

Four-Letter-Word

for reed quintet

Robbie McCarthy

2012

Commissioned by The Paradise Winds, Phoenix, Arizona.

Instrumentation:

Oboe

Soprano Saxophone

Clarinet

Bass Clarinet

Bassoon

Composers notes:

When I was in grade school, my favorite song was Smashmouth's "Walkin' on the Sun." This was the kind of favorite song I would play over and over until my friends went home sick of it. It never occurred to me to listen to the rest of the album. One day I asked my mom how to operate the new stereo, and specifically how to listen to the rest of the CD. Tape players were easier for me. I remember her looking at the liner notes and telling me that I shouldn't, because there are bad words in the songs. Since I am not exempt from human curiosity, I immediately looked at the magical book that my mom just put back on my shelf. The next day, I had some friends over.

"Guys, in one of the Smashmouth songs, it says fuck."

That was a mighty big thing for a second-grader to say. Slack-jawed, my friends looked at me, and then slightly upward. Confused at the latter part of their body language, I looked behind me to see my dad, with the same expression on his face.

"Four-Letter-Word" is the first time in my life I have spoken to my dad about this moment. He never mentioned it, and I never asked him.

As it turns out, eight-year-old Robbie was wrong. Smashmouth says 'fuck' in THREE songs. And that's just the start of the list... So Dad- here are three more songs that might be easier on your ears.

Four-Letter-Word

I. First Offense ♩ = 80

Robbie McCarthy

Music score for the first system, measures 1-5. The instruments are Oboe, Soprano Sax, Clarinet in B $\flat$, Bass Clarinet, and Bassoon. The time signature is 4/4, which changes to 2/4 at the end of measure 5. The key signature has one flat (B $\flat$). The Oboe part starts with a *mf* dynamic and features a triplet in measure 4. The Bassoon part also features a triplet in measure 4. The Clarinet in B $\flat$ and Bass Clarinet parts are mostly silent, with the Clarinet in B $\flat$ playing a single note in measure 5.

Music score for the second system, measures 6-10. The instruments are Oboe (Ob.), Soprano Sax (S. Sx.), Clarinet in B $\flat$ (B $\flat$ Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The time signature is 2/4, which changes to 4/4 at the start of measure 7. The key signature has one flat (B $\flat$). The Oboe part starts with a *mf* dynamic and features a triplet in measure 10. The Soprano Sax part features a triplet in measure 10. The Clarinet in B $\flat$ part features a triplet in measure 10. The Bass Clarinet part features a triplet in measure 10. The Bassoon part features a triplet in measure 10.

> 160

10

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

fp *mp* *mf* *f*

fp *mp* *f*

fp *mp* *mf* *f*

fp *mp* *f*

fp *mp*

14

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

fp *f*

fp *mp* *f*

mf

fp *f* *mp*

fp *f*

18

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mf

mp

mp

fp

fp

22

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

f

mp

f

mp

f

mp

25

Ob. *p* *ff*

S. Sx. *p* *ff*

B $\flat$ Cl. *p* *ff*

B. Cl. *p* *ff*

Bsn. *p* *ff*

28

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

31

Ob. *ff* *mf* *p* *mp*

S. Sx. *f* *f* *p* *mp*

B $\flat$ Cl. *mp* *ff* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *f* *p*

35

Ob. *p* *f*

S. Sx. *p* *f*

B $\flat$ Cl. *p* *f*

B. Cl. *p* *f*

Bsn. *p* *f*

44

Ob.

S. Sax.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mf < *f*

ff

ff

ff

ff

50

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mp

ff

ff

ff

ff

mp

56

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

p

mp

ff

ff

mp

mp

mp

61

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

p

p

p

p

mp

66

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

fp $\triangleleft$ *f*

mp $\triangleleft$ *f*

fp $\triangleleft$ *f*

mf $\triangleleft$ *f*

fp $\triangleleft$ *f*

fp $\triangleleft$ *f*

70

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mp

fp

mf

f

mp

mp

II. Second Chance ♩ < 60

74

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

p

f

ff

p

f

ff

p

f

ff

p

f

ff

mp

mp

mp

p

79

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

p

mp

mf

p

mp

mp

p

mp

p

mp

84

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mp

mf

*mp*³

mf

p

p

mf

mp

poco piu mosso

88

Ob.

S. Sax.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mp *mf* *f* *mp*

mp *mf* *f* *mp*

mp *mf* *f* *mp*

mp *mf* *f* *mp*

mp *mf* *f*

95

Ob.

