

Kurt's Song

Solo Bb Clarinet and Fixed Media
2023

Myles Kellerman

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For solo Bb clarinet and fixed media

(2023)

Approximate duration: 7'20"

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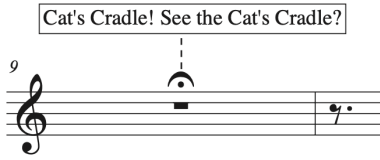
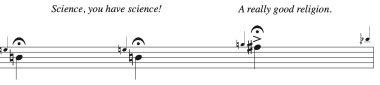
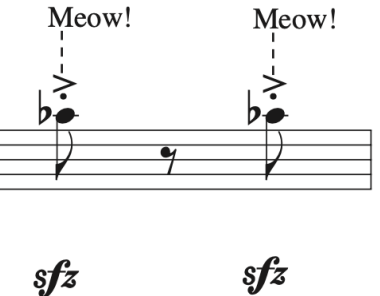
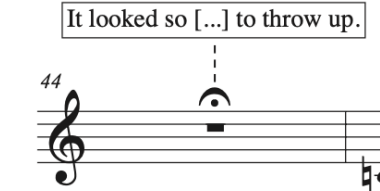
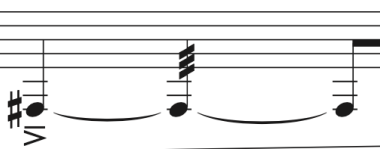

Composed for Eduardo Orea

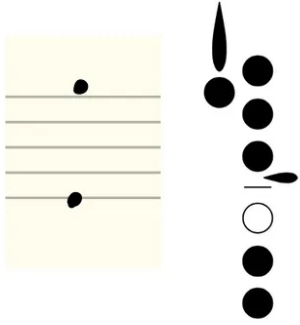
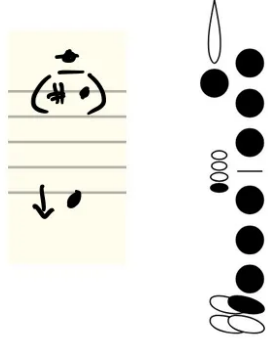
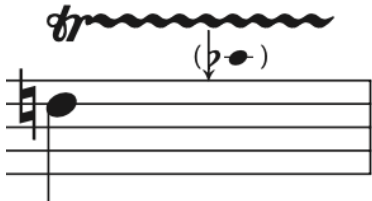
Program Note:

Kurt's Song satirically explores various themes found throughout Kurt Vonnegut's *Cat's Cradle*. My favorite book. Originally published in 1963, there exists an abridged version of the book as an audio book from 1973 read by Kurt Vonnegut himself.

Contact composer for the wav file for fixed media portion.

Cat's Cradle originally published in 1963 and subsequent audio book released in 1973. Used with permissions from the Wylie agency and HarperCollins Publishers.

Notation	Explanation	Example
Boxed Text	Boxed text occurs within the time frame spanning a fermata. All text relating to the audio track is always shown above the staff.	
Italicized Text	Italicized text does not have a specific alignment, occurring at some point during a given phrase	
Normal Text	Normal text has a specific alignment point with the media track, aligned via words with capital letters and a dotted line	
[...] Text	Only the beginning and end of a line of text shown to save space	
Flutter tongue	Flutter tongued note, there are instances of moving from no flutter, fluttered, back to no flutter	
The Song	The song, which closes the piece, has two verses. The performer should interact with the second verse in some capacity i.e. sing, hum, play, whistle.	

<p>Multiphonic</p>	<p>Multiphonic 111 found on Heather Roche's 27 Easy Bb Clarinet Multiphonics. Her fingerings and suggested notation are listed. However, if a similar effect is achieved through alternative means, that is acceptable.</p> <p>https://heatherroche.net/2018/09/13/27-easy-bb-clarinet-multiphonics/</p>	
<p>Multiphonic</p>	<p>Multiphonic 203 found on Heather Roche's 27 Easy Bb Clarinet Multiphonics. Her fingerings and suggested notation are listed. However, if a similar effect is achieved through alternative means, that is acceptable.</p> <p>https://heatherroche.net/2018/09/13/27-easy-bb-clarinet-multiphonics/</p>	
<p>Tremolos</p>	<p>Tremolos are shown with the starting pitch as the full duration of the tremolo with the grace note being the note to tremolo to.</p>	
<p>Choreography</p>	<p>The piece begins with the performer lying down. If you are unable to do so, distancing yourself from the music in any capacity will suffice. The piece ends by returning to this state while thumbing your nose and wiggling your fingers.</p>	<p>Step away from the music, lay down on your back, grin horribly, and thumb your nose at You Know Who.</p>

Written for Eduardo Orea

Kurt's Song

Myles Kellerman
Words by Kurt Vonnegut

Clarinet in B \flat

Begin the piece away from the music,
laying flat on your back. For a moment, not
for so long that you miss the first entrance.

