

# Skeuomorphic Memory

For Chamber Orchestra

By Blake Cordell

Dur. 3' 45"

Flute  
Oboe  
Clarinet in Bb  
Bassoon  
Horn in F  
Trumpet in Bb  
Trombone  
Percussion –  
(Sus. Cymbal, Shaker, Vibraphone, Bass Drum)  
Piano  
2 Violin  
Viola  
Cello  
Contrabass

**Skeuomorph** noun skeu·o·morph 'skyüə,mɔrf  
: An ornament or design representing a utensil or implement  
Or, in this case, aesthetic and artistic mimicry of the real world

## Program Notes

The technology of the early 2000s: glossy, transparent, and vibrant. An open invitation into a colorful digital world. That world, however, has since quietly dissipated. What happened to the vibrant grassy fields, the endless watery expanses, and the technologically utopic city skylines? It may be that music--the only temporal art--is the sole means of revisiting this future we once envisioned. It is curious, however, that we can only embody this future by reminiscing of the past. Research has coined a term to describe the complex emotion that arises from this juxtaposition: "ersatz nostalgia," that is, nostalgia without memory--nostalgia of a time and place that never actually existed. How is it that music can affect this type of nostalgia, and how can it consistently evoke such specific imagery? "Skeuomorphic Memory" was written as part of ongoing research into the position of video game music as a vehicle for ersatz nostalgia of early 2000's technological imagery. It draws inspiration from pieces within the colloquially canonized "Frutiger Aero" subgenre of music: "Lease" by Takeshi Abo, "Lotus Waters" by Mosenite, "Aquatic Ambiance" by Skizzie, and "Aquatic Ambiance" by David Wise. Using musical features idiomatic of video game water levels, this piece attempts to evoke not only the ebb and flow of the open ocean but also the skeuomorphic design aesthetic that was once globally ubiquitous.

## Composer

Blake Cordell is an Iowa-based composer, sound designer, and playwright. Previously, he spent a number of years in Chicago working as a lighting designer, sound designer, and technical director. His first musical, *Inn-Dependent*, won the Kennedy Center ACTF Region V New Play Award in 2015. His chamber composition *Prismatic Thermophiles* received 3rd place in the 2025 International Joseph Dorfman Composition Competition. He has collaborated with ensembles such as the JACK Quartet, LIGAMENT, and The Crossing. Beyond his expansive portfolio of instrumental and theatrical music, Blake has written for a number of independent video games, animations, and films. Blake's music, across all mediums, emphasizes character, imagery, and narrative.

# Skeuomorphic Memory

Blake Cordell

**Flowing** ♩ = 70

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet

Trombone

Sus. Cymbal

Grand Piano

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

2

3

2

3

Skeuomorphic Memory - Transposing Score

4 5 6

Flute *p*

Oboe *p*

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon *mp*

Horn in F *mp* *p* *mp*

Trumpet *p* *mp*

Trombone *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Sus. Cymbal *mf* *8va*

