

Eternity is like unto a Ring

*for Mezzo Soprano, Flute, Violin, Percussion, Piano,
and Stereo Fixed-Format Audio*

David Trum

2018

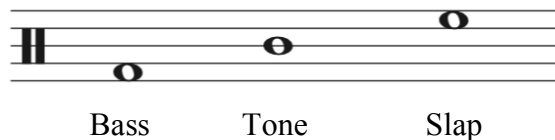
Eternity is like unto a Ring

Instrumentation:

- Mezzo Soprano
- Flute
- Violin
- 1 Percussionist (Glockenspiel and Djembe)
- Piano
- Stereo Fixed-Format Audio, projected from onstage speakers (see Movement V, measure 22). The audio is pre-recorded footage of Movement IV, measures 1-40, played in reverse (with an approximate 10 second fade-in). Performers may use the version provided by the composer, or record one of their own using their specific roster of performers. In order for performers to properly keep time with the audio, the speakers should be positioned behind the performers or supplemented by on-stage monitors.

Duration: approx. 17 minutes

Djembe Notation:



This piece is a reflection on the relationships between time, love, and eternity, with English writer John Bunyan's poem "Upon Time and Eternity" framing the work as the text for the first and final movements. The rest of the text is self-composed, though I pulled much inspiration from the writings of Robert Browning, Henry Thoreau, and C.S. Lewis.

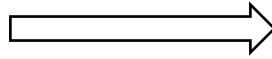
Just as "The Ring has no beginning, middle, end", this piece forgoes a linear narrative structure and instead exists largely within one musical moment, which is explored one layer at a time. This gradual unfolding of musical layers also parallels the introspective journey of the text, as it slowly proceeds from the universal to the more intimate and vulnerable.

I have always loved music that plays with time and context- specifically the way that musical context can frame our experience of a melody or idea. The Sigur Rós EP, Ba Ba Ti Ki Di Do [consisting of three tracks of atmospheric electronic music that can be played simultaneously to make one new piece] has long inspired me to explore similar tricks within live, notated music. I have also long been interested in the sound and aesthetic of backwards audio, as in classic psychedelic rock like Jimi Hendrix's "Are You Experienced?" and The Beatles "Tomorrow Never Knows". Through this composition, I have been able to indulge in both of these passions. Over the course of the piece, musical motives and even whole movements overlay, intertwine, and appear in reverse- revealing new insights and relationships between them.

Song Map

Movement I text comes from the poem “Upon Time and Eternity” by John Bunyan. All other text is written by David Trum, though Movement II is heavily inspired by the poem “Now” by Robert Browning.

I.



Eternity is like unto a Ring,
Time, like to measure, doth itself extend,
Measure commences, is a finite thing.
The Ring has no beginning, middle, end.

II.



Give but a moment,
One moment.
Forget the years before,
And those in store.
Awaken dormant heart to this

One precious moment,
Unbroken,
When tender, open hearts entwine,
And dance that mystic line,
Where Love flows free of time.

III.

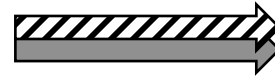


Time, like to measure, is a finite thing.

We seek Time, to understand,
To control all we've planned.

But Time brings change, unforeseen,
Fading youth, traded dreams.
Loss of friends, loss of home,
Time can turn a heart to stone

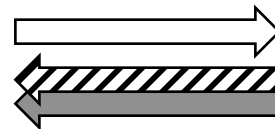
IV.



Yet every moment, contains a new dawn
A chance to wake, to glimpse beyond
Awaken the joy, awaken the pain,
Awake to the present and all it contains,

As tonight,
We lay bare our secrets,
Our weakness,
Our fears we've never dared to name,
and scars we've hid in shame,
till only Love remains.

V.



Eternity is like unto a Ring,
Time, like to measure, doth itself extend,
Measure commences, is a finite thing.
The Ring has no beginning, middle, end.

Eternity is like unto a Ring - I

total duration: approx. 17 mins.

Music: David Trum
Lyrics: John Bunyan/
David Trum

Mezzo-Soprano

$\text{♩} = 68$ *f*

E - ter - ni - ty is - like un - to a

Piano

f

8va

Mezzo

5

Ring.

Pno.

(8va)

3

Mezzo

9

mp

Time, like to mea - sure, doth it - self - ex -

Pno.

mp

Mezzo

13

tend. Mea - sure com - men - ces, — is a fi - nite thing. The

Pno.

