

The Forlorn Wind

For Solo Flute & Electronics

2021

Charles D. Norris

charlesnorrismusic.com

Program Notes

The Forlorn Wind is a captivating solo piece for flute with live electronics that invites listeners on a poignant journey through solitude and wistful reflection. Like a solemn breeze coursing through a valley, this composition explores the inherent beauty and introspection found within nature's whispers.

As the music unfolds, the lonely wind stream navigates fields of delicate flowers and tranquil watersides, contemplating its purpose with every gentle caress. The remnants of winter's icy chill linger, intermittently nipping at the villagers even as springtime surges forth in full bloom. It is within this nuanced interplay of seasons that the true essence of the forlorn wind is revealed.

Together, the flute and live electronics create a captivating soundscape, intertwining and evoking a colorful sea of harmonies and textures. "The Forlorn Wind" is a composition that never yields, an exploration of the human experience, and a heartfelt reflection on the profound beauty found within solitude. Accompanying the composition is a heartfelt poem penned by the composer, serving as a point of narration.

The Forlorn Wind was chosen as the runner-up in the Arizona Flute Society Composition Competition.

The Forlorn Wind

Beyond the valley of here or there,
Where only the weary lay to rest,
Blows the lowly forlorn wind,
With a cold breath from the west.

The song of the thrush echos around,
As the once biting frost lingers.
The solomn breeze, with piercing teeth,
Wanes away from the finger tips.

The bloom of brilliant wild flowers
Flush the newborn fields.
Vibrant wonders in a colorful sea,
with a wind that never yields.

-- Charles D. Norris

Performance Notes

"The Forlorn Wind" concludes with a profound musical effect on the last note. Notated with an unstable fingering (low B), the whistle tone intentionally oscillates, gracefully dancing around several pitches. Embrace this expressive instability, allowing the tone to wander freely and continue to diminish in volume. The performer should explore the nuanced variations of the tone, allowing it to dance for as long as desired, until finally settling on the indicated note at the very last moment. This poignant technique mirrors the essence of the poem's final line, capturing the fleeting nature of the wind's lament.

For enhanced sonic depth, "The Forlorn Wind" may be performed with the inclusion of simple electronics. Dual delays, panned to the left and right channels, along with a continuous reverb, can be utilized. Configure the delay settings to retrigger 1 second after the first note on the left channel and 1.5 seconds after the initial retriggering on the right channel (e.g., P (performer) -> (L)1" -> (R) 1.5"). Pedal markings in the score will guide the performer on when to activate and deactivate the delay effect. Throughout the entirety of the piece, the reverb should remain active. Alternatively, it is equally effective and recommended to have a second performer handle the control of the delay input. If employing a digital audio workstation (DAW), the delay and reverb effects can be added using any software capable of producing stereo outputs, offering a captivating sonic landscape.

The Forlorn Wind

For Solo Flute & Electronics

Charles D. Norris

Flute

Freely, without haste

①

pp Reverently

5

5

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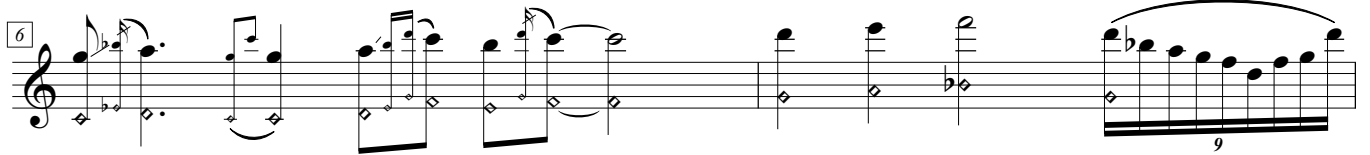
6

