

John Oliver

# Forging Utopia

for orchestra

Commissioned by the National Arts Centre Orchestra.

The first performance took place on January 5, 1998 during the National Arts Centre Orchestra's 1998 new music festival in Ottawa, Canada. The orchestra was conducted by David Alan Miller

[johnolivermusic.com](http://johnolivermusic.com)

## INSTRUMENTATION

2 Flutes (2 doubles Picc.)

Oboe

English Horn

2 Clarinets in Bb

2 Bassoons (2 doubles Contrabasson [optional])

2 Horns in F

2 Trumpets in Bb

Timpani

Strings

### **PROGRAM NOTE for John Oliver's FORGING UTOPIA**

"If this is a report more personal than otherwise, more pop culture than high-brow, that is no more than the first lesson of "brink culture." Today we cannot escape the influence of the popular, and we can find no authoritative standpoint from which judgments can be delivered with finality. This cultural and epistemological vertigo can be frightening, certainly, but it can also be pretty exciting—even liberating."

Mark Kingwell, DREAMS OF MILLENNIUM

# Forging Utopia

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$\text{♩} = 72$

The score is divided into two systems. The first system includes parts for 2 Flutes, Oboe, English Horn, 2 Clarinets, Bassoon, Contrabassoon, Horn 1, Horn 2, Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Timpani, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Cello, and Contrabass. The second system includes parts for Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E.H.), Clarinet (Cls.), Bassoon 1 (Bn.1), Contrabassoon (C.Bn.), Horns (Hns.), Timpani (Timp.), Violin 1 (Vn.1), Violin 2 (Vn.2), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

Key performance markings include *fff*, *ff*, *f*, *mp*, *espressivo*, *med. hard mallets*, *p*, and *f*. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs, and dynamic contrasts throughout.

7

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.

Musical score for measures 7-9. The Flute (Fls.) part features a continuous sixteenth-note pattern. The Oboe (Ob.) and English Horn (E.H.) parts play a melodic line with a long note in measure 8. The Clarinet (Cls.) part plays a sixteenth-note accompaniment.

10

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.

Musical score for measures 10-12. The Flute (Fls.) part continues with the sixteenth-note pattern. The Oboe (Ob.) and English Horn (E.H.) parts have a rest in measure 10 and then play a melodic line. The Clarinet (Cls.) part continues with the sixteenth-note accompaniment.

13

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
C. Bn.

Musical score for measures 13-15. The Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), and English Horn (E.H.) parts have rests. The Clarinet (Cls.) part continues with the sixteenth-note pattern. The Contrabassoon (C. Bn.) part enters in measure 13 with a melodic line marked *legato* and *f*.

Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

Musical score for measures 13-15. The Violin 1 (Vn.1) part has a melodic line marked *legato* and *f*. The Violin 2 (Vn.2) part has a rest. The Viola (Vla.) part has a melodic line marked *legato* and *f*. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Contrabass (Cb.) parts have a sixteenth-note accompaniment marked *legato* and *f*.

17

C. Bn.  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

Musical score for measures 17-20. The Contrabassoon (C. Bn.) part has a melodic line. The Violin 1 (Vn.1) and Violin 2 (Vn.2) parts have melodic lines. The Viola (Vla.) part has a sixteenth-note accompaniment. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Contrabass (Cb.) parts have a sixteenth-note accompaniment.

22

Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Bn.1  
C.Bn.  
Hns.  
Timp.  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

*f*  
*mf*  
*f*

Musical score for measures 22-26. The score includes parts for Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet, Bassoon 1, Contrabassoon, Horns, Timpani, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The music features a variety of dynamics including *f* and *mf*.

27

Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Bn.1  
C.Bn.  
Hns.  
Tps.  
Timp.  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

*ff*  
*mf*  
*p*  
*f*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*ff*  
*pizz.*  
*ff*

Musical score for measures 27-31. The score includes parts for Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet, Bassoon 1, Contrabassoon, Horns, Trumpets, Timpani, Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The music features a variety of dynamics including *ff*, *mf*, *p*, and *pizz.*.

32

Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Bn.1  
C.Bn.  
Hns.  
Tps.  
Timp.  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

36

Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Bn.1  
C.Bn.  
Hns.  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

39

Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Bn.1  
C.Bn.  
Hns.  
Timp.  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

This system contains measures 39 through 43. The woodwinds (Ob., E.H., Cls., Bn.1, C.Bn., Hns., Timp.) and strings (Vn.1, Vn.2, Vla., Vc., Cb.) are all active. The woodwinds play rhythmic patterns, while the strings provide harmonic support. Dynamics include *f* and *ff*. A *pizz* marking is present in the Cb. part at measure 43.

44

Fls.  
Cls.  
Bn.1  
C.Bn.  
Hns.  
Timp.  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

This system contains measures 44 through 47. The Flute (Fls.) and Clarinet (Cls.) parts are highly active with rapid sixteenth-note passages. The Bassoon (Bn.1) and Contrabassoon (C.Bn.) parts are marked "(to bassoon)". The Horns (Hns.) and Timpani (Timp.) parts are also present. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. An *arco* marking is present in the Cb. part at measure 44.

48

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Hns.  
Tp.1

This system contains measures 48 through 51. The Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E.H.), Clarinet (Cls.), Horns (Hns.), and Trumpet 1 (Tp.1) parts are active. The Flute and Clarinet parts feature rapid sixteenth-note passages. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, and *p*.

51

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Hns.  
Tp.1  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.

*mp*

*f*

This system of musical notation covers measures 51 through 54. It features ten staves: Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E.H.), Clarinet (Cls.), Horns (Hns.), Trumpet 1 (Tp.1), Violin 1 (Vn.1), Violin 2 (Vn.2), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.). The Flute part has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The Violin 1, Violin 2, and Cello parts have a dynamic marking of *f*. The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature.

