

**Meditations on the Writings of Vasily Kandinsky**  
for solo tuba, winds and percussion

Daniel Bukvich

**Red**

"...the sonority of fanfares with contributions from the tuba -- a persistent, intrusive, powerful tone."

**Violet**

"...the buzz and hum of double reeds -- oboes, shawms, english horns."

**Vermilion**


"...sounds like the tuba with interjections of powerful drum beats."

**Blue**

"...light blue -- flutes...deep blue -- bass tones of the organ with french horns, trombones, and all kinds of tubas."

**Purple**

"pure tones of little bells...called 'raspberry-colored sounds' in Russian."



# Meditations on the Writings of Vasily Kandinsky

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## Red

"...the sonority of fanfares with contributions from the tuba -- a persistent, intrusive, powerful tone."

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 68. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score is divided into six systems, each with a red arrow pointing to the start of the system. The first system includes a box with the tempo and a red arrow. The instruments are: Four Trumpets (B♭, D, E♭, A Piccolo Horns in F), Drums and Timpani, Tuba Solo, and Tuba. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings (55, mp). The tuba part is marked with a yellow dot and a red dot. The score ends with a large arrow pointing to the right, containing the number 4.



  $\frac{4}{4}$   $\text{♩} = 88$

C PICCOLO, E $\flat$  CLARINET,  
C FLUTES, OBOE, G ALTO  
FLUTE, E $\flat$  ALTO CLAR. OR SAX

HORNS IN F, ALTO TROMBONE (ALTO CLEF),  
TENOR TROMBONE (TENOR CLEF),  
SOLO TUBA (ALWAYS BASS CLEF)

SHARE DRUM *p*

C FLUTES, OBOE,  
A CLARINET,  
ENGLISH HORN

SOLO TUBA *mp*

ADD E $\flat$  ALTO

E $\flat$  ALTO OUT



  $\text{C}$   $\text{♩} = 88$

FOUR TRUMPETS:  
B $\flat$ , D, E $\flat$ , A PIZZOLLO;  
F HORNS

**MEASURES 1-3**

TRUMPETS:  $\text{F}\sharp$  key signature, 3/4 time signature. Measure 1:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 2:  $\text{C}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{D}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{E}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 3:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{C}\sharp$ 4 quarter.

TUBA: Measure 1:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 2:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 3:  $\text{A}\sharp$ 2 half.

DRUMS AND TIMPANI: Measure 1:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 2:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 3:  $\text{A}\sharp$ 2 half.

Measures 2 and 3 are marked with a  $\text{mf}$  dynamic.

**MEASURES 4-6**

TRUMPETS: Measure 4:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 5:  $\text{C}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{D}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{E}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 6:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{C}\sharp$ 4 quarter.

TUBA: Measure 4:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 5:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 6:  $\text{A}\sharp$ 2 half.

DRUMS AND TIMPANI: Measure 4:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 5:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 6:  $\text{A}\sharp$ 2 half.

**MEASURES 7-9**

TRUMPETS: Measure 7:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 8:  $\text{C}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{D}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{E}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 9:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{C}\sharp$ 4 quarter.

TUBA: Measure 7:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 8:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 9:  $\text{A}\sharp$ 2 half.

DRUMS AND TIMPANI: Measure 7:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 8:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 9:  $\text{A}\sharp$ 2 half.

**MEASURES 10-13**

TRUMPETS: Measure 10:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 11:  $\text{C}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{D}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{E}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 12:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{C}\sharp$ 4 quarter. Measure 13:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{G}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{A}\sharp$ 4 quarter,  $\text{B}\sharp$ 4 quarter.

TUBA: Measure 10:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 11:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 12:  $\text{A}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 13:  $\text{B}\sharp$ 2 half.

DRUMS AND TIMPANI: Measure 10:  $\text{F}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 11:  $\text{G}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 12:  $\text{A}\sharp$ 2 half. Measure 13:  $\text{B}\sharp$ 2 half.

