

BURNING BUSH

For MIXED ENSEMBLE

by Julia Usher

Composed in 1976
for an SPNM Composers' Weekend
at the University of East Anglia
and performed by the
Park Lane Group, conducted by Edwin Roxburgh
in the Purcell Room, September 1976

**Instrumentation: Flute, Clarinet, violin, Cello, Bass
Piano, Harp, Guitar, Trombone.**

The score is untransposed.

Dotted barlines indicate *senza misura*. When the time is free, note values are flexible, but still relative. Vertical alignment in the score however may only be approximate at these times. Dotted lines across the score indicate melody links.

Programme Note

This chamber work is in two movements. The first, *Fire and Dove* was inspired by imagery from poems by T.S. Eliot; the second by the biblical story of the Burning Bush, which was not consumed by fire, and from which the voice of God was heard by Moses.

The textures of the pieces are almost improvisatory, incandescent.

In the second piece, the Voice in the fiery bush is represented by the Trombone.

FIRE AND DOVE

JULIA USHER

Senza Misura, Very Slow

fl
cl
vn
vcl
bass
trom
guitar
harp
pf

le due peanie, blurred

Ped

The score is at Concert Pitch (including guitar)

There is no time signature and the parts are independent, except where indicated, although note values are approx equivalent. A conductor may be necessary.

A solid bar line is a coordinating point for several or all players.

A dotted bar line is an ad lib entry following a cue.

A dotted line across a page indicates a melody link.

┌ indicates principal part

B

Musical score for section B, consisting of multiple staves. The upper staves contain melodic lines with notes and rests. Dynamics include *ppoco mf* and *mf*. The lower staves include a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line. Performance instructions include *Very Slow, Expressive*, *dolce*, *mp*, and *mf*. A chord sequence is written as $C^{\#} D E^{\flat} F G^{\#} A B$. Specific performance markings include *p blurred* and *Ped sim*.

C

Musical score for section C, consisting of multiple staves. The upper staves contain melodic lines with notes and rests. Dynamics include *pp*, *ppoco*, *mp*, and *mf*. Performance instructions include *free, slow, shapely*, *dolce, woody*, *dolce*, *mp pizz*, *rapide*, *whisper*, *gliss*, and *after*. A *tr* (trill) is marked. The lower staves include a piano accompaniment with chords and a bass line. Performance instructions include *Ped* and *Sim*. A note is marked ** Ped tre corde*.

Vcl
 arco
 Db
 Tr
 G
 as before
 mf
 C D# E F# G# A# B
 3

D E
 mp
 Tr
 legato, oily
 freely, with part
 mf
 3
 gliss
 mf
 Early Fall
 Slow, whisper
 #p PPP
 Ped
 3
 mp
 3

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring staves for Flute (fl), Clarinet (cl), Violin (vn), Viola (va), Bass, Trombone (trom), and Guitar (gui). The score is divided into two measures by a vertical line, with a large 'F' above the first measure and a large 'G' above the second. The Flute, Clarinet, and Violin parts are marked with 'cresc' and 'sfz'. The Bass part includes a triplet of eighth notes and a 'very slow gliss' leading to a half note. The Trombone part has a 'port.' marking. The Guitar part features a 'repeat diff order' instruction and a 'Ped' (pedal) marking. The piano accompaniment includes 'poco sfz', 'sfz', 'mp', and 'poco f' markings, along with a 'Ped' marking.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, including staves for Flute (fl), Clarinet (cl), Violin (vn), Viola (va), Bass, Trombone (trom), and Guitar (gui). The score is divided into two measures. The Flute and Clarinet parts are marked 'piano' and 'poco f'. The Violin and Viola parts are marked 'very legato'. The Bass part includes a 'gliss' and 'gentle gliss. small shakings of slide' marking. The Trombone part has a 'repeat several times ad lib. diff order' instruction. The Guitar part includes a 'Scrabble with fingers, mezzo stacc on all notes between these' instruction and a 'continue' marking. The piano accompaniment includes 'mp', 'cresc', and 'poco cresc' markings, along with a 'Scr' (scrabble) marking.

