Chernobyl Spring for Orchestra

by

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A composition submitted in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree of
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Instrumentation

Orchestra

1 Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
1 English horn
2 Clarinets in B♭
1 Bass clarinet
2 Bassoons
1 Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C
2 Trombones
1 Bass trombone
1 Tuba
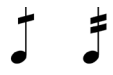
Timpani: 4 drums (with low F)
3 Percussions (listed to the left)

Harp

Strings

Percussion 1
1 Bass drum
1 Ratchet
Percussion 2
1 Xylophone
1 Large crash cymbals
Percussion 3
1 Tubular bells

Notational information



Indicates measured tremolo.



For percussion: indicates a roll;
For strings: indicates an unmeasured tremolo.

All glisses begin immediately and last the entire duration of the initiating note.

Following a fermata, tempo should return to the last consistent tempo preceding the fermata unless otherwise indicated.

Abstract

Chernobyl Spring for Orchestra is a musical piece that commemorates the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. The work premiered at the USO New Music Concert on February 25, 2026, conducted by Michael Roest.

The piece's genre is a symphonic poem, with a storytelling element embedded in its title. To dissect the tragedy's complex nature, the piece draws on contrasting musical styles, including the Soviet musical aesthetic, intense modernist passages, and heavy chime patterns that resonate with Ukrainian church music.

The composition is a free interpretation of sonata form: traditional elements such as a tonal plan with a return to the home key in the recapitulation and a clear section division combine with imitative counterpoint, a melodic sequence in the exposition, and a heavily restructured recapitulation. Composition techniques include motivic development, part-writing with chromaticism and modulation, pitch-class set theory, and fugal writing. Extended performance techniques include *col legno battuto*, *sul tasto*, and string harmonics, as well as mutes for trumpets, trombones, and horns.

Informed by the composer's experience as a native of Ukraine and the son of a Chernobyl emergency responder, the work advances the discourse on technological disaster in art.

Chernobyl Spring

Oleksandr Kostov

Feroce ♩=104

Piccolo
Flute 1.2.
Oboe 1.2.
English Horn
B♭ Clarinet 1.2.
Bass Clarinet in B♭
Bassoon 1.2.
Contrabassoon
F Horn 1.3.
F Horn 2.4.
C Trumpet 1.2.
C Trumpet 3.
Trombone 1.2.
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Bass Drum
Tubular Bells
Xylophone
Harp

Feroce ♩=104

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

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6 7 8 9

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

10 11 12 13

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.

1.
Hn. 1, 3
2.
Hn. 2, 4
a2
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

pp subito *mf* *f*
p *mp*
a2
div.
ff *pp*

14 rit. 15 16 17 18 19

A **Moderato** ♩=96

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.

Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.

B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.

Hp.

A **Moderato** ♩=96

rit.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

a2

Ob. 1, 2

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbsn.

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4

C Tpt. 1, 2

C Tpt. 3

Tbn. 1, 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

wooden mallet

B. D.

Tub. B.

Xyl.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mp *f* *fff* *espress.* *più f* *mf*

27 28 29 30 31

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

p *fff* *ff* *f* *espress.* *mf* *più f* *mp* div.

32 33 34 35 36

B Tempo I ♩=104

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

a2
unis.
arco
arco

B Tempo I ♩=104

37 38 39 40 41

C Pesante ♩=88

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

1. a2 pp f ff

To Rt.

arco sul A

D **Tempo I ♩=104**

42 43 44 45 46

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2 — *p* *pp*

Eng. Hn. — *p* *pp*

Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl. — *mp*

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbsn. — *mp*

Hn. 1, 3 — *p* *pp*

Hn. 2, 4 — *p* *pp*

C Tpt. 1, 2 — *p*

C Tpt. 3 — *p*

Tbn. 1, 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

B. D.

Tub. B. — *f*

Xyl.

Hp. — *mp* bisbigl.

D **Tempo I ♩=104**

Vln. I — *pp* *mp*

Vln. II — *pp* *mp*

Vla. — *mp*

Vc. — *mp* pizz. arco

Db. — *mp*

47 48 49 50

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

f
mf
mf

51 E 52 53 54 55 56

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

a2
sul A
sul D
sul G
agitato

F

57 58 59 60 **molto rit.**

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

a2

fp *mf* *f* *dim.*

molto rit.

61 62 63 64 65

G ♩=104

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

straight metal mute
straight metal mute
1. straight metal mute

f *mf* *p*

G ♩=104

66 H 67 68 69

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

ff f

Ratchet

to B.D.

gliss.

B♮ F♯

H

I

70 71 72 73

8va

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Rt.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

senza sord.

a2

I

74 75 76 77 78 79

J K ♩=96

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Rt.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mf f p ff

a2

senza sord.

Bass Drum

non divisi

sul E

80 81 82 83 84

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

1.

pp *p* *fp* *mf* *f*

pizz.

D♯ D♯

85 86 87 88 89

♩=88 L Tempo I ♩=104

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

a2
col legno battuto
non divisi
ord.
Ab Db
Bb Db

♩=88 L Tempo I ♩=104

90 91 92 93 94 95

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

8va
ord.

M

96 97 98 99 100 101

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
M
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

a2
ord.

N

102 103 104 105 106

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mf *f* *più f risoluto*

(opem a2)

sul E

N

107 108 O 109 110

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

8va
ff con fuoco
a2
(open)
div.
fff
sp
C♮ F♮ B♭

111 112 113 114

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

fff ff f sp
A♭ E♭ D♭ D♮ A♮

115 116 117 118

P

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

To Cym.

unis.

Q

molto accel. a tempo rit.

119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

a2

1.

8vb

R **Tranquillo ♩=60**

127 128 129 130 131 132

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
pp
Xyl.
Hp.
pp

R **Tranquillo ♩=60**

Vln. I
solo
p espress.
f
p
Vln. II
sul tasto
pp
f
pp
p
Vla.
sul tasto
pp
f
p
p
Vc.
pizz.
pp
f
p
Db.
pizz.
pp
f
p

133 134 135 136 137 138

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

pp
p
mf
f
tutti
ord.
arco

S **Con spirito** ♩=52

139 140 141 142 143

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Xyl.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

f a2 *f* misurato LARGE CRASH CYMBALS let ring div.

S **Con spirito** ♩=52

144 145 146 147

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
let ring
let ring
Cym.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

148 149 150

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Cym.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mf
più f
f
let ring
unis.
div.
8va

molto rit.

151 152 153 154

T ♩=88

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Cym.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

più ***f*** ***mf*** ***p*** *subito* ***p*** *sub.* a2 unis. sul A

molto rit.

T ♩=88

155 156 157

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Cym.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

p

158 159 160

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Cym.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

8va

mp mf

a2

161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170

molto rit.

♩=60

Picc.
Fl. 1, 2
Ob. 1, 2
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1, 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1, 2
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
C Tpt. 1, 2
C Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
B. D.
Tub. B.
Cym.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

a2

ff ffp fff