p

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②

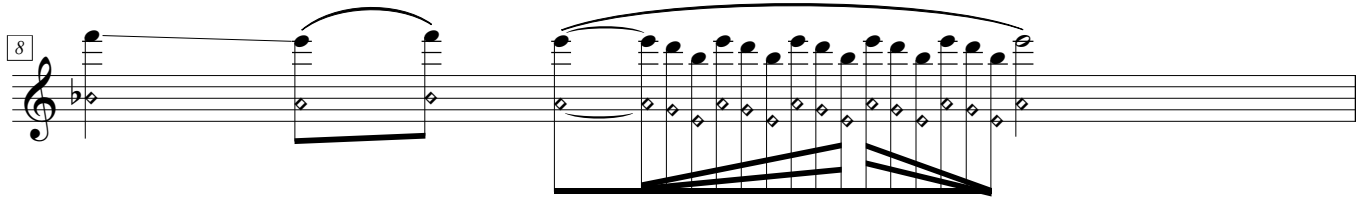
The Forlorn Wind-

6  *cresc.*

6

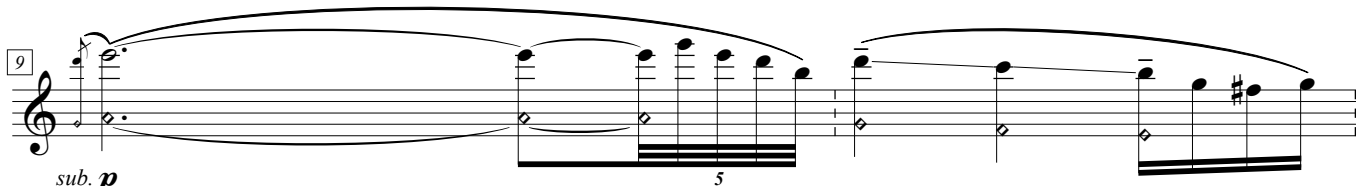
cresc.

9

8  *ff*

8

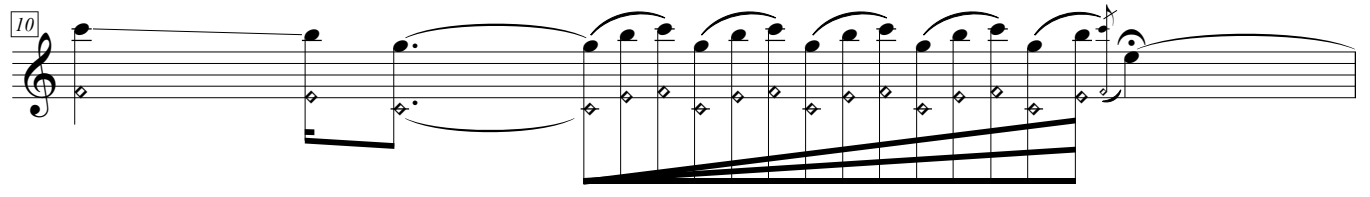
ff

9  *sub. p*

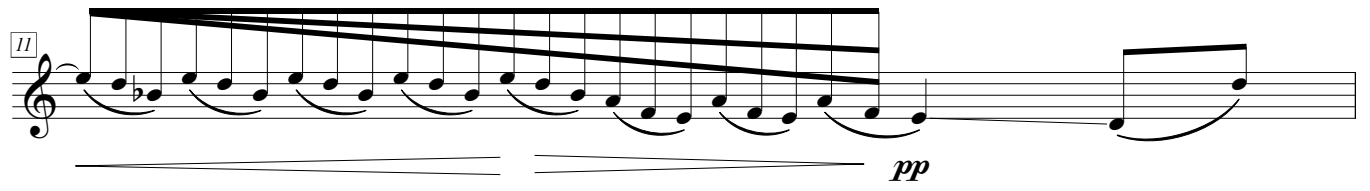
9

sub. p

5

10 

10

11  *pp*

11

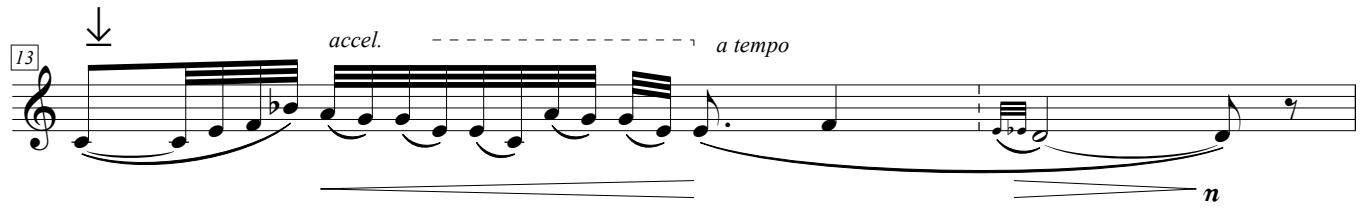
pp

a tempo

12  *accel.*

12

accel.

13  *accel.* *a tempo* *n*

13

accel. *a tempo*

n

The Forlorn Wind-

② ↑ Racing! Like a hurricane!

f p mf p mf p f

15

f p mf p f

16

f pf ff

17

p mf

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20

p mp sfzp

23

sfzp sfzp sfzp

27

sfzp sfzp sfzp

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30

sfzp sfzp sfzp

The Forlorn Wind-

32 *pp* *f* *p*

35 *sub pp* *cresc.* *f*

40 *mp* *mf* *dim.*

42 *pp*

47 *f* *non dim.*

48

49

50 *rall.* *p*

The Forlorn Wind-

Gravely

51 *p* *legato espressivo* *mp* 5 *p*

52 *mp* *mf* 11 *mp*

53 *mf*

54 *ff* *accel.* *a tempo*

55 *ppp*

3

56 *pp*

57 *mp*

Reverently

58 *pp* *rit.*

59 *mp*

60 *n* Whistle tone

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