13

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 16. The Mezzo line is in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). It begins with a fermata over a whole note, followed by a melodic line with lyrics. There are three triplet markings over eighth notes. The Pno. line is in grand staff with the same key signature. It features a piano accompaniment with chords and moving lines in both hands, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic.

Mezzo

17

Ring - - - has no be - gin - ning, no mid - dle,

Pno.

17

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 through 20. The Mezzo line continues the melody with lyrics 'Ring - - - has no be - gin - ning, no mid - dle,'. The Pno. line provides accompaniment with a forte (*f*) dynamic. At measure 19, the time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4. The piano part consists of chords and a steady bass line.

Mezzo

21

no - end.

Pno.

21

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 21 through 24. The Mezzo line concludes the phrase with the lyrics 'no - end.'. The Pno. line features a piano (*p*) dynamic. At measure 21, the time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4. The piano part includes chords and a bass line that ends with a fermata.

25

Mezzo

Pno.

25

28

Mezzo

mf

E - ter - ni - ty, like a Ring, has no end.

Pno.

mf

28

32

Mezzo

No end.

Pno.

f

32

Mezzo

36

E - ter - ni - ty, like a Ring, has no be -

Pno.

8va

Mezzo

40

gin - ning, no mid - dle, no end.

Pno.

mf

mp

Mezzo

43

Pno.

p

pp

Eternity is like unto a Ring - II

♩ = 68

Mezzo-Soprano

Fl.

Vln.

Piano

Vln.

Pno.

Mezzo

Vln.

Pno.

mp

Give but a mo - ment, one

Mezzo

mo - ment. For - get the years be - fore, and those in store, a -

Vln.

Pno.

Mezzo

wa - ken dor - mant heart to this one pre - cious mo - ment, un -

Vln.

Pno.

Mezzo

bro - ken. When ten - der, o - pen hearts en - twine, and

Vln.

Pno.

Mezzo

259

mp *rit.*

dance that mys - tic line, where love flows free of time - .

Vln.

259

p

Pno.

259

p

Vln.

27

pp

Fl.

32

mf

Vln.

32

Fl.

36

poco rit

p *pp*

Vln.

36

Eternity is like unto a Ring - III

$\text{♩} = 68$

Mezzo-Soprano

Fl.

Glk.

Djembe

Piano

Mezzo

Fl.

Glk.

Pno.

p

Time, _____ like to mea - sure,

p

p

Mezzo

Fl.

Glk.

Djbe.

Pno.

Fl.

Djbe.

Pno.

Fl.

Djbe.

Pno.

is a fi - nite thing.

mf

mp

p

mf

mp

f

p

f

9

14

17

21

Fl.

Djbe.

Pno.

24

Fl.

Djbe.

Pno.

27

Fl.

Djbe.

Pno.

Fl. 30

Djbe. 30

Pno. 30

Fl. 37 = 64 a little slower, somber

Djbe. 37

Pno. 37

ff *mf* *mp* *ppp*

f *pp* *mf*

Ad.

Mezzo 37

Pno. 37

pp

Time,

*

Mezzo

42

We seek Time, to un-der-stand, to con - trol all we've planned. But

Pno.

Mezzo

47

Time brings change, un - fore - seen. Fa - ding youth, tra - ded dreams, loss of

Pno.

Mezzo

51

friends, loss of home, Time can turn - the heart in - to stone.

Pno.

ped.
Hold Pedal till end of movement

Fl.

55

p *pp* *pp*

breathy

Pno.

Eternity is like unto a Ring - IV

♩ = 68

Mezzo-Soprano

Fl.

Vln.

Glk.

Djembe

Piano

Mezzo

Fl.

Vln.

Glk.

Pno.

Time, _____ like to mea - sure,

p

p

p

Mezzo *mf*

Fl. *mp* *p*

Vln.

Glk.

Djbe. *mf* *mp*

Pno.

is a fi - nite thing.

Mezzo *mp*

Fl. *f*

Vln. *mp*

Djbe. *p*

Pno. *mp*

Give but a mo - ment, one

Mezzo

mo - ment. For - get the years be - fore, and those in store, a -

Fl.

Vln.

Djbe.

Pno.

