

Alea Iacta Est ("The Die is Cast")

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Program Notes

The phrase "Alea Iacta Est", Latin for "The Die is/has been cast", is most often attributed to Julius Caesar as he crossed the Rubicon river in his quest to seize Rome by military force. Like any historical saying, it is unknown whether or not whether he actually said this, but the quote has nonetheless become an iconic phrase when speaking about dramatic doom. "The Die has been cast, your fate is sealed. Sucks to be you." However, the quote on its own is rather ambiguous in tone. It is often taken as some sort of Shakespearean knife twist, but it can just as easily be a motivating statement. Another opportunity to strive and succeed.

When this work was commissioned, it was originally for oboe, two clarinets, two trumpets, and bassoon, a rather esoteric combination to say the least. However, I soon found a unique martial quality in two trumpets, and a unique tone in planed reeds that called to mind Mediterranean woodwinds like the Greek tibia. Thus, with theming decided, I continued, only to find the piece wrenching itself into something new. The whole tone doom-and-gloom quality of the first theme directly inspired by the original quote seemed to reject its own nature, leading me towards a secondary theme of emotive quality. It was there that I found a new perspective.

This is not a work about the titular quote, rather a rebuttal. It represents (or at least I hope it does) a very human nature to reject fate, both through indomitable spirit and strength (represented in the trumpet call in Theme A), as well as beauty and emotions (in the flute-led Theme B).

The dice of fate may have been cast, but we don't know what it says, and what's life without some adventure?

With an Anthemic Drive ♩ = 60

Flute 1

Flute 2

Oboe

Trumpet in Bb 1
soli
mf *mp* *p*

Trumpet in Bb 2
soli
mf *mp* *p*

Clarinet in Bb 1

Clarinet in Bb 2

Bassoon

Tuba

Snare Drum

7

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Tpt. in Bb 1

Tpt. in Bb 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn.

Tba.

SD

mp *f* *mf* *dim.* *pp*

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

14

rit. - - - -

This musical score page contains ten staves for a woodwind and brass ensemble. The instruments are: Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob., Tpt. in Bb 1, Tpt. in Bb 2, Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, Bsn., Tba., and SD. The music is in a key of two sharps (D major) and features a 2/4 to 4/4 time signature change. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *mp*. A *rit.* (ritardando) marking is present at the end of the page. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic hairpins.

20

More Levity $\text{♩} = 72$

20

Fl. 1 *mf* *trmm* *dim.* *trmm* *trmm*

Fl. 2 *mf* *trmm* *dim.* *trmm* *trmm*

Ob. *mf* *mf*

Tpt. in Bb 1 *mf* *mf*

Tpt. in Bb 2 *mf* *mf*

Cl. in Bb 1 *f* *mf*

Cl. in Bb 2 *f* *mf*

Bsn. *mf* *mp*

Tba. *mf* *mp*

Trgl. *mf* *mp*

To Triangle

31

27

This musical score is for a woodwind and brass ensemble, covering measures 27 through 31. The instruments are arranged in the following order from top to bottom: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Oboe (Ob.), Trumpet in Bb 1 (Tpt. in Bb 1), Trumpet in Bb 2 (Tpt. in Bb 2), Clarinet in Bb 1 (Cl. in Bb 1), Clarinet in Bb 2 (Cl. in Bb 2), Bassoon (Bsn.), Trombone (Tba.), and Trigon (Trgl.). The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. Dynamics are indicated by *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). A double bar line with repeat dots is present at the end of measure 30, indicating a repeat of the final measure of the section.

33

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Tpt. in Bb 1

Tpt. in Bb 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn.

Tba.

Trgl.

mp

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 8, contains measures 33 through 36. The score is for a woodwind and brass ensemble. The woodwinds include two flutes (Fl. 1 and Fl. 2), an oboe (Ob.), two clarinets in Bb (Cl. in Bb 1 and Cl. in Bb 2), and a bassoon (Bsn.). The brass section consists of two trumpets in Bb (Tpt. in Bb 1 and Tpt. in Bb 2), a tuba (Tba.), and a timpani player (Trgl.). The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The woodwinds and trumpets play melodic lines with various articulations, including slurs and accents. The oboe and bassoon have more rhythmic parts. The tuba and timpani provide a steady accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is present at the end of the first staff.

38

39

6

f

dolce

f

dolce

mf

mf

mf

To Snare Drum

mf

Musical score for a woodwind and percussion ensemble, measures 38-39. The score includes parts for Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe, Trumpet in Bb 1, Trumpet in Bb 2, Clarinet in Bb 1, Clarinet in Bb 2, Bassoon, Trombone, and Trgl. (Trigon). The key signature is B major (two sharps). Measure 38 begins with a sixteenth-note triplet in the Flute 1 and Oboe parts, marked *f*. Measure 39 features a *dolce* marking and continues the melodic lines for Flute 1 and Oboe. The Clarinet in Bb 1 and 2 parts play a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked *mf*. The Bassoon part plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, also marked *mf*. The Trgl. part plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked *mf*, with a *To Snare Drum* instruction above the staff.