p4

J

after *pf* *>*

mf *cresc* *e v e s e*

sfz

Begin a rapid flickering in approx. this pitch range - double-tongue
+ overblow by biting reed. Stall

after piano: begin rapid flickering pizz, pluck with various fingers
between these notes.

with *mf*

sfz

cont. *c r e s e* *damp* *stall*

ten *mf* *sfz* *p* *f* *mp* *flicker*

cresc *ff*

K L M N Non Sync

f *mp* *mf* *f* *ff*

rapid flicker, any these notes, chances too
erratic, flutter and stall.

mf *accel* *f* *accel*

mf *cresc* *sim* *ff* *04 G4*

mf *cresc* *f* *ff*

cont, both hands *mf* *f* *ff*

Senza Pedale *Ped* *x* *Ped*

ps

Più lontano (Tune of recollected)

Handwritten musical score for the first system, marked with a circled 'O'. The score consists of multiple staves. Key annotations include:


- Staff 1:** *slow*, *after harp*, *mf*, *pp*, *3*
- Staff 2:** *con sord*, *arco*, *Slow Solo*, *dolce*, *mp*
- Staff 3:** *con sord*, *mp*, *Solo*, *after cl*, *mp*
- Staff 4:** *con sord*, *mp*
- Staff 5:** *after violin*, *mf*, *damp*, *vibr.*, *3*, *mf*
- Staff 6:** *rem*, *mf*, *and*
- Staff 7:** *ped*, *blurred trem*, *pp*, *Ped*

Handwritten musical score for the second system, marked with circled letters 'P', 'GP', 'Q', and 'R'. Key annotations include:

- Staff 1:** *pp*, *P*, *fluter*, *poco f*, *mp*
- Staff 2:** *rem*, *f*, *tr*, *rit*, *Slow*, *after harp*, *pizz*, *mf*, *3*
- Staff 3:** *mp*
- Staff 4:** *slow*, *3*, *mf*
- Staff 5:** *C# D E F# G A B*, *mf*, *meno*
- Staff 6:** *abobo*, *trem*, *Sim*, *trem*, *poco f*, *dolciss*
- Staff 7:** *pp*, *Ped*, *pp*, *Ped*, *part*, *mp*, *after piano*, *3*, *mf*, *tr*, *etc.*

Handwritten musical score for guitar, consisting of two systems of staves. The first system includes a treble clef staff with notes and a bass clef staff with chords and a triplet. Annotations include "strum accel", "poco", "trem mf", and "strum mf". The second system features a treble clef staff with notes and a bass clef staff with a tremolo effect. Annotations include "more decisive", "poco", "cresc", "trem molto", and "f".

Handwritten musical score for guitar, consisting of two systems of staves. The first system includes a treble clef staff with notes and a bass clef staff with chords and a tremolo effect. Annotations include "sfz p", "senza sord", "Strum with fingers", "cresc", and "senza sord". The second system features a treble clef staff with notes and a bass clef staff with a tremolo effect. Annotations include "Strum cluster with fingernails, both hands", "accel e cresc f", "vibrer", and "sfz p (harmonic)".

(silent) 
Ped

S **T** **U** **4**

Handwritten musical score for the first system, measures S, T, and U. The score includes multiple staves with various musical notations. Key elements include:

- Measure S: *sfz p* dynamic marking.
- Measure T: *pizz/acc* marking, *Stum* (staccato) marking, and *molto* tempo marking.
- Measure U: *mf* dynamic marking, *blurred* performance instruction, and a *mf* dynamic marking with a crescendo hairpin.
- Other markings include *4* (possibly a measure number or tempo), *poof*, and various rhythmic notations.