55

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Hns.  
Tp.1  
Tp.2  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.

*p*

This system of musical notation covers measures 55 through 57. It features ten staves: Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E.H.), Clarinet (Cls.), Horns (Hns.), Trumpet 1 (Tp.1), Trumpet 2 (Tp.2), Violin 1 (Vn.1), Violin 2 (Vn.2), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.). The Trumpet 2 part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The music continues in the same key and time signature as the previous system.

58

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Hns.  
Tp.2  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.

This system of musical notation covers measures 58 through 61. It features ten staves: Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E.H.), Clarinet (Cls.), Horns (Hns.), Trumpet 2 (Tp.2), Violin 1 (Vn.1), Violin 2 (Vn.2), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.). The music concludes in the same key and time signature.



61

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Hns.  
Tp.2  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 61 to 63. It features ten staves for various instruments: Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E.H.), Clarinet (Cls.), Horns (Hns.), Trumpet 2 (Tp.2), Violin 1 (Vn.1), Violin 2 (Vn.2), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The Flute part is highly active with rapid sixteenth-note passages. The Oboe and English Horn parts have a more melodic, sustained character. The Clarinet and Horns provide harmonic support with chords and moving lines. The Trumpet 2 part has a rhythmic, eighth-note pattern. The Violin and Viola parts are also active with sixteenth-note figures. The Violoncello part provides a steady bass line.

64

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Hns.  
Tp.2  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Vla.  
Vc.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 64 to 66. The instrumentation remains the same as in the previous system. The Flute part continues with its rapid sixteenth-note passages. The Oboe and English Horn parts maintain their melodic lines. The Clarinet and Horns provide harmonic support. The Trumpet 2 part has a rhythmic, eighth-note pattern. The Violin and Viola parts are active with sixteenth-note figures. The Violoncello part provides a steady bass line.

67

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Hns.  
Tp.1  
Tp.2

*solo*  
*f*

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 67 to 70. The instrumentation changes slightly, with the addition of Trumpet 1 (Tp.1) and the removal of the Viola and Violoncello parts. The Flute part continues with its rapid sixteenth-note passages. The Oboe and English Horn parts maintain their melodic lines. The Clarinet and Horns provide harmonic support. The Trumpet 1 part has a melodic line starting in measure 67, marked with *solo* and *f*. The Trumpet 2 part has a rhythmic, eighth-note pattern.

Musical score for measures 71-74. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral layout with instruments listed on the left: Fls., Ob., E.H., Cls., Bns., Hns., Tp.1, Tp.2, Vn.1, Vn.2, Vla., Vc., and Cb. The music features complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs in the woodwinds and strings. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo). The key signature is one sharp (F#).

Musical score for measures 75-78. The score continues with the same orchestral instrumentation. Dynamics include *f* (forte) and *p* (piano). The key signature remains one sharp (F#). The music shows a dynamic shift from forte to piano in the later measures.

79

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Bns.  
Hns.  
Tp.1  
Tp.2  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Via.  
Vc./1  
Vc./2  
Cb.

*f*

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 79 to 82. It features 13 staves for various instruments: Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E.H.), Clarinet (Cls.), Bassoon (Bns.), Horns (Hns.), Trumpet 1 (Tp.1), Trumpet 2 (Tp.2), Violin 1 (Vn.1), Violin 2 (Vn.2), Viola (Via.), Violoncello 1 (Vc./1), Violoncello 2 (Vc./2), and Contrabass (Cb.). The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. Measures 79 and 80 show complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. Measure 81 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 82 ends with a fermata over the final note.

83

$\text{♩} = 96$

Fls.  
Ob.  
E.H.  
Cls.  
Bns.  
Hns.  
Tp.1  
Tp.2  
Timp.  
Vn.1  
Vn.2  
Via.  
Vc.  
Cb.

*ff*

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 83 to 86. It features 13 staves for various instruments: Flute (Fls.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (E.H.), Clarinet (Cls.), Bassoon (Bns.), Horns (Hns.), Trumpet 1 (Tp.1), Trumpet 2 (Tp.2), Timpani (Timp.), Violin 1 (Vn.1), Violin 2 (Vn.2), Viola (Via.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The music is in a key with one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. A tempo marking of  $\text{♩} = 96$  is present at the start of measure 83. The dynamic marking *ff* (fortissimo) is used throughout. The music is characterized by dense, rhythmic textures with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes across all instruments.

87

Fis. *ppp* *mf*

Ob. *ppp*

E.H. *ppp*

Cl.1 *ppp* *mf* Mahler: 9th Symphony *ff* *mf* *ff*

Cl.2 *ppp* *mf* Mahler: 9th Symphony

Bn.1 *ppp* *ff* Stravinsky: Rite of Spring

Bn.2 *ppp* *mf*

Hns. *ppp*

Tp.1 *ppp*

Tp.2 *ppp*

Timp. *ff*

Vn.1 solo *ff* Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto

Vn.2 *ppp*

Vla. *ppp*

Vc./1 *ppp* solo *ff* *a piacere* Bach: Cello Suite No. 1

Vc. *ppp* the rest

Cb. *ppp*

90

Ob. *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf*  $\text{♩} = 128$

E.H. *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf*

Cl.1 *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Cl.2 *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *p*

Bn.1 *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf* *ff* *p*

Bn.2 *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf* *ff* *p*

Hns. *mp*

Timp. *mp*

Vn.1 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*  $\text{♩} = 128$  tutti

Vn.2 solo *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* tutti

Vla. *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* tutti 1st half *p*

Vc./1 *mf* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

Vc./2 *mf* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* tutti *mf*