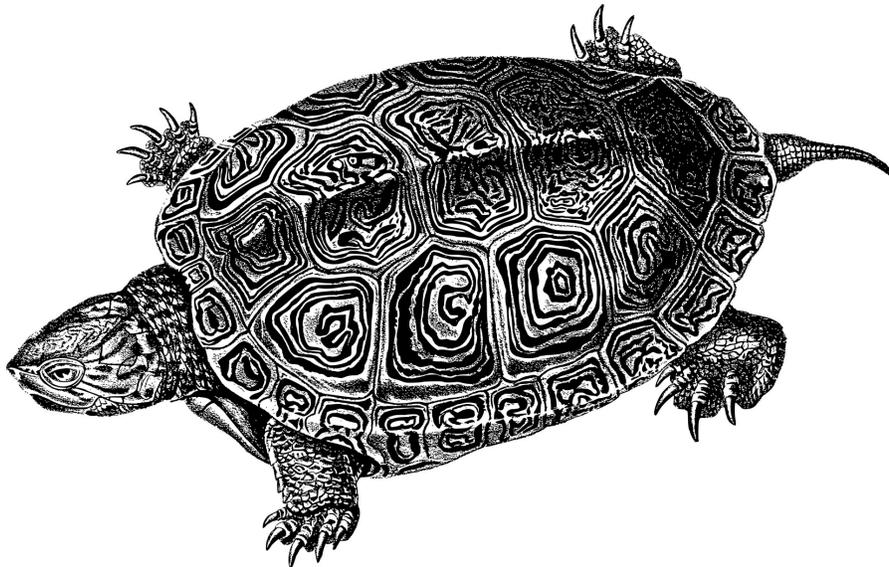


What story down there awaits its  
end?

(Full Score)



By Lukas James Bass

for chamber ensemble



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end?  
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(2024)



Program Note:

This piece is inspired by a chapter of the same name from Italo Calvino's 1979 novel, *If on a winter's night a traveler...* The chapter is the first chapter from a fictional book embeded in the novel entitled *What story down there awaits its end?* by the fictional author Anatoly Antolin wherein an unnamed narrator annihilates his own world through mental abstraction and must make a literal leap of faith in order for his reality is to be restored.

This chapter is also the last of 10 different fictional books intersperced throughout the novel, all of whose titles form the following sentence:

*If on a winter's night a traveler, outside the town of Malbork, leaning from the steep slope without fear of wind or vertigo, looks down in the gathering shadow in a network of lines that enlance, in a network of lines that intersect, on the carpet of leaves illuminated by the moon around an empty grave— What story down there awaits its end?*

## Instrumentation:

Flute (piccolo)

Oboe

Alto Saxophone

Horn

1 Percussionist (Snare Drum and Bass Drum)

Piano

Violin

Viola

Violincello

Contrabass

# What story down there awaits its end?

Score in C

Lukas James Bass (2024)

## I

*Lento* ♩ = 56

Flute *p*

Oboe *p*

Alto Saxophone *p*

Horn in F *p*

Snare Drum *ppp*  
with timp mallets  
(muffled sound but with snares on)

Violin *p*

Viola *p*

Violoncello *p*

Contrabass *p*

What story down there awaits its end?

II

Vivace ♩ = c. 144  
normal sticks  
snare on

Snare Drum

Piano

5

Sn. Dr.

Pno

*f* *sfz* senza pedale *p* *f sub.* *p* *f* *p sub.* *f sub.* *ff sub.*

rim

slow arp.

*pp sub.* *ff sub.* *ff* *pp* *mp* *fp molto*

8va. *pp sub.*

What story down there awaits its end?

### III

Adagio ♩ = c. 66

Piccolo  
Oboe  
Alto Saxophone  
Horn in F  
Bass Drum  
Piano  
Violin  
Viola  
Violoncello  
Contrabass

Vln  
Vla  
Vc.

Vln  
Vla  
Cb.

What story down there awaits its end?

12

Ob. *f*

B. Dr. *mp*

Pno

Vln *con sord.*

Vla *con sord.*

Vc. *f*

Cb.

16

Ob. *mf*

A. Sax. *f*

B. Dr.

Pno *pp sub.*

Vln *con sord.* *p* *sfz* *pp sub.*

Vla *p* *sfz* *pp sub.*

Vc. *p* *sfz* *pp sub.*

Cb. *p*

*n*

19

Picc. *f* *p sub.*

Ob.

A. Sax. *mf*

Hn in F *f*

Pno *pp* *8<sup>va</sup>*

Vln *pp*

Vla *pp*

Vc.