42

This musical score page contains ten staves for woodwinds and percussion. The instruments are Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe, Trumpet in Bb 1, Trumpet in Bb 2, Clarinet in Bb 1, Clarinet in Bb 2, Bassoon, Tuba, and Snare Drum (SD). The music is in a key with two flats and a 4/4 time signature. Dynamics include *mf* and *f*. The Snare Drum part features a pattern of quarter notes with a cross symbol, indicating a specific drum sound.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Tpt. in Bb 1

Tpt. in Bb 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn.

Tba.

SD

mf

f

mf

mf

45

48

Musical score for woodwinds and percussion, measures 45-48. The score includes parts for Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob., Tpt. in Bb 1, Tpt. in Bb 2, Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, Bsn., Tba., and SD (Snare Drum). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The score features various dynamics such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *mp* (mezzo-piano). The SD part includes a drum set icon and dynamic markings *p* (piano) and *mf*.

50

Fl. 1 *f*

Fl. 2 *f*

Ob. *f*

Tpt. in Bb 1 *f*

Tpt. in Bb 2 *f*

Cl. in Bb 1 *f*

Cl. in Bb 2 *f*

Bsn. *f*

Tba. *f*

SD *pp* *mf* *>* 3

Detailed description of the musical score for page 50, measures 1-5. The score is for a full orchestra and includes parts for Flute 1 and 2, Oboe, Trumpet in Bb 1 and 2, Clarinet in Bb 1 and 2, Bassoon, Trombone, and Snare Drum (SD). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The time signature is 4/4. The dynamics are marked *f* (forte) for the woodwinds and brass, and *pp* (pianissimo) for the snare drum. The snare drum part features a triplet of eighth notes in measures 3 and 5. The woodwinds and brass parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and quarter notes, often with accents. The flute parts have a melodic line with some grace notes. The bassoon and trombone parts have a more active, rhythmic role. The snare drum part starts with a *pp* dynamic and then moves to *mf* with accents and triplets.

57

55

Fl. 1 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Fl. 2 *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Tpt. in Bb 1 *pp* *mf*

Tpt. in Bb 2 *pp* *mf*

Cl. in Bb 1 *mp* *f* *mf*

Cl. in Bb 2 *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *pp* *f* *mp* *mf*

Tba. *pp* *f*

SD *pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains measures 55, 56, and 57. The score is for a woodwind and brass ensemble. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The instruments are Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe, Trumpet in B-flat 1, Trumpet in B-flat 2, Clarinet in B-flat 1, Clarinet in B-flat 2, Bassoon, Trombone, and Snare Drum. Measures 55 and 56 feature a melodic line in the flutes and oboe, starting at a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and crescendoing to mezzo-forte (*mf*). The brass instruments (trumpets, clarinets, bassoon, and trombone) play a supporting role, with dynamics ranging from pianissimo (*pp*) to forte (*f*). The snare drum (SD) plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth-note triplets in measure 55, marked *pp*. Measure 57 continues the melodic development, with the flutes and oboe reaching their *mf* dynamic. The bassoon and trombone also reach *f* in measure 57.

64

62

This musical score page features ten staves for woodwinds and brass instruments, plus a snare drum (SD) staff. The instruments are: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Oboe (Ob.), Trumpet in Bb 1 (Tpt. in Bb 1), Trumpet in Bb 2 (Tpt. in Bb 2), Clarinet in Bb 1 (Cl. in Bb 1), Clarinet in Bb 2 (Cl. in Bb 2), Bassoon (Bsn.), Trombone (Tba.), and Snare Drum (SD). The score is divided into two measures by a double bar line. The first measure contains a *cresc.* marking, and the second measure contains a *ff* marking. The woodwinds and brass parts feature various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and some parts have long horizontal lines indicating sustained notes or rests. The SD staff shows a simple rhythmic pattern with vertical stems.

66

This musical score page contains nine staves for a woodwind and brass ensemble. The instruments are: Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob., Tpt. in Bb 1, Tpt. in Bb 2, Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, Bsn., Tba., and SD. The key signature is two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The first three staves (Fl. 1, Fl. 2, and Ob.) feature a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and rests, marked with *sim.* (sforzando). The Tpt. in Bb 1 and Tpt. in Bb 2 staves play a rhythmic accompaniment of dotted half notes. The Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, Bsn., and Tba. staves play sustained notes, with the Tba. part including a dynamic marking of *mf*. The SD (Snare Drum) part consists of a steady eighth-note pulse.