The oldest game there is [...] to everyone who sees it.

No damn cat and no damn cradle.

Roughly: ♩ = 100
espressivo, heavy rubato

Guitar riff x1

mf *p* *mf* *mp*

p *f* *sub. p*

Anything can make me [...] sometimes Learn.

mp *mf* *p* *mf*

Cat's Cradle! See the Cat's Cradle?

See where the nice pussycat sleeps?

Meow!

Meow!

p *sfz* *sfz*

Ladies and gentlemen, I stand before you now because I never stopped [...] on his way to

School. No wonder kids grow up crazy.

The more Truth we have to Work with, the Richer we become. No damn cat and no damn Cradle.

He Held out

his painty hands [...] strung between them.

A cat's cradle is nothing [...] somebody's hands.

mp *mf* *mp* *mf*

3 3

And little kids look and look and look at all those X's.

mp *mf*

3

The more truth we have to work with, the richer we become.

mp *mf* *f*

You haven't caught on yet!

Busy, busy, busy.

pp *fp*

3 3 3

p

3 3 3

Look and look and look.

f

3 3

I would have been a Bokomonist then, if [...]

Musical notation for the first staff, featuring a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings. The piece begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and includes several triplet markings. The dynamic shifts to piano (*p*) later in the staff.

Busy, busy, busy.

Science, you have science!

A really good religion.

Musical notation for the second staff, featuring a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings. The piece begins with a forte (*f*) dynamic and ends with a sforzando (*sfz*) dynamic. There are wavy lines above the notes, possibly indicating vibrato or a specific performance technique.

Guitar riff x2

Musical notation for the third staff, featuring a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic and ends with a piano (*p*) dynamic. There are wavy lines above the notes, possibly indicating vibrato or a specific performance technique.

Good, God I-

Cat's Cradle!

Was small, black, and warty. [...]

[...] Black, gummy, impasto.

Musical notation for the fourth staff, featuring a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings. The piece begins with a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic and includes a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. There are wavy lines above the notes, possibly indicating vibrato or a specific performance technique.

The scratches formed [...]

[...] the sticky nets of human Futility hung up [...]

Musical notation for the fifth staff, featuring a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings. The piece begins with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic and ends with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. There are wavy lines above the notes, possibly indicating vibrato or a specific performance technique.

It looked so [...] to throw up.

Cat's cradle, it's a little extreme for a democracy [...]

Musical notation for the sixth staff, featuring a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings. The piece begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic, moves to forte (*f*), and then to mezzo-forte (*mf*). There are wavy lines above the notes, possibly indicating vibrato or a specific performance technique.

[...] in front of their houses, with signs around their neck saying,

Aha!

Do that a few times and I think pure [...] rumble seats and running boards.

Guitar riff x1

From the Calypsos again.

The Communist Party

Look and look and look.

The International Order of Odd Fellows

Anybody caught practicing Bokomonism!

The General Electric Company

Any nation, Anytime, Anywhere

He held out his [...] what's really going on.

Musical score for the first section. The top staff is a vocal line with a note marked with a fermata and a box containing the text "He held out his [...] what's really going on.". The bottom staff is a guitar line with various dynamics and articulations. Dynamics include *ff*, *mf*, *mp*, *f*, *p*, *sub. p*, and *mp*. Articulations include accents (>), slurs, and trills. There are also triplets marked with a '3' and a wavy line indicating a tremolo effect.

No damn cat and no damn cradle.

Guitar riff x2

Musical score for the guitar riff section. The staff shows a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *pp*. It includes a triplet marked with a '3' and a note with a fermata. A wavy line above the staff indicates a tremolo effect.

It's what we Bokomonists say, when we feel that a lot of mysterious things are going on.

Musical score for the final section. The staff shows a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *sub. p*, and *agitato*. It includes a triplet marked with a '3' and a wavy line indicating a tremolo effect.

I am a Bokononist now.

Guitar riff x3

In his 53rd calypso [...] or the Catholic Church.

I wanted all things [...] a paradise.

Sing, hum, whistle, and or play along with the second verse.
Suggested tones are listed below in CONCERT PITCH.

Step away from the music, lay
down on your back, grin horribly,
and thumb your nose at You Know Who.

Then I remembered [...] this is the word.