Cb.

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a symphony orchestra. The score is written for nine instruments: Piccolo (Picc.), Oboe (Ob.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Piano (Pno), Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The music is in 4/4 time and consists of four measures. The Piccolo part starts with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a 'sub.' (suboctave) marking. The Oboe part has a series of notes with 'x' marks above them, indicating a specific playing technique. The Alto Saxophone part is marked *mf*. The Horn in F part has a forte (*f*) dynamic. The Piano part has a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic and an *8<sup>va</sup>* (octave up) marking. The Violin part has a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The Viola part has a pianissimo (*pp*) dynamic. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts have no dynamic markings. The score is numbered 19 at the beginning.

What story down there awaits its end?

Poco meno mosso

Fl.

23

Picc. *ff* *più f*

Ob. *ff* *più f*

A. Sax. *p*

Hn in F *ff* *cuivré*

B. Dr. *ff* *fff* *ord.* *mf*

Pno *ff* *f* *più f*

Vln *ff* *f* *p* *n*

Vla *ff* *f* *p sempre*

Vc. *ff* *f* *p sempre* *senza sord.*

Cb. *ff* *ff* *p sempre*

30

Fl.

Ob.

A. Sax.

Hn in F

B. Dr.

Pno

Vln

Vla

Vc.

Cb.

*ff*

*n*

*p*

*pp*

*f sub.*

*f*

edge

l.v.

*ff*

senza sord.

*ff*

*p*

flautando

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

What story down there awaits its end?

poco allarg.....

40 Picc. *mf* *f* *Fl.* *sim.* *p*

Ob. *p pocco* *molto f*

A. Sax.

Hn in F *mf*

Vla. *senza sord.* *p*

Vc. *senza sord.* *p* *molto f*

Cb. *f*

What story down there awaits its end?

# IV

**Andante moderato** ♩ = c. 96

**Flute** *mf*

**Oboe**

**Alto Saxophone**

**Horn in F**

**Bass Drum** *pp* *mf*

**Piano** *p sempre*  
*una corda*

**Violin** *p*

**Viola** *flautando*  
*pp*

**Violoncello** *con sord.*

**Contrabass** *con sord.* *p* *fp*

What story down there awaits its end?

Musical score for measures 7-12. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Piano (Pno), Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and *n*. Performance instructions include *ord.*, *pizz.*, *senza sord.*, and *tre corde* for the piano.

Musical score for measures 13-18. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Piano (Pno), Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature is B-flat major and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include *mp*, *mf*, *p*, and *f*. Performance instructions include *arco* for the violin.

18

Fl. *mp* *p*

Ob. *p* *mf*

A. Sax. *p* *mf*

Hn in F *mp*

B. Dr. *n* *mf*

Pno

Vln *p*

Vla

Vc.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 18 through 22. It features seven staves: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Piano (Pno), Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), and Violoncello (Vc.). The Flute part begins with a melodic line in measure 18, marked *mp*, and continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 20. The Oboe and Alto Saxophone parts have similar melodic lines, with dynamics of *p* and *mf*. The Horn in F part has a melodic line starting in measure 20, marked *mp*. The Bass Drum part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *n* and *mf*. The Piano part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Violin part has a melodic line starting in measure 18, marked *p*. The Viola and Violoncello parts have rhythmic patterns of eighth notes.

23

Fl. *mf* *p*

Ob.

A. Sax. *p* *p* *cresc. poco a poco*

Hn in F *mf* *ff sub.* *l.v.* *sfz*

B. Dr. *f*

Vln *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla *cresc. poco a poco*

Vc.

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 23 through 27. It features the same seven staves as the previous system. The Flute part has a melodic line in measure 23, marked *mf*, and continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 25. The Oboe part has a melodic line in measure 23. The Alto Saxophone part has a melodic line in measure 23, marked *p*, and continues with a *p* dynamic in measure 25, with a *cresc. poco a poco* marking. The Horn in F part has a melodic line in measure 23, marked *mf*, and continues with a *ff sub.* marking in measure 25, and a *l.v.* marking in measure 26. The Bass Drum part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *f*. The Violin part has a melodic line in measure 23, marked *cresc. poco a poco*. The Viola and Violoncello parts have rhythmic patterns of eighth notes, with a *cresc. poco a poco* marking.