S. Sax.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

p *p* *mp* *p* *p* *p*

p *p* *mp* *p* *p* *p*

p *p* *mp* *p* *p* *p*

p *p* *mp* *p* *p* *p*

p *p* *mp* *p* *p* *p*

rit. *a tempo*

102

Ob. *mp* *mf*

S. Sx. *mp* *mf*

B $\flat$ Cl. *mp* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mp* *espress.* *mf*

107

Ob. *mp* *p*

S. Sx. *mp* *p*

B $\flat$ Cl. *mp* *p*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *mp* *mp*

$\text{♩} = 120$

112

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

f

mp ³

mf

mp

mp ³

p

mf

116

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mf

mp

120

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mf *mp*

124

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

f *mp* *f* *mp*

126

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

f

mp

129

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

f

mp

131

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

132

133

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

134

135

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

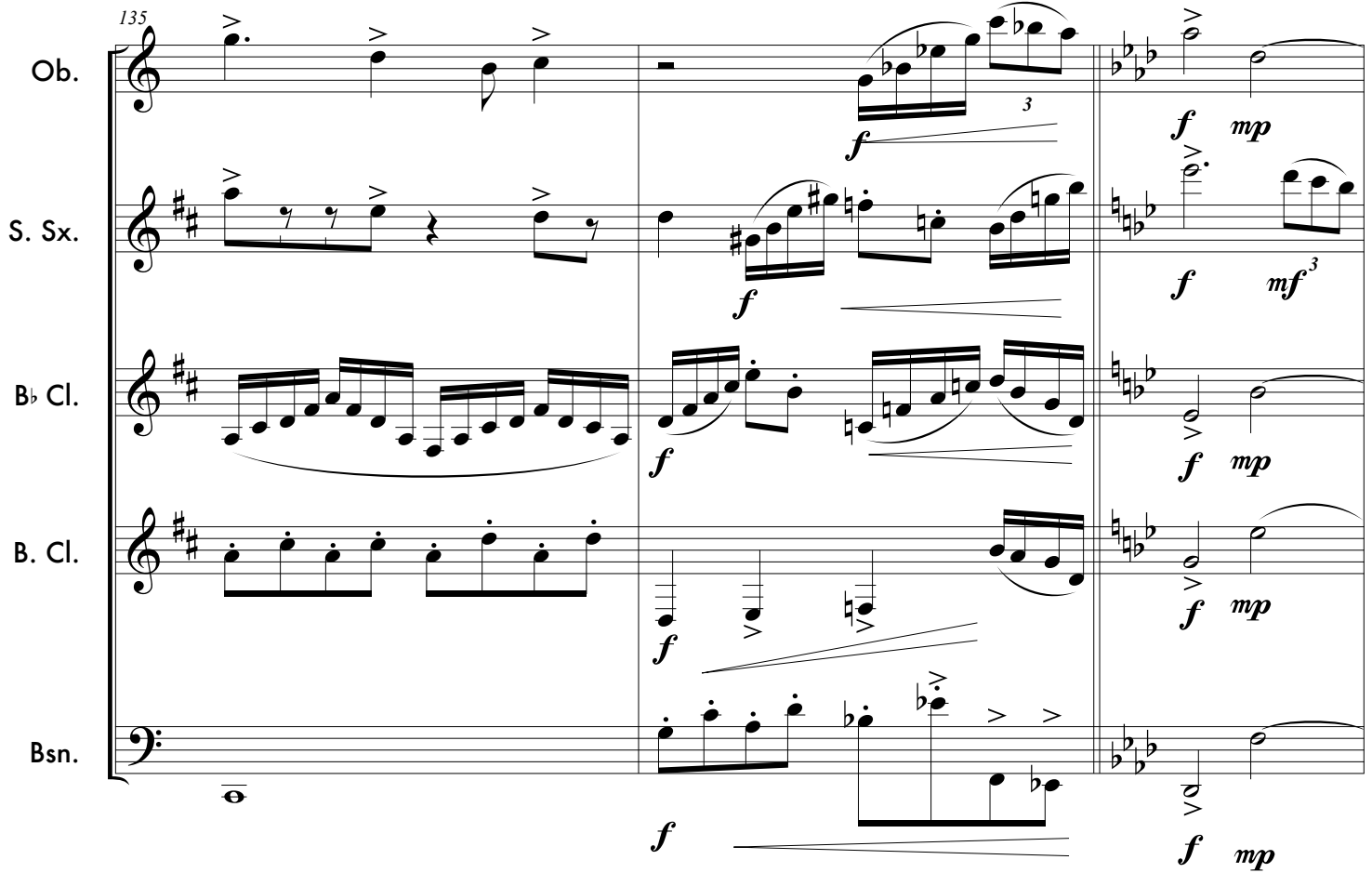
f *mp*

f *mf*³

f *mp*

f *mp*

f *mp*



138

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mf

*mf*³

mf



rit.