V **W** **X**

Handwritten musical score for the second system, measures V, W, and X. The score includes multiple staves with complex rhythmic patterns and various markings. Key elements include:

- Measure V: *mf cresc* dynamic marking, *mf* dynamic marking, and *3* (triplets) markings.
- Measure W: *f cresc* dynamic marking, *ff* dynamic marking, *pesante* marking, and *ten* (tension) marking.
- Measure X: *ff* dynamic marking, *3* (triplets) markings, and *cresc* marking.
- Other markings include *accel cresc*, *dim*, and *rit* (ritardando) markings.
- Additional markings include *compass gradually* and *stave stum increase*.

Handwritten musical score for harp and guitar. The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes staves for harp and guitar, with various performance instructions and dynamics. The second system is a continuation of the guitar part, ending with a 'SEGUE' instruction.

System 1:

- acoustic guitar (ac):** Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *p*. Performance: *arco*, *>*.
- acoustic guitar (ac):** Bass clef, notes G2, F2, E2. Dynamics: *p*. Performance: *arco*, *>*.
- acoustic guitar (ac):** Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *p*. Performance: *arco*, *>*.
- acoustic guitar (ac):** Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *p*. Performance: *arco*, *>*.
- acoustic guitar (ac):** Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *p*. Performance: *arco*, *>*.
- con sord:** Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *p*. Performance: *con sord*, *>*.
- harp:** Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *p*. Performance: *p delicato*.
- guitar (guit):** Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *mp*, *f*, *ppp*. Performance: *with vibr.*, *mp*, *f*, *ppp*.
- guitar (guit):** Bass clef, notes G2, F2, E2. Dynamics: *mp*. Performance: *harm*, *vibrato*, *silent*.

System 2:

- guitar (guit):** Treble clef, notes G4, A4, B4, C5. Dynamics: *ppp*, *mf*. Performance: *trem at fine*, *blurred*.

SEGUE

PREVIEW FILE ONLY

BURNING BUSH

Senza Misura

Handwritten musical score for the first system, including staves for yhn, cl, vn, vcl, bass, Trom, guit, harp, and Pf. The score includes various performance instructions and dynamics.

Annotations:

- Trom:** parlando, mf accel → rit, P, P, mf, pp < f2
- Pf:** Piano: inside, with 1st stick, trail stick betw. notes, ton fro, accel... rit, repeat on bottom string (approx. C#), Ped.

the divisions (between the ribs) of the piano strings are shown thus: 1 (lowest group) 2 (lower middle)

3 (upper middle) 4 (highest)

Handwritten musical score for the second system, including staves for vn, Cello, Tr, and Pf (inside). The score includes various performance instructions and dynamics.

Annotations:

- vn:** con sord, trem, pp sempre, very fast, PP cresc
- Tr:** f accel → rit

vn cold non vibr warm

vcu can sound PPP cold P

2 continue sim

bounce pencil rapidly, shake elbow!

4 top strings.

sempre pp cold

ten

Vn

Bass

Trom

Pf

2 top 4 strings

trem nat

sfz

clear and weighty, but full of energy

acc. 5 rit

large stick (soft lead)

trem between notes mp > etc

continue sim

A

Bass

Trom

pont - nat

sfz

as fast as poss.

tromp

3 poco accel 3

shp

continue sim to here

trem mp

Vcl

Db

fast trem

sulka lavola

PP

dim 3 quasi accel

fp

pizz

continue

mp sempre

M

vn
 pf

with Ped
 the effect of the piano part should be brilliant, but individual notes and harmonics should be rather blurred in the general effect of dazzle.

pf

N

O

Vn
 Vel
 Bass
 Trom
 piano

fl *very stacc*
 cl *very stacc*
 vn *quite slow, marked*
 vcl *quite slow, not with violin*
 bass *pizz*
 trom *mp tonguing, waverings etc round*
 this note
 diff tempo
 a tempo, but slower than previous
 CDE#FG#AB : P
 very stacc
 cresc
 dim
 etc
 etc

Brillante, Approx. Sync
 stacc
 rapid trem
 Soft slow
 Slow gliss
 accel
 Solo
 cresc
 damp
 piano inside
 Soft sticks
 pp
 mp
 mf
 f
 damp

John Wsher
 April 2nd, 1976
 Streaman