69

Fl. 1 *mp* *ff*

Fl. 2 *mp* *ff*

Ob. *mp* *ff*

Tpt. in Bb 1 *mp* *ff*

Tpt. in Bb 2 *mp* *ff*

Cl. in Bb 1 *mp* *ff*

Cl. in Bb 2 *mp* *ff*

Bsn. *mp* *ff*

Tba. *mp* *ff*

SD *mp* *ff*
To Triangle

72 **72**

solo

f dolce

f

mp

mp

mp

mp

mf

Musical score for measures 72-75. The score includes parts for Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob., Tpt. in Bb 1, Tpt. in Bb 2, Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, Bsn., Tba., and Trgl. Fl. 1 has a solo part starting at measure 72 with dynamics *f dolce*. Fl. 2 enters at measure 74 with dynamics *f*. Ob., Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2, Bsn., and Tba. play sustained notes with dynamics *mp*. Trgl. plays a melodic line with dynamics *mf*. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#).

80

78

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Tpt. in Bb 1

Tpt. in Bb 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn.

Tba.

Trgl.

mf

mf

dolce

mf

mf

To Snare Drum

mf

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 78, 79, and 80. The score is for a woodwind and percussion ensemble. The woodwind parts include Flute 1 and 2, Oboe, Trumpet in Bb 1 and 2, Clarinet in Bb 1 and 2, Bassoon, and Trombone. The percussion part is for a snare drum. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 78 and 79 contain the main melodic material for the woodwinds. Measure 80 features a transition where the snare drum enters with a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and dolce. The snare drum part is marked 'To Snare Drum' and 'mf'.

83

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob.

Tpt. in Bb 1

Tpt. in Bb 2

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn.

Tba.

SD

f

f

mf

mf

ff

ff

ff

mp

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 83, contains ten staves. The top three staves (Fl. 1, Fl. 2, and Ob.) are mostly silent, indicated by horizontal lines. The fourth and fifth staves (Tpt. in Bb 1 and Tpt. in Bb 2) play a melodic line starting with a dynamic of *f*. The sixth and seventh staves (Cl. in Bb 1 and Cl. in Bb 2) play a rhythmic pattern starting with a dynamic of *mf*, which increases to *ff* by the end of the page. The eighth staff (Bsn.) plays a simple harmonic line starting with a dynamic of *ff*. The ninth staff (Tba.) plays a harmonic line starting with a dynamic of *ff*. The tenth staff (SD) plays a complex rhythmic pattern starting with a dynamic of *mp*. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

89

88

Musical score for measures 88 and 89, featuring Flutes (Fl. 1, Fl. 2), Trumpets (Tpt. in Bb 1, Tpt. in Bb 2), Clarinets (Cl. in Bb 1, Cl. in Bb 2), Bassoon (Bsn.), Tuba (Tba.), and Snare Drum (SD).

The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The dynamics range from *ff* (fortissimo) to *mf* (mezzo-forte).

Measure 88 (boxed):

- Fl. 1, Fl. 2, and Ob. play a melodic line starting on G4, moving to A4, B4, and C5, with slurs and accents.
- Tpt. in Bb 1 and Tpt. in Bb 2 play a sustained note on G3, with dynamics *ff* and *mf* indicated.
- Cl. in Bb 1 and Cl. in Bb 2 play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Bsn. plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Tba. plays a sustained note on G2.
- SD plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

Measure 89:

- Fl. 1, Fl. 2, and Ob. continue the melodic line.
- Tpt. in Bb 1 and Tpt. in Bb 2 continue the sustained note.
- Cl. in Bb 1 and Cl. in Bb 2 continue the rhythmic pattern.
- Bsn. continues the rhythmic pattern.
- Tba. continues the sustained note.
- SD continues the rhythmic pattern.

92

Fl. 1 *sim.*

Fl. 2 *sim.*

Ob. *sim.*

Tpt. in Bb 1 *f*

Tpt. in Bb 2 *f*

Cl. in Bb 1

Cl. in Bb 2

Bsn.

Tba.

SD

95 rit. - - - - -

Fl. 1 *mp*

Fl. 2 *mp*

Ob. *ff*

Tpt. in Bb 1 *ff*

Tpt. in Bb 2 *ff*

Cl. in Bb 1 *ff*

Cl. in Bb 2 *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Tba. *ff*

SD *ff*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 22, contains measures 95 through 98. The score is for a full orchestra. Measures 95 and 96 feature woodwinds (Flutes 1 and 2, Oboe) and percussion (Snare Drum) playing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Measures 97 and 98 are marked 'rit.' (ritardando) and feature a sustained, powerful sound from the brass (Trumpets in Bb 1 and 2, Clarinets in Bb 1 and 2, Bassoon, and Trombone) and Snare Drum, all marked 'ff' (fortissimo). The woodwinds play a melodic line that concludes in measure 98. The percussion continues with a steady eighth-note pattern.