

Ask Not

for tuba and sound file

by

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Program Notes:

Ask Not, for tuba and soundfile, is based on John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address of 1961. The computer part is derived from the famous line "And so my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country". It was premiered in Raleigh, NC, at the Southeastern Composers' League Forum on March 15, 2011.

Performance Notes:

The piece is intended to be quasi improvisational. The pitches and rhythm are given, but not the tempo. Events **do not** need to line up directly. If the player finishes a line, or section, before the CD part, the player should add, or repeat material; or add silence as needed. When one sees "4 beats", the player should simply count to 4, then come in with the next part. (One count per second works.) The tuba part and the CD part should ended at roughly the same time, but they don't have to. If the tuba ends early, simply repeat material from the last two lines until the CD part finishes.

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Sound file

Tuba

f

kas kas

4

kas kas not

not not not not

p

8

ask not kas not

4 beats

kas

mf *p*

13

kas ask

f *p*

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2
17

Musical notation for measures 2-17. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is empty. The lower staff contains a melodic line starting with a 10-beat rest, followed by a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The dynamic marking *mp* is placed below the first note.

21

1:19

1:31

Musical notation for measures 21-31. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains lyrics: "why", "wawa", and a 10-beat rest. The lower staff contains a melodic line with dynamic markings *sfz*, *sfz*, and *mf*. There are triplet markings over measures 28 and 30.

26

1:44

1:52

Musical notation for measures 26-31. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains lyrics: "will you", "wa", and a 4-beat rest. The lower staff contains a melodic line with triplet markings over measures 26, 27, and 30.

32

2:07

Musical notation for measures 32-38. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff contains lyrics: "fellow Americans", "4 beats", and "loco". The lower staff contains a melodic line with triplet markings over measures 32, 33, and 35, and an *8vb* marking over measure 37.

39

Musical notation for measures 39-45. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is empty. The lower staff contains a melodic line with various rhythmic patterns and accidentals.

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43

2:44

43-47: Musical notation in bass clef. The vocal line contains the lyrics "wawa" starting in measure 45. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. A "4 beats" label is in the right margin.

48

48-52: Musical notation in bass clef. The piano accompaniment continues with a melodic line featuring slurs and various intervals. A "4 beats" label is in the right margin.

53

3:00

53-56: Musical notation in bass clef. The vocal line contains the lyrics "fellow Americans" in measure 53 and "wawa" in measure 55. The piano accompaniment includes a dynamic marking *f* in measure 53 and a time signature change to common time (C) in measure 55. A double bar line is at the end.

57

3:17

57-61: Musical notation in bass clef. The vocal line contains the lyrics "not" in measure 57. The piano accompaniment features a dynamic marking *f* in measure 60 and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 61. A double bar line is at the end.

62

3:30

62-65: Musical notation in bass clef. The vocal line contains the lyrics "not will you" starting in measure 62. The piano accompaniment includes a dynamic marking *sfz* in measure 65. A "4 beats" label is in the right margin.

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4
67

musical score for measures 67-74. The staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: wawa, not, will you. There is a 4-beat rest for the word "not" starting at measure 71. A dynamic marking of *8^{vb}* is present at the start of measure 71. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes.

75 4:12

musical score for measures 75-79. The staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: will you. There is a 4-beat rest for the word "will you" starting at measure 75. The word "loco" is written above the staff. There are triplet markings (3) over measures 77 and 78. A dynamic marking of *f* is present at the end of measure 79.

80 4:33

musical score for measures 80-84. The staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: kas. There is a triplet marking (3) over measure 84. A dynamic marking of *f* is present at the start of measure 80.

85 4:42

musical score for measures 85-88. The staff is in bass clef. There are triplet markings (3) over measures 87 and 88. A dynamic marking of *f* is present at the start of measure 85.

89 4:55 4:59

musical score for measures 89-92. The staff is in bass clef. The lyrics are: fellow Americans. There is a 4-beat rest starting at measure 90. The music consists of eighth and quarter notes.

95

5:20

will you kas

3 3

This system contains measures 95 through 99. The vocal line has lyrics "will you" in measure 96 and "kas" in measure 98. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with two triplet markings over measures 98 and 99.

100 will you

ask

3 3 3 3

This system contains measures 100 through 104. The vocal line has the lyric "ask" in measure 101. The piano accompaniment features a rhythmic pattern with four triplet markings over measures 101, 102, 103, and 104.

105

5:49

will you fellow
3 times Americans
8^{vb} 10 beats
loco

p

This system contains measures 105 through 111. The vocal line has lyrics "will you 3 times" in measure 106 and "fellow Americans 10 beats loco" in measure 107. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet in measure 105 and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking in measure 107.

112

6:10

6:17

ask not fellow
Americans
8^{vb} *loco*

3

This system contains measures 112 through 116. The vocal line has lyrics "ask not" in measure 112 and "fellow Americans loco" in measure 114. The piano accompaniment includes a triplet in measure 116.

117

3 3

This system contains measures 117 through 121. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line with two triplet markings over measures 119 and 120.

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6

121

6:39

Musical score for measures 121-126. The score is written in bass clef. The lyrics are: "not", "4 beats", "8^{vb}", "fellow Americans", "loco". The music consists of a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a vocal line with a few notes and rests.

127 6:57

Musical score for measures 127-131. The score is written in bass clef. The music consists of a continuous bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes.

132 7:12

7:21

Musical score for measures 132-136. The score is written in bass clef. The lyrics are: "4 beats", "ask". The music consists of a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, and a vocal line with a few notes and rests. A dynamic marking *f* is present. A time signature change to 2/4 is indicated.

137

7:33

Musical score for measures 137-141. The score is written in bass clef. The music consists of a continuous bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes. A dynamic marking *8^{vb}* is present. A time signature change to common time (C) is indicated.

The composer welcomes any questions concerning *Ask Not* and would greatly appreciate hearing about performances. Inquires and programs should be sent to:

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