

# The Path to *Society*: A Musical Composition for the Year 2020

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MUSIC 494-70: BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MUSIC CAPSTONE

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# What is *Society*?

Let's Listen! This is a version of the piece that I recorded digitally on October 28, 2020.

- **IMPORTANT:** This is *one* version, not *the* version

Performed by Ableton Live 10

- Computer-generated performance
- Live performance precluded by pandemic



Society: Development 11

A musical score for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in Bb), Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), and Double Bass (D. B.). The score is divided into three measures. The Flute part starts at measure 58 and features a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Clarinet part has a rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents. The Violin part has a melodic line with slurs. The Viola part has a rhythmic pattern with slurs and accents. The Double Bass part has a simple bass line with slurs and accents.

# Musical Form

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AN OVERVIEW OF THE MUSICAL STRUCTURE OF *SOCIETY*

# Musical Form: Basics

## Ten motifs (pictured to right)

- These are chosen by a player, and then looped
- No repetition of motifs within an ensemble
  - Reason for maximum of ten musicians

## No specified instrumentation

- Just as societies do not prescribe who its members are

## Four to ten players

- This is purely for musical effect
  - Fewer than four would become boring; greater than ten would become repetitive

## Two broad sections:

- Exposition & Development

The image displays ten musical motifs, numbered 1 through 10, arranged across five staves of music. Motif 1 is on the first staff, motifs 2 and 3 are on the second staff, motifs 4 and 5 are on the third staff, motifs 6 and 7 are on the fourth staff, motifs 8 and 9 are on the fifth staff, and motif 10 is on the sixth staff. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, accidentals, and articulation marks such as slurs and accents. The motifs are presented in a sequence that illustrates their unique characteristics and how they would be used in a musical ensemble.

♩ = 100-120  
(Fermatas only on final repeat)

Flute  
Repeat 10 times

Clarinet in Bb

Violin

Viola  
Repeat 6 times

Double Bass

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5

Fl.

Cl. in Bb  
Repeat 15 times

Vln  
Repeat 3 times

Vla

D. B.

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8

Fl.

Cl. in Bb

Vln

Vla

D. B.  
Repeat 3 times

# Musical Form: Exposition

Each musician takes turns looping their motif

This is done in numerical order

- If motifs 3, 7, 2, and 4 are chosen, they will be heard in the order: 2, 3, 4, 7

Musicians may loop their motif as many or as few times as they wish

- An arbitrary number was selected for the recording

The exposition ends after the last musician has finished looping

Thereafter, the piece enters the Development

Graphic to right shows entire exposition, transcribed from the recording we just heard

# Musical Form: Development

Musical score for measures 29-33. The score is for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in Bb), Violin (Vln), Viola (Via), and Double Bass (D. B.). The Flute part begins with a melodic motif in measure 29, which is then repeated by the Clarinet in B-flat in measure 30. The Violin part plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The Viola and Double Bass parts provide harmonic support with sustained notes and triplets.

Musical score for measures 34-38. The Flute part continues with the melodic motif from measure 29. The Clarinet in B-flat part continues with the rhythmic accompaniment from measure 30. The Violin part continues with the rhythmic accompaniment. The Viola and Double Bass parts continue with harmonic support.

Musical score for measures 39-43. The Flute part continues with the melodic motif from measure 29. The Clarinet in B-flat part continues with the rhythmic accompaniment from measure 30. The Violin part continues with the rhythmic accompaniment. The Viola and Double Bass parts continue with harmonic support.

Musicians are free to start and stop looping their chosen motif, with two conditions:

- The player who chooses the lowest-numbered motif starts looping first
- Musicians use the same motif they used in the Exposition

After this, Society can be of indefinite length; no prescribed ending

- The recording used a fade out technique
- Alternative: the ensemble just stops playing on cue

# Dissecting the Recording

## Ensemble:

- Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Viola, Double Bass
  - Chosen arbitrarily; any pitched instrument could be used

## Motif distribution:

- Flute: Motif 1
- Clarinet: Motif 5
- Violin: Motif 4
- Viola: Motif 2
- Double Bass: Motif 10

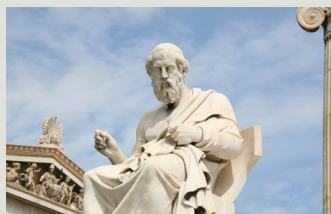
The image displays a musical score with ten numbered motifs (1-10) across five staves. Motif 1 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 2 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 3 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 4 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 5 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 6 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 7 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 8 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 9 is a melodic line in 4/4 time. Motif 10 is a melodic line in 4/4 time.

# Discussion

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THE CONTEXT BEHIND *SOCIETY*





# Origins and Inspirations

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*Society* was my direct response to events of last year

- Injustices regarding police brutality, killing of innocents
- Refusal of citizens to wear masks and protect others
- Individualism vs. collectivism

Sought ideas for oneness and unity despite our differences

Influences:

- Hinduism
  - Upaniṣads—oneness of the universe
- Western Political Philosophy
  - Plato's *Republic*, Cicero's *De Officiis* (*On Duties*)
    - Both concerned with one's place in social orders/cities
- Other political music
  - Steve Reich's *Come Out* (1966)



# Composition Process

Started the sketches in May 2020

- Initially planned as a baroque-style fugue
  - A fugue is like a puzzle, and every part is important to its comprehensibility
- The idea was to write the fugue, and then isolate the voices one by one before playing the entire fugue at the end

Also tried an additive canon (pictured at right)

Abandoned this idea in Autumn 2020, around September.

- Decided on the aleatoric model instead
- Easier to work with, provides more options, more open-ended
  - A better musical metaphor for societies themselves

Society

Shrish A. Jawadiwar

Sketches, May-June 2020

Reduction

Bassline ostinato

Theme 1

D.B.

(trill from upper note)

Theme 2 + Theme 1

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# Conclusion

*Society* is a piece for 2020, written in the shadow of and about some of the events of last year

I hope this presentation has helped you make sense of the work that went into the creation of the piece.

We shall hear the piece one more time, and I hope that now you will hear it again, this time with fresh ears



A musical score for the piece 'Society', showing measures 6 through 11. The score is arranged in a system with five staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in Bb), Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), and Double Bass (D. B.). The Flute and Clarinet parts are active, with the Flute playing a melodic line and the Clarinet playing a rhythmic accompaniment. The Violin, Viola, and Double Bass parts are mostly silent, indicated by a 'z' on the staff lines. The score is written in a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

# Thank you for listening!

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ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS? FEEL FREE TO ASK!