Measures 10-12 are marked with a  $\text{mf}$  dynamic. Measure 13 is marked with a  $\text{p}$  dynamic.





# Violet

"...the buzz and hum of double reeds -- oboes, shawms, english horns."

1.

HARMONIC SINGING  
mp

FINGER CYMBALS  
L.V.  
p

WOODEN WIND CHIMES  
pp

2.

BOWED CYMBALS  
p

3.

OBOE, ENGLISH HORN,  
BASSOON - TENOR CLEF,  
BASSOON - BASS CLEF

RUBATO (CONDUCTED)

REFLECTION REPEAT  
PLAY LINE LEFT-TO-  
-RIGHT, THEN ...  
RIGHT-TO-LEFT

mp

4.

AD LIB

TUBA

mp





1/4 [J=100]

5.

FINGER CYMBALS  
TAMBOURINE

mp

OBDE, ENGLISH HORN,  
BASSOON-TENOR CLEF  
BASSOON-BASS CLEF

ALWAYS TOGETHER

SAXOPHONES: B $\flat$  S $\flat$ P,  
E $\flat$  ALTO, B $\flat$  TENDR,  
E $\flat$  BARI., TUBA S $\flat$ LD

RANDOM DOWN BEAT

mp

f

mp

mp

f

mp

mp

f

mp

f

mp

mf

f

6.

DOUBLE REEDS

HALF-STEP CLUSTER

OBDE: 4 $\sharp$  SPACE "F"  
ENGLISH HORN: SOUNDING "E"  
BASSOON: "E $\flat$ "  
BASSOON: "D"

TUBA

pp

FINGER CYMBALS

ENDS THIS COLOR

HARMONIC SINGING

ON TUBA CUT-OFF

mf

sf

TAMBOURINE

pp

# Vermilion

"...sounds like the tuba with interjections of powerful drum beats."



♩ [♩=100]

THREE-VOICE CANON  
(READ TUBA LINE)

TUBA  
1

MELODIC  
TOM-TOMS  
2

TUBA *mf*

TIMPANI  
3

ALL OTHER  
DRUMS  
4

*(mp)*

*f*

*mf*

*f*

*mp*

*mp*

*p*

D.C.

CODA

TOM-TOMS + TIMPANI  
IN UNISON WITH  
OTHER DRUMS

TUBA

TIMPANI  
SOLO

*sf* STRIKE "A" ONLY

REPEAT AD LIB AND  
FADE TO NOTHING





# Blue

"...light blue -- flutes...deep blue -- bass tones of the organ with french horns, trombones, and all kinds of tubas."

**6/8** [♩. = 44]

FLUTE SOLO

mp

9

THREE-VOICE CANON:  
THREE FLUTES

mp

15

EACH NINE-MEASURE LINE  
LABELED "THREE-VOICE CANON"  
IS ACTUALLY FIFTEEN (15)  
MEASURES LONG. VOICES 1  
AND 2 SUSTAIN THE TONE  
AT THE END OF EACH LINE  
UNTIL VOICE 3 ARRIVES

THREE-VOICE CANON:  
THREE FLUTES

mf

15

FOUR HORNS IN F

THREE VOICE CANON:  
THREE B $\flat$  CLARINETS

mf

15

ALL BASS CLEF BRASS  
INSTRUMENTS, INCLUDING  
SOLO TUBA



THREE-VOICE CANON:

E<sup>b</sup> INSTRUMENTS -  $\#$  VOICE 1: E<sup>b</sup> CLARINET E<sup>b</sup> BARTONE SAXOPHONE; VOICE 2: 1<sup>ST</sup> E<sup>b</sup> ALTO SAX; VOICE 3: 2<sup>ND</sup> E<sup>b</sup> ALTO SAX  
BASS CLEF INSTRUMENTS -  $\flat$  VOICE 1: SOLO TUBA, EUPHONIUM, TRON. 1; VOICE 2: BASSOONS, TRON. 2; VOICE 3: ENSEMBLE TUBAS, TROMBONE 3

THREE-VOICE CANON:

VOICE 1: FLUTE 1 8va, C TRUMPET, OBOE 1; VOICE 2: FLUTE 2 8va, C TRUMPET; VOICE 3: FLUTE 3 8va, C TRUMPET, OBOE 2



# Purple

"pure tones of little bells...called 'raspberry-colored sounds' in Russian."

