

NICKY SOHN

WHAT HAPPENS IF PIPES BURST?

FOR STRING ENSEMBLE

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(2022)

Instrumentation

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Cello

Bass

Minimum 44331 players

Duration - ca. 9 minutes

Climate change is a global issue—which means, in a sinister way, that it is impersonal, detached to the everyday life of the city dweller, coming to light only when it appears on a screen.

On February of 2021, this changed for the people of Houston.

Hit with a freeze that disabled the power grid for much of the city, some 4.5 million homes and business lost power for days. Without the basic infrastructure to combat such conditions, people froze in their homes. Lives were lost.

And like that, the climate crisis had at last found itself on my own doorstep. Everything seemed frozen over: travel plans, grocery lists, roads, rendezvous, etc. For the first time in my fortunate life, my access to basic needs was cut off.

Sitting in sobriety amongst cast iron pots filled with boiling water for warmth, disconnected from my neighbors and the world around me, I felt for the first time the powerlessness humans have against nature—how a drop in temperature could reduce our normalcy to zero.

“What Happens if the Pipes Burst” was my way of questioning my personal safety during the Houston freeze, but is also a question of the many freezes that are to come if we continue to abuse the environment we live in.

What happens if pipes burst?

Nicky Sohn

Sploosh! ♩ = 120

Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass, measures 1-4. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The tempo is marked 'Sploosh! ♩ = 120'. The dynamics range from *ff* (fortissimo) to *f* (forte). The Violin I part starts with a rest in measures 1 and 2, then enters in measure 3 with a series of eighth notes. The other instruments play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents.



Musical score for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass, measures 5-8. The score continues in 4/4 time with the same key signature. The dynamics range from *p* (piano) to *ff* (fortissimo). The Violin I part has a dynamic marking of *p* in measure 5, *f* in measure 6, *ff* in measure 7, and *p* in measure 8. The other instruments continue their rhythmic patterns with varying dynamics.

9

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

ff f p f

ff f p f

ff f p f

ff p f

ff f p f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 9 through 12. It features five staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The music is in 4/4 time, with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The dynamics range from fortissimo (ff) to piano (p). The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, with some measures featuring accents and slurs. The tempo is marked with a double bar line.

13

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

p f p ff

p f p ff

p f p ff

fp f p ff

fp p ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 13 through 16. The music continues with the same five staves. The dynamics are more varied, including piano (p), fortissimo (ff), and fortissimo piano (fp). The rhythmic pattern remains consistent, with some measures showing a change in the bass line. The tempo is marked with a double bar line.

17

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

D.B.

A

fp ff fp ff

fp ff fp ff

fp ff fp ff

fp ff fp ff

fp ff fp ff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 through 20. It features a section labeled 'A' in a box above the first staff. The dynamics are primarily fortissimo piano (fp) and fortissimo (ff). The music shows a significant change in the first two staves, with a more complex rhythmic pattern. The tempo is marked with a double bar line.