

## **BAGHDAD**

Like most Americans, my relationship to the Iraq War has been very abstract. We see very little evidence in our daily lives that we are “a nation at war”, nor are we asked for any sacrifice. Because we do not have a universal draft, my contact with those who are involved in the war or have suffered from it, is limited by the varying degrees of socio-economic and subculture contact that I have. Our lives have gone on in this decade in relative prosperity, comfort, and safety, blissfully unaware of a large-scale military operation that is debilitating our country’s well-being and ethical core.

And so, in trying to find a meaningful artistic response to what has been an ongoing travesty and tragedy – albeit maintained at an abstract level for many Americans – I found I could only best make an abstract response. BAGHDAD is a set of variations on the pitches Bb-A-G-B-D-A-D. It may be performed by 14 strings with one player per part, or by larger string orchestra with the divisi maintained and the solo parts as noted.

– John Kennedy  
July, 2006

# BAGHDAD

(2006)

John Kennedy

A quagmire ♩ = 60

The musical score is for the piece "Baghdad" by John Kennedy, composed in 2006. It is in 4/4 time and marked "A quagmire" with a tempo of ♩ = 60. The score is arranged for a string quartet and double bass. The instruments are Violin IA, Violin IB, Violin IC, Violin IIA, Violin IIB, Violin IIC, Viola A, Viola B, Viola C, Violoncello A, Violoncello B, Violoncello C, Double Bass A, and Double Bass B. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The score begins with a rest for all instruments. The first melodic entry is in Violin IA at measure 4, marked *pp* and *N.V.* (no vibrato). It features a glissando in measure 6. Violin IB and Violin IC enter in measure 5, also marked *pp* and *N.V.*. The Viola section (A, B, and C) enters in measure 5 with a *pp* dynamic and *N.V.* marking. The Viola parts feature glissandos and are marked with *NB* (no bow) and *RB* (right bow) directions. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts remain silent throughout the shown measures.

8

Violin I (Vln. I):  
Measures 8-13: NB → RB → NB → RB → NB  
Measures 11-13: gliss. mp

Violin II (Vln. II):  
Measures 8-13: N.V. √, gliss., RB  
Measures 11-13: pp, mp

Viola (Vla.):  
Measures 8-13: NB → RB → NB  
Measures 11-13: mp

Violoncello (Vc.):  
Measures 8-13: N.V., gliss., mp  
Measures 11-13: mp, gliss.

Double Bass (Db.):  
Measures 8-13: N.V., mp

15 **A**

**Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 15-17. Dynamics: *mf*. Articulation: accents, *non trem.*. Includes a triplet in measure 16.

**Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 15-17. Dynamics: *mf*. Articulation: accents, *non trem.*. Includes a triplet in measure 16.

**Viola (Vla.):** Measures 15-17. Dynamics: *mf*. Articulation: accents, *non trem.*. Includes a triplet in measure 16.

**Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 15-17. Dynamics: *mf* (measures 15-16), *f* (measure 17). Articulation: accents, *non trem.*. Includes a triplet in measure 16.

**Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 15-17. Dynamics: *f*. Articulation: accents, *non trem.*. Includes triplets in measures 15 and 16.

**Technical markings:** *mf*, *f*, *non trem.*, accents (>), triplets (3), and *NB* (Nota Bene) markings.

153 **J**

Vln. I *p*

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II (TUTTI) *normal bow* *mp* 3 3

Vln. II (TUTTI) *normal bow* *mp*

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla. (TUTTI) *normal bow* *mp* 3 3 → R.B. *move ad. lib. between normal and rough bow*

Vla. (TUTTI) *normal bow* *mp* 3

Vla.

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

Vc.

Db.

Db.

156

**Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 156-158. Features glissandos and slurs. Measure 158 includes a *gliss.* marking.

**Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 156-158. Features triplets and slurs. Measure 158 includes a *gliss.* marking.

**Viola (Vla.):** Measures 156-158. Features triplets and slurs. Measure 158 includes a *gliss.* marking.

**Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 156-158. Features triplets and slurs. Measure 158 includes a *gliss.* marking.

**Double Bass (Db.):** Measures 156-158. Features slurs.

**Performance Instructions:**

- (TUTTI) normal bow** (Violin II, Viola)
- mp** (Violin II, Viola, Violoncello)
- move ad. lib. between normal and rough bow** (Viola, Violoncello)
- arco** (Violoncello)
- gliss.** (Violoncello)
- mp** (Violoncello)
- arco** (Violoncello)
- mp** (Violoncello)
- arco** (Violoncello)
- mp** (Violoncello)
- gliss.** (Violoncello)

159

The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Vln. I:** Three staves. Measures 159-161 feature a melodic line with frequent glissandos and slurs. Dynamic markings include *mp*.
- Vln. II:** Three staves. Measures 159-161 feature a melodic line with triplets and glissandos. Dynamic markings include *mp*.
- Vla.:** Three staves. Measures 159-161 feature a rhythmic accompaniment with triplets and a section marked *R.B.* (Right Bow) with a wavy line indicating a tremolo effect.
- Vc.:** Three staves. Measures 159-161 feature a melodic line with triplets and glissandos. Dynamic markings include *mp*.
- Db.:** Two staves. Measures 159-161 feature a low, sustained accompaniment.

