

# Idea of Solitude

*For Brass Quintet*

*By: Daniel J. Armistead*

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## Program Notes

*How fragile and fearful our world is of the things that are beyond our control...*

This past year (2020), has redefined my concept of solitude in a way that I and many others have never experienced before. Unexpectedly thrown into a world of aloneness and segregation from society due to the Covid-19 Pandemic is not something I would wish upon anyone, especially to those who rely heavily on their interactions and relationships with others for their mental well-being and success as an individual. Having experienced these impacts firsthand, I often find myself for days upon days with nothing to do but burry my head deep into the abyss that is my artform of composition.

A career in composition in itself is already a lonely one when you consider the number of hours you sit alone with your thoughts, developing your ideas, writing and re-writing sections again and again until just perfect. Fingers at the keyboard, and head in your score. I found myself experiencing a solitude unlike any other. A position where you go out anywhere in public, for a walk, to the grocery store, to the gas station, and people are genuinely scared...scared of you, your friends, and your family, if you come even a little bit close to them at all.

*How fragile and fearful our world is of the things that are beyond our control...*

To have lived through and experienced essentially a wasted year in our already short lives seems almost unthinkable. But as I worked day after day, playing, writing, and listening in this seclusion, it allowed myself to gain an appreciation for my calm; to experience our ever growing and better-connected world that we live in at a standstill; to finally take the time to question *who I am*, and *what I want*...

In *Notes of Solitude*, I pose this question to performers or listeners alike—was any of this *really* wasted time? Or was this just what you needed to better gain a sense of appreciation, self-respect, and mindfulness once given the opportunity to seize control over our lives again?

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# Ides of Solitude

For Brass Quintet

DANIEL J. ARMITSEAD

(2021, ASCAP)

Lamenting, ♩=75

B♭ Trumpet 1/  
Flugelhorn

B♭ Trumpet 2

F Horn

Trombone

Tuba

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

9

rit. . . . .

straight mute

To Flug.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.



14

Un-rushed, ♩=75

rubato colla parte

Flugelhorn

14

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

*pulsing*

*p*

*pulsing*

*p*

*mp*

20

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

*mf*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*mp*

*mp*

*poco rall.*

24

24

A tempo

Tpt. 1

Hn.

Tbn.

Tba.

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*p*

*>p*

28 poco rall. . . . .

Musical score for measures 28-31. Instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., Tba. Dynamics: *mf*, *p*, *mp*.

32 **32** **A tempo** Trumpet in B $\flat$  open

Musical score for measures 32-35. Instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., Tba. Dynamics: *mp*, *f*, *mf*.

36 **36** **Suspension**

Musical score for measures 36-39. Instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., Tba. Dynamics: *p*, *sfp*, *mp*, *mf*. Includes marking *expressivo*.

**Stringendo  
poco accel.**

40

Musical score for measures 40-44. The score is for five brass instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The music is in 4/4 time and features dynamic markings of *mf*, *f*, and *fp*. The key signature changes from one sharp to one flat between measures 42 and 43. A large red watermark 'WATERM...' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

**45 Ominous, ♩=90**

45

Musical score for measures 45-48. The score is for five brass instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The music is in 3/4 time and features dynamic markings of *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. The key signature changes from one flat to one sharp between measures 46 and 47. A large red watermark 'WATERM...' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

49

Musical score for measures 49-52. The score is for five brass instruments: Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Hn., Tbn., and Tba. The music is in 4/4 time and features dynamic markings of *mp* and *mf*. A large red watermark 'WATERM...' is overlaid diagonally across the score.