28

Fl. *cresc. poco a poco* *(mp)*

Ob. *cresc. poco a poco* *(mp)*

A. Sax. *(mp)*

Pno *p cresc. poco a poco*

Vln. *(mp)*

Vla. *(mp)*

Vc. *cresc. poco a poco* *sempre tenuto* *(mp)*

Cb. *senza sorc.* *ppp* *p cresc. poco a poco*

33

Fl. *(mf)*

Ob. *(mf)*

A. Sax. *(mf)* *(f)*

Pno *mp cresc. poco a poco*

Vln. *(mf)*

Vla. *(mf)*

Vc. *(mf)*

Cb.

38

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

A. Sax.

Hn in F *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

B. Dr. *ff* l.v.

Pno *mf* *cresc. poco a poco* *f* *f*

Vln *f*

Vla *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *mf* *cresc. poco a poco*

*sempre tenuto*

43

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

A. Sax. *ff*

Hn in F *f cresc. poco a poco*

B. Dr. *l.v.*

Pno *ff* *più ff*

(*rit.*)

Vln *ff*

Vla *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Cb. *f cresc. poco a poco*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 43 to 47. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Piano (Pno), Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score is written in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The Flute, Oboe, and Alto Saxophone parts feature melodic lines with accents and slurs, marked with fortissimo (*ff*). The Horn in F part provides a harmonic foundation, marked with a forte (*f*) dynamic and a crescendo (*cresc. poco a poco*). The Bass Drum part has a simple rhythmic pattern with accents and first endings (*l.v.*). The Piano part consists of chords and arpeggiated figures, marked with fortissimo (*ff*) and a dynamic shift to *più ff*. The Violin, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass parts have melodic lines with accents and slurs, marked with fortissimo (*ff*). The Contrabass part also includes a crescendo (*f cresc. poco a poco*). The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

48

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf*

Ob. *mf* *mf*

A. Sax. *mf* *fffz*

Hn in F *ff*

B. Dr.

Pno *fffz* *f*

(Rea.)

Vln *mf* *mf*

Vla *mf* *mf*

Vc. *fffz* *pizz.*

Cb. *ff* *mf*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 48 to 53. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), Horn in F (Hn in F), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Piano (Pno), Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score is written in a key signature of two flats (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. Measure 48 begins with a dynamic of *mf*. The Flute part features a melodic line with slurs and accents, with dynamics *mf*, *p*, and *mf*. The Oboe part has a similar melodic line with *mf* dynamics. The Alto Saxophone part plays a rhythmic pattern with *mf* dynamics, followed by a *fffz* section. The Horn in F part has a sustained low note with *ff* dynamics. The Bass Drum part has a simple rhythmic pattern. The Piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern with *fffz* and *f* dynamics. The Violin and Viola parts play a rhythmic pattern with *mf* dynamics. The Violoncello part has a melodic line with *fffz* dynamics and a *pizz.* section. The Contrabass part has a rhythmic pattern with *ff* and *mf* dynamics. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

54

Fl.

Ob.

A. Sax.

Hn in F

B. Dr.

Pno

Vln

Vla

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*mf*

*f*

*ff*

*fff*

*arco*

*Sost.*

*ff*

60

Fl. *pp* *p sub.*

Ob. *pp*

A. Sax. *ff* *open*

Hn in F *ff* *p*

B. Dr. *ff* *sffz* *ff* *rim* *sffz*

Pno (Sost.) *Sost.* *Red.*

Vln *pp* *n*

Vla *pp* *n*

Vc. *f sub.*

Cb. *ff*

68

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

A. Sax. *p* *f* *pp*

B. Dr. *ff* *sffz* *sffz*

Vln *ff*

Vla *f sub.* *ff* *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Cb. *ff*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for measures 60 through 68. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Alto Saxophone (A. Sax.), and Horn in F (Hn in F). The brass section includes Trumpet in B-flat (B. Dr.) and Trombone (Cb.). The string section includes Violin (Vln), Viola (Vla), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Cb.). The percussion section includes Snare Drum (Sn. Dr.) and Bass Drum (B. Dr.). The piano part (Pno) is also present. The score features various dynamics such as *pp* (pianissimo), *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), *sffz* (sforzando), *p sub.* (piano subito), *open*, *rim*, *Sost.* (Sostenuto), and *Red.* (Ritardando). There are also performance markings like *n* (normal) and *f sub.* (fornatura). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The page number 17 is in the top right corner, and the title 'What story down there awaits its end?' is at the top center.

What story down there awaits its end?

# V

Bass Drum

Lento  $\text{♩} = 56$

Piano

*pp*

*pppp sub.*  $\curvearrowright$  *p*

*pp*

*pppp sub.*  $\curvearrowright$  *p*

*pp*

*secco*

*una corda*

*tre corde*

*una corda*

*tre corde*