

White Funk

(Under the Influence)

for string quartet

2010

Austin Shadduck

White Funk (Under the Influence)

Completed September 6, 2010

Premiered October 12, 2010 by the Dynamic Motion String Quartet
LeFrak Concert Hall, Queens College, CUNY

Program Notes

White Funk is inspired by the music and extended techniques of the Turtle Island String Quartet, a unique ensemble known for bridging the gap between jazz and more traditional styles. The title alludes to the fact that (mostly) white notes of the piano are used to create a groove, and the composition is under the influence of pop/jazz as well as classical idioms.

Performance Notes

An x-notehead indicates a left-handed percussive hit meant to be played on the body of an instrument. The exception is 52 to 58, which asks the cellist to slap the fingerboard with the right hand. However, for a different sound and feel the cellist may make the following alterations: keep bow in hand at 45, play all percussive notes left-handed on the cello body, and perform all pizzicato notes with the right hand. Measure 78 requires the cellist to both slap (with the left hand) and bow an open string on the first beat. What the piece lacks in harmonic direction it makes up for in its rhythmic drive; musical interest also comes from dynamic contrast and, more importantly, the energy that performers bring to the table. Have fun and keep the energy palpable, no matter what the tempo!

Recordings and performance materials are available from the composer.

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Score

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Moderate Groove ♩ = 90

The musical score is divided into three systems, each containing four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. The first system (measures 1-4) features a 4/4 time signature, a key signature of one flat, and a dynamic marking of *f*. The second system (measures 5-8) includes a 3/4 time signature change and a dynamic marking of *f*. The third system (measures 9-12) returns to a 4/4 time signature. The score includes various musical notations such as beams, slurs, and accents.

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12

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

15

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ff

*

*Vlns. (and later Vla.): Strike body of instrument with left hand.

19

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f

f

f

f

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22 *ff* *mp* *rit.* *n.* *mf* *pp*

sul ponticello

28 *a tempo* *ord.* *mf*

32 *fp* *3*

36

Vln. I *f*

Vln. II *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

40

Vln. I *fp*

Vln. II *fp*

Vla. *fp*

Vc. *fp*

44

Vln. I *mp* *pizz. (let ring throughout)*

Vln. II *mf* *solo ad lib.*

Vla. *f* *put down bow* *mp* *pizz. (let ring throughout)*

Vc. *mf* *f* *mp* *pizz. (let ring throughout)*