Key musical notations and markings include:

- gliss.* (glissando)
- mp* (mezzo-piano)
- Triplet markings (3)
- R.B.* (Right Bow)
- Wavy lines indicating tremolo or sustained bowing
- Slurs and accents

K

162

The musical score is divided into two systems of measures, 162 and 163. The instruments are arranged as follows:

- Vln. I:** Three staves. Measure 162 features glissandos on the first and second strings. Measure 163 features glissandos on the first and second strings, with a *8va* marking above the first staff.
- Vln. II:** Three staves. Measure 162 features triplets on the first and second strings. Measure 163 features triplets on the first and second strings, with glissandos on the first string.
- Vla.:** Three staves. Measure 162 features a triplet on the first string. Measure 163 features triplets on the first and second strings, with glissandos on the first string.
- Vc.:** Three staves. Measure 162 features triplets on the first and second strings, with glissandos on the first string. Measure 163 features triplets on the first and second strings, with glissandos on the first string.
- Db.:** Two staves. Measure 162 features a triplet on the first string. Measure 163 features a triplet on the first string, with glissandos on the first string.

Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) in measures 162 and 163. A *R.B.* (Right Bass) marking is present in measure 162 on the first Viola staff. A *8va* (8va) marking is present in measure 163 on the first Violin I staff.



164 (8)

The musical score consists of ten staves. The first three staves are Violins I (Vln. I), the next three are Violins II (Vln. II), the next three are Violas (Vla.), and the last four are Cellos (Vc.) and Double Basses (Db.).

- Violins I (Vln. I):** Measures 164-166. Measure 164 starts with a circled 8. The part features eighth-note patterns with glissandos (gliss.) and slurs.
- Violins II (Vln. II):** Measures 164-166. Measure 164 starts with a circled 8. The part features eighth-note patterns with triplets (3) and glissandos (gliss.).
- Violas (Vla.):** Measures 164-166. The part features eighth-note patterns with triplets (3) and a dynamic marking of *p* (piano) at the end of each measure.
- Cellos (Vc.):** Measures 164-166. The part features eighth-note patterns with triplets (3) and glissandos (gliss.).
- Double Basses (Db.):** Measures 164-166. The part features eighth-note patterns with triplets (3) and glissandos (gliss.).

167 (8)

The musical score is arranged in a system with the following parts from top to bottom:

- Vln. I (Violin I): Three staves. Measure 167 starts with a circled 8. The first staff has a *gliss.* marking over a triplet of eighth notes.
- Vln. II (Violin II): Three staves. Measure 167 starts with a circled 8. The first staff has a *gliss.* marking over a triplet of eighth notes.
- Vla. (Viola): Three staves. Measure 167 starts with a circled 8. The first staff has a *gliss.* marking over a triplet of eighth notes.
- Vc. (Violoncello): Three staves. Measure 167 starts with a circled 8. The first staff has a *gliss.* marking over a triplet of eighth notes.
- Db. (Double Bass): Two staves. Measure 167 starts with a circled 8. The first staff has a *gliss.* marking over a triplet of eighth notes.

Measure 168 continues the patterns with various triplet and glissando markings. Measure 169 concludes the section with similar markings. The score uses a variety of note values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

170 (8)

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vln. II

Vla.

Vla.

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

Vc.

Db.

Db.

The musical score consists of 12 staves. The first three staves are for Violin I (Vln. I), the next three for Violin II (Vln. II), and the next three for Viola (Vla.). The bottom three staves are for Violoncello (Vc.), Double Bass (Db.), and another Double Bass (Db.). The score is in 3/4 time and begins at measure 170. The first violin parts feature eighth-note patterns with glissando markings. The second violin parts include triplet markings. The viola parts feature tremolos and triplet markings. The cello and double bass parts are mostly sustained notes with some triplet markings. The key signature has one flat (B-flat).

173 (8) *gliss.*

The musical score for page 39, measures 173-176, is arranged as follows:

- Violins I (Vln. I):** Three staves. Measure 173 features a glissando (marked *gliss.*) and a triplet of eighth notes. Measures 174-176 contain sustained notes.
- Violins II (Vln. II):** Three staves. Measures 173-176 contain sustained notes.
- Violas (Vla.):** Three staves. Measure 173 has a wavy line indicating a glissando. Measures 174-176 feature sustained notes with wavy lines above them.
- Cellos (Vc.):** Three staves. Measures 173-176 feature sustained notes with triplet markings (3) above them.
- Double Basses (Db.):** Two staves. Measures 173-176 feature sustained notes.

178

The musical score for page 40, measures 178-184, is arranged as follows:

- Violins I (Vln. I):** Six staves, all containing a whole rest in every measure.
- Violins II (Vln. II):** Six staves, all containing a whole rest in every measure.
- Violas (Vla.):** Three staves, each containing a tremolo symbol (a wavy line) and a whole rest in every measure.
- Cellos (Vc.):** Three staves, each containing a tremolo symbol (a wavy line) and a whole rest in every measure.
- Double Basses (Db.):** Two staves. The upper staff contains a melodic line with a triplet in measure 181. The lower staff contains a sustained chord with a tremolo effect.