**1.** PIANO (BOTH HANDS 8va) ALL KINDS OF BELLS AND TRIANGLES

**2.** RUBATO... AFTER 10 TO 15 SECONDS OF PIANO AND BELLS... TUBA

**3.**  $\frac{4}{4}$   $\text{♩} = 116$

PIANO, LARGE TOM-TOM, GONG, BASS DRUM

8 BASSO (2) (3) (4) ?

CONTINUE UNTIL  $\frac{4}{2}$  ?

REFLECTION REPEAT: PLAY THESE 2 LINES LEFT-TO-RIGHT, THEN RIGHT-TO-LEFT

REFLECTION REPEAT: PLAY THESE 2 LINES LEFT-TO-RIGHT, THEN RIGHT-TO-LEFT

ENTER AFTER TUBA + MEN'S VOICES - GRAD. CRES... - EVENTUALLY READ AS IF  $\text{♩}$

THIS ENTRANCE (4) OCCURS 32 MEASURES AFTER TUBA + MEN'S VOICES (3)

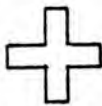
... ENTER AFTER TUBA + MEN'S VOICES - GRAD. CRES... - EVENTUALLY READ AS IF  $\text{♩}$

INSTRUMENTS AND WOMEN'S VOICES (SOUNDING 1 STEP) - EVENTUALLY READ AS IF  $\text{♩}$

SOLO TUBA + MEN'S VOICES - GRADUALLY CRES. AND ADD ALL BASS CLEF INSTRUMENTS... EVENTUALLY READ AS IF  $\text{♩}$

ADD  $E^b$  INSTRUMENTS WITH BASS CLEF INSTRUMENTS - EVENTUALLY READ AS IF  $\text{♩}$





C FLUTES, OBOES, C TRUMPETS  
 HORNS IN F  
 BASS CLEF INSTRUMENTS NOT PLAYING 3.

5.

PIANO/PERCUSSION OSTINATO AND 3, 4. CONTINUE UNTIL  $\frac{4}{2}$

GONG ROLL CLUES END OF THIS SECTION:

$\frac{4}{2}$  [♩ = 72]

STEMS-UP: FLUTES (8va), OBOES, E<sup>b</sup> CLAR., E<sup>b</sup> ALTO SAXOPHONES, B<sup>b</sup> BASS CLAR., ORCHESTRA BELLS/VIBES/  
 STEMS-DOWN: B<sup>b</sup> CLARINETS (SOME 8va), B<sup>b</sup> SOPRANO SAXOPHONE  
 SLEIGHBELLS ON HANDLE:

SWS. C.M. ROLL (WITH ALL WHOLE NOTES AND DOUBLE-WHOLE NOTES)

TUBA

GONG  
 BASS DRUM

E<sup>b</sup> TRUMPET, B<sup>b</sup> TRUMPETS, HORNS IN F, B<sup>b</sup> TENOR SAX, BASSOON (BASS CLEF), BARITONE SAXOPHONE, E<sup>b</sup> CONTRA CLARINET, TROMBONE (TENOR CLEF), TROMBONE (BASS CLEF), EUPHONIUM, TUBAS (B)

TRUMPETS IN B<sup>b</sup>, D, E<sup>b</sup>, A PICC.  
 HORNS IN F

TUBA

LIST ⑥ AT  $\frac{1}{2}$

DRUMS

TUBA

ALL INSTRUMENTS

DRUMS

TUBA

GONG

BASS DRUM

PIANO

+ PERCUSSION

TUBA

FOUR TRUMPETS:  
B $\flat$ , D, E $\flat$ , A, PICCOLO;  
HORNS

TRIANGLES AND BELLS