Mezzo

wa - ken dor - mant heart to this one pre - cious

Fl.

Vln.

Djbe.

Pno.

mf

mf

mf

Mezzo
mo - ment, un - bro - ken. When ten - der,

Fl.

Vln.

Djbe.

Pno.

Mezzo
o - pen hearts en - twine, and dance that mys - tic

Fl.

Vln.

Djbe.

Pno.

30

Mezzo

line, where love flows free of Time

Fl.

Vln.

Djbe.

Pno.

♩ = 64 a little slower, somber

more breath than pitch

36

Fl.

Djbe.

Pno.

ppp

ff *p* *pp* *mf*

Leg.

37

Mezzo

Time,

Pno.

pp

Mezzo

42

We seek Time, to un-der-stand, to con-trol all we've planned. But

Vln.

pp

Pno.

Mezzo

47

Time brings change, un-fore-seen. Fa-ding youth, tra-ded dreams, loss of

Fl.

pp

Vln.

Pno.

51

Mezzo

friends, loss of home, Time can turn - the heart in - to stone.

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

Reo.

55

Mezzo

Yet, eve - ry mo - ment, eve - ry mo - ment, eve - ry

Fl.

p *pp* *pp* *pp*

breathy

Vln.

pp

Pno.

*

Mezzo *mf*

mo-ment con-tains a new dawn. A chance to wake, to glimpse be-yond. A - wa-ken the

Fl. *mp*

Vln. *mp*

Pno. *mf*

Mezzo *ff* *mf*

joy, a - wa-ken the pain, a - wake to the pre-sent and all it con-tains. As to - night, we lay bare our

Vln. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Mezzo

67

mp *p*

se - crets, our weak - ness, our fears we've ne - ver dared to name, and

Pno.

p

Mezzo

72

rubato

scars we've hid in shame, till on - ly Love re - mains.

Pno.

pp

Eternity is like unto a Ring - V

Mezzo-Soprano

$\text{♩} = 68$ *f*

E - ter - ni - ty is - like un - to a

Piano

f

8^{va}

Mezzo

5 Ring.

Pno.

5 (8^{va})

Mezzo

9 *mp*

Time, like to mea - sure, doth it - self - - ex -

Pno.

9 *mp*

Mezzo

tend. Mea - sure com - men - ces, — is a fi - nite thing. The

Pno.

Mezzo: *f* 3 3 3 *f*

Pno.: *f* 3

Mezzo

Ring - - - has no be - gin - ning, no mid - dle,

Pno.

Mezzo: Ring - - - has no be - gin - ning, no mid - dle,

Pno.: *f*

Mezzo

no - end.

Pno.

**Available Musician or Sound engineer*
Trigger Fixed-Format Audio
when piano reaches the fermata.* (Backwards mezzo from audio)

*Wait for audio to reach
peak swell and then follow
the backwards mezzo
cue till your entrance.*

Mezzo: no - end.

Pno.: *Wait for audio to reach peak swell and then follow the backwards mezzo cue till your entrance.*

Mezzo

Pno.

p

Mezzo

Pno.

Mezzo

mf

E - ter - ni - ty, like a Ring, has no end.

Pno.

f

Mezzo

389

No _____ end.

Pno.

ff

Detailed description: This system covers measures 389 to 400. The Mezzo line begins with a whole rest, followed by a long note with a slur that spans across the bar lines. The lyrics "No _____ end." are written below. The Pno. line features chords in both hands, with a triplet of eighth notes in the right hand in measure 400. The dynamic *ff* is indicated in the right hand.

Mezzo

48

E - ter - ni - ty, like a Ring, has no be - gin - ning, no

Pno.

mf

8va

Detailed description: This system covers measures 48 to 55. The Mezzo line has a long note with a slur. The lyrics "E - ter - ni - ty, like a Ring, has no be - gin - ning, no" are written below. The Pno. line consists of chords in both hands. An *8va* marking is present above the right hand. The dynamic *mf* is indicated in the left hand.

Mezzo

48

mid - dle, no _____ end.

Pno.

mp

p

pp

8va

Detailed description: This system covers measures 48 to 55. The Mezzo line has a long note with a slur. The lyrics "mid - dle, no _____ end." are written below. The Pno. line consists of chords in both hands. An *8va* marking is present above the right hand. Dynamics *mp*, *p*, and *pp* are indicated in the left hand.