140

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mf ³

mp ³

mp

mp

mp

143

a tempo

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

p

mp

mp

mf

p

mp

p

p

p

148

Ob. *mf*

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl. *mp* *mp* ³ *mf*

B. Cl. *mp* *p*

Bsn. *mp* *mp*

152

Ob. *mp* *mf* *f*

S. Sx. *mf* *f*

B $\flat$ Cl. *mp* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *mf* *f*

III. Final Warning ♩ > 160

157

Ob. *f* *mp*

S. Sx. *f* *mp*

B $\flat$ Cl. *f* *mp*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *f*

160

Ob.

S. Sx. *mf*

B $\flat$ Cl. *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *f* *mp*

Bsn. *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

164

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

f

mp

mf

f

mf

f

167

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mp

mp

mf

p

p

mp

170

Ob.

mf

f ³

S. Sax.

mf

B $\flat$ Cl.

p

B. Cl.

f *mp*

Bsn.

175

Ob.

f

3

S. Sax.

f

3

B $\flat$ Cl.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

B. Cl.

mf

Bsn.

mf

[illegible][illegible]

186

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

ff

fp

ff

ff

ff

slower, $\text{♩} = 120$

190

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mp

p

p

p

p

p

196

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mp

p

mp

p

pp

p

mp

soft chromatic noodling, steady triplets, chalumeau register only.

200

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

p

mp

p

204

Ob.

S. Sax.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

accel.

210

Ob.

S. Sax.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

f

f

f

f

f

 > 168

214

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff



218

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

mf

ff

mf

ff

mf

ff

mf

ff



221

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Measure 221: Ob. has a whole rest. S. Sx. has a quarter rest followed by an eighth-note triplet of F#4, G#4, A#4, then a quarter note B4. B♭ Cl. has a quarter note F#3. B. Cl. has a quarter note F#3. Bsn. has a quarter note F#2. Measure 222: Ob. has a quarter rest. S. Sx. has a quarter note B4. B♭ Cl. has an eighth-note triplet of F#4, G#4, A#4, then a quarter note B4. B. Cl. has a quarter note F#3. Bsn. has a quarter note F#2. Measure 223: Ob. has a quarter note B4. S. Sx. has an eighth-note triplet of F#4, G#4, A#4, then a quarter note B4. B♭ Cl. has a quarter note F#3. B. Cl. has a quarter note F#3. Bsn. has a quarter note F#2. Measure 224: Ob. has a whole rest. S. Sx. has a quarter note B4. B♭ Cl. has a quarter note F#3. B. Cl. has a quarter note F#3. Bsn. has a quarter note F#2.

225

Ob.

S. Sx.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Measure 225: Ob. has a quarter note B4. S. Sx. has a quarter note B4. B♭ Cl. has a quarter note F#3. B. Cl. has a quarter note F#3. Bsn. has a quarter note F#2. Measure 226: Ob. has a quarter note B4. S. Sx. has a quarter note B4. B♭ Cl. has a quarter note F#3. B. Cl. has a quarter note F#3. Bsn. has a quarter note F#2. Measure 227: Ob. has a quarter note B4. S. Sx. has a quarter note B4. B♭ Cl. has a quarter note F#3. B. Cl. has a quarter note F#3. Bsn. has a quarter note F#2. Measure 228: Ob. has a quarter note B4. S. Sx. has a quarter note B4. B♭ Cl. has a quarter note F#3. B. Cl. has a quarter note F#3. Bsn. has a quarter note F#2.

229

Ob. *mf*

S. Sax. *mf* *f*

B $\flat$ Cl. *mf* *f*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

232

Ob. *ff*

S. Sax. *ff*

B $\flat$ Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

235

Ob. *mf* *ff* *ff* *p* *accel.*

S. Sx. *mf* *ff* *ff* *p*

B $\flat$ Cl. *mf* *f* *ff* *p*

B. Cl. *mf* *f* *ff* *p*

Bsn. *mf* *f* *ff* *p*

238

Ob. *cresc.* *f* *mp*

S. Sx. *cresc.* *f* *mp*

B $\flat$ Cl. *cresc.* *f* *mp*

B. Cl. *cresc.* *f* *mp*

Bsn. *cresc.* *f* *mp*

a tempo

240

Ob.

S. Sax.

B $\flat$ Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff