mf* *mf* *mp*
molto legato *mp* *molto legato* *mp*

D

Gentle

Gentle

mp

mf

ff

ff

(J.=d)

E

f

ff

ff

f

f

f

f

A musical score for a multi-instrument ensemble, likely woodwind, consisting of six staves. The music features eighth-note patterns with various dynamics, including ***ff***. The instrumentation includes flutes, oboes, bassoon, and strings.

A musical score for a multi-instrument ensemble, likely woodwind, consisting of six staves. The music includes dynamic markings such as ***ff***, ***Broad***, and ***roll***. The instrumentation includes flutes, oboes, bassoon, and strings.

Tempo I (♩ = 90) [G]

[H]

Preview File Only

[K]

poco rall.

A Tempo

L

M Appass.

A musical score page featuring six staves of music. The top two staves begin with a dynamic ff and a marking 'N'. The middle two staves begin with a dynamic ff and a marking 'O'. The bottom two staves begin with a dynamic ff. The music includes various note heads, stems, and rests, with some notes having horizontal dashes through them.

P

rall. poco a poco

dim poco a poco

dim poco a poco

dim poco a poco

f

mf

Preview File Only

pp

pp

pp

pp

III

Andante Moderato ($\text{♩} = 110$)

1st Horn

2nd Horn

3rd Horn

4th Horn

5th Horn

6th Horn

7th Horn

8th Horn

A

Dreieck

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 10, section B. The score consists of six staves. The top three staves are for the orchestra, featuring woodwind instruments like oboes and bassoons. The bottom three staves are for the piano. The key signature is one flat, and the time signature is common time. Measure 10 begins with a forte dynamic. Measure 11 shows a melodic line in the piano's bass clef staff. Measure 12 features eighth-note patterns in the piano's treble clef staff. Measure 13 includes a dynamic instruction 'ff' (fortissimo) at the end of the measure.

Preview F

C $\text{A} \cdot \text{J}$

senza sord
f
senza sord
f
senza sord
mf
senza sord
mf
senza sord
mf

p
p
mp
p
mp
p
mp

Musical score page E, featuring six staves of music for different instruments. The top three staves are in treble clef, the fourth staff is in bass clef, and the bottom two staves are also in bass clef. Measure numbers 1 through 10 are present above the staves. Dynamics such as *mp*, *mf*, and *f* are indicated throughout the score. The score concludes with a final measure number 11.

A musical score for orchestra and piano, page 10, featuring ten staves of music. The score includes parts for strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello), woodwinds (Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon), brass (Horn, Trombone), and piano. The music consists of ten measures. Measure 1: Violins play eighth-note patterns, Oboe and Clarinet provide harmonic support. Measure 2: Trombones enter with eighth-note chords. Measures 3-4: Violins play eighth-note patterns, Oboe and Clarinet continue. Measures 5-6: Trombones play eighth-note chords. Measures 7-8: Violins play eighth-note patterns, Oboe and Clarinet continue. Measures 9-10: Trombones play eighth-note chords.

F

p *pp*

p *pp*

mp

mp

mp

mp

molto legato

mf

molto legato

mf

G

— — —

— — —

f

— — —

— — —

— — —

— — —

mp

mp

H

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

ff

cresc. poco a poco

ff

ff

cresc. poco a poco

ff

ff

I

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

J (♩ = ♪)

ff

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

ff

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 10, section K. The score consists of six staves. The top two staves are for the orchestra, featuring woodwind instruments like oboes and bassoons. The bottom four staves are for the piano. Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic (f) for the orchestra. Measures 2-3 show a transition with dynamics p and mf. Measures 4-5 are marked "Gently". Measures 6-7 show another transition with dynamics mp and mf. Measures 8-9 are marked "Gently". Measures 10-11 show a final transition with dynamics mp and mf. Measures 12-13 conclude with dynamics mp.

A musical score consisting of four staves. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. Measures 1-4 are mostly blank. Measure 5 begins with a dynamic *p*. Measures 6-8 feature eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs. Measure 9 starts with a dynamic *p*. Measures 10-12 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs. Measure 13 concludes with a dynamic *f*.

Preview File Only

A musical score consisting of four staves. Measures 13-15 show eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs. Measure 16 consists entirely of eighth-note patterns with grace notes and slurs.

IV

Allegro ($\text{♩} = 100$)

1st Horn

2nd Horn

3rd Horn

4th Horn

5th Horn

6th Horn

7th Horn

8th Horn

Preview File Only

A

B

Musical score for two staves. The top staff consists of six measures of eighth-note patterns. The bottom staff also consists of six measures of eighth-note patterns.

Musical score for one staff. The first three measures show eighth-note patterns. The fourth measure is labeled 'C' above the staff and 'Broad' below it. The fifth measure shows eighth-note patterns. The sixth measure is labeled 'Broad' below it. Dynamics include *f* (fortissimo) and *mp* (mezzo-forte).

Musical score for strings and piano, measures 17-21. The score consists of six staves. The top two staves are for strings (two violins, viola, cello), the bottom two staves are for strings (two violins, viola, cello), and the bottom two staves are for piano. Measure 17 starts with a dynamic of *mf*. Measures 18-19 start with dynamics of *mf*, followed by *gentle*. Measure 20 starts with a dynamic of *mf*, followed by *gentle*. Measure 21 consists of eighth-note patterns on all staves.

Section D of the musical score. The score consists of six staves. The top two staves are for strings (two violins, viola, cello). The bottom two staves are for strings (two violins, viola, cello). The bottom two staves are for piano. The section begins with a dynamic of *mp*. The piano part features eighth-note patterns. The strings play eighth-note patterns in measures 1-2, then rest in measures 3-4. The piano part resumes eighth-note patterns in measures 5-6, then rests in measures 7-8.

Preview File Only

E

F Andante ($\text{J}=65$)

con sord

pp

con sord

pp

senza sord

p

p

pp

pp

G *senza sord*

p

senza sord

p

p

mp

pp

pp

pp

p

H

120

I

Preview File Only

J Accel. poco a poco

mp

mf

Only

K *A Tenero* (♩ = 100)



L

Broad

ff Broad

ff Broad

Broad

ff Broad

ff

Preview File Only

M

This page contains six staves of musical notation. The first four staves begin with a treble clef, while the last two begin with a bass clef. The key signature consists of one sharp (F#). The time signature is common time (indicated by a 'C'). The music features various note heads, including eighth and sixteenth notes, with stems pointing in different directions. Measure lines divide the staves into measures. Dynamic markings include 'f' (forte), 'ff' (double forte), and 'fff' (triple forte). A large, light blue diagonal watermark reading 'Preview File Only' is overlaid across the page.

This page contains six staves of musical notation, continuing from the previous page. The staff structures are identical, with a treble clef for the first four staves and a bass clef for the last two. The key signature remains one sharp (F#). The time signature is common time. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with stems pointing in various directions. Measure lines are present. Dynamic markings include 'f' (forte), 'ff' (double forte), and 'f' (forte) again. The light blue 'Preview File Only' watermark is still visible.

The musical score consists of two staves of woodwind parts. The top staff is labeled "Broad" and includes dynamic markings "f" and "mf". The bottom staff is also labeled "Broad" and includes dynamic markings "f" and "mf". The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

A musical score for orchestra, consisting of two staves of music. The top staff uses a treble clef and the bottom staff uses a bass clef. Both staves are in common time. The music features a variety of dynamic markings, including *f*, *f cresc.*, *ff cresc.*, *mf cresc.*, *mf*, *mf cresc.*, *f cresc.*, *fff cresc.*, *fff*, and *ff cresc.*. The score includes a circled 'O' at the beginning of the first measure and a circled 'A' at the end of the second measure. A large blue watermark reading 'Preview File Only' is diagonally across the page.

V

Very slow, sad & poignant (♩ = 50)

[A]

1st Horn
2nd Horn
3rd Horn
4th Horn
5th Horn
6th Horn
7th Horn
8th Horn

[B]

Musical score for orchestra, page 10, section C. The score consists of eight staves. The first staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *ff*. The second staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mp*, *mf*, *ff*. The third staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mp*, *mf*, *f*. The fourth staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mf*, *ff*. The fifth staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mf*, *f*. The sixth staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mf*, *ff*. The seventh staff (treble clef) has dynamics *mf*, *ff*. The eighth staff (bass clef) has dynamics *mf*, *mfp*.

E

Musical score page E, featuring six staves of music. The first three staves begin with dynamic markings *p*, *pp*, and *pp*. The fourth staff begins with *pp*, followed by *mp*, *p*, and *p*. The fifth staff begins with *p*, followed by *p*. The sixth staff begins with *mp*.

Musical score page E, featuring six staves of music. Each staff contains the dynamic marking *Appass.* at various points. The first staff has *f* dynamics. The second staff has *f* dynamics. The third staff has *f* dynamics. The fourth staff has *f* dynamics. The fifth staff has *f* dynamics. The sixth staff has *f* dynamics.

F

poco rall.

mf *mp*

mf

f *mf* *mp*

mf

f *mf*

mf

mf

G *A Tempo*
With sadness & simplicity

p

p

p

espress. *mp*

pp

pp

(H)

p

p

p

gently
mp

gently
mp

mp

mp

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

A musical score for orchestra, page 11, featuring ten staves of music. The score includes parts for strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello), woodwinds (Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, French Horn), brass (Trumpet, Trombone), and timpani. The music consists of ten measures, numbered 1 through 10. Measure 1 starts with a forte dynamic (ff) and includes slurs and grace notes. Measures 2-10 show various patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes, with dynamics such as ff, f, and m. Measure 10 concludes with a forte dynamic (ff). The score is written on five-line staves with black ink.

K L

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