Grand Piano

Violin 1 *p* *mf*

Violin 2 *pp*

Viola *mp* *sul tasto* *tr*

Violoncello *p*

Contrabass *mp* *knock on body of instrument*

4 *mp* 3 5 6

**A**

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet

Trombone

Sus. Cymbal

Grand Piano

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

7 8 9

*pp*

*p*

*p* *mp*

*p* *mp*

*p* *mp*

*p*

*p* *n* *pp* *mp* *pp*

*pp* *p*

*pp*

*pp* *port.*

*pp* *port.*

*pp* *p* *mp*

*pp* *p* *mp*

Skeuomorphic Memory - Transposing Score

10 11 12 13

Flute *p* *mp* *mp*

Oboe *mp*

Clarinet in Bb *tr* *mf*

Bassoon *p*

Horn in F *p* *mp* *pp*

Trumpet *p* *mp*

Trombone *p* *mp*

Sus. Cymbal [Sus. Cymbal] *mp*

Grand Piano *pp* *mf*

Violin 1 *p* *mp* *ord.* *mp*

Violin 2 *pp* *mp* *ord.* *mp*

Viola *port* *mp* *mp* *sul pont.* *mp*

Violoncello *mp* *pp* *pp*

Contrabass *mf* *pizz.* *knock on body of instrument* *mp*

10 11 12 13

14 15 16 **C**

Flute *mp*

Oboe *mp* *mf*

Clarinet in Bb *mp* *mp*

Bassoon *p* *mf*

Horn in F *p*

Trumpet *p*

Trombone

Shaker *p*

Grand Piano *p* *mp* *pp* 8va

Violin 1 *mp* *pp* sul tasto

Violin 2 *pp* sul tasto

Viola *pp* sul tasto

Violoncello *p* *mp* *pp*

Contrabass *pizz.* *mf*

14 15 16

Skeuomorphic Memory - Transposing Score

17 18 19

Flute *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Oboe *p* *mp* *mf*

Clarinet in Bb *mp*

Bassoon *mp*

Horn in F

Trumpet

Trombone

Vibraphone *p* *p*

Grand Piano *mp* *mf* *p*

Violin 1 non vib. ord. *pp*

Violin 2 non vib. ord. *pp*

Viola non vib. ord. *pp*

Violoncello *p* non vib. arco

Contrabass *p*

17 18 19

20 D 21 22

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet

Trombone

Vibraphone

Grand Piano

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

*p* < *mf*

*mp*

*mp*

senza sord.

*mf*

*mp* *pp* *mp*

*mf* *mp*

vib.

*p* < *mf* > *p* *p* < *f* >

vib.

*p* < *mf* > *p* *p* < *f* >

20 21 22

Skeuomorphic Memory - Transposing Score

Flute *mp* *f*

Oboe *f*

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon *mf* *f*

Horn in F

Trumpet

Trombone

Vibraphone *mf* *mp*

Grand Piano

Violin 1 *p* vib.

Violin 2 *p* vib.

Viola *p* vib.

Violoncello *p* *mp* *f*

Contrabass *p* *mp* *f*

23 24 25

26 E 27 28

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Horn in F

Trumpet

Trombone

Vibraphone

Grand Piano

Violin 1

Violin 2

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

senza sord.

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

senza sord.

*p* *mp* *p*

*mf* *mp* *p*

15<sup>ma</sup>

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

ord.

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

26 27 28

29 30 31

Flute *p*

Oboe *pp*

Clarinet in Bb *p*

Bassoon *p*

Horn in F *mf* *mp* *p*

Trumpet *mp* *mp* *mf*

Trombone *f*<sup>3</sup>

Shaker *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

Vibraphone *pp* *mf* *p*

Grand Piano (15) *mf* (15<sup>ma</sup>) *pp*

Violin 1 *mf*<sup>3</sup> With tbn.

Violin 2 *pp* *sul tasto*

Viola *pp* *sul tasto*

Violoncello *pp*

Contrabass

29 30 31

Flute *mp* *mf*

Oboe *mf* *mf* *mf*

Clarinet in Bb *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *mf* *p*

Bassoon *mp*

Horn in F

Trumpet *p* *mf* With tbn.

Trombone *mf* *p* *f*

Vibraphone *mf* *p* *mf*

Grand Piano *mf* *p*

Violin 1

Violin 2 *pizz.* *mf*

Viola *pizz.* *mf*

Violoncello *mf*

Contrabass

32 33 34

35 36 **G** 37

Flute *p* *f*

Oboe *f*<sup>3</sup>

Clarinet in Bb *f*<sup>3</sup>

Bassoon *mf* *f*<sup>3</sup>

Horn in F *pp* *f*

Trumpet *f*<sup>3</sup>

Trombone *f*<sup>3</sup>

Vibraphone *p* *p* *mf*

Grand Piano *mf*

Violin 1 *port.* *tr* *p* *mf*

Violin 2 *mp* *p* arco *p* *mf*

Viola *mp* *p* arco *p* *mf*

Violoncello *p* *mf* *sul pont.* *f* *ord.* *3*

Contrabass *f* *ff* *mf*

35 36 37

38 39 40

Flute *mf* *f* *f*

Oboe *f* *f* *f*

Clarinet in Bb *f* *f* *f*

Bassoon *f* *f* *f*

Horn in F *mf* *f* *f*

Trumpet *f* *f* *f*

Trombone *f* *f* *f*

Bass Drum *mf* *mf* *mp*

Grand Piano *mp* *mp* *mp*

Violin 1 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Violin 2 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Viola *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Violoncello *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

Contrabass *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

38 39 40





48 I As the beginning; diminuendo al fine 49 50

Flute *p*

Oboe

Clarinet in Bb *tr*

Bassoon *pp*

Horn in F *con sord.* *p* *mp*

Trumpet *con sord.* *p* *mp*

Trombone *con sord.* *p* *mp*

Sus. Cymbal Sus. Cymbal  
With tail end of stick *mp*

Grand Piano *15<sup>ma</sup>* *pp*

Violin 1 *p*

Violin 2 *pp*

Viola *ord.*

Violoncello *p*

Contrabass

48 49 50

