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## May Day: for orchestra

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# M A Y \* D A Y

For Orchestra

By

Spencer J. Thun

Accepted in Partial Completion Of the Requirements for the Degree Master of Music

Kathleen L. Kitto, Dean of the Graduate School

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chair, Dr. Bruce Hamilton

Dr. Lesley Sommer

Dr. Roger Briggs

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#### Note

Aside from the pursuit of strictly musical ideas, a significant goal throughout the composition of this piece was in allowing my social and political interests to inform the work's aesthetic properties. As a result, it occupies a hazy region between the absolute and the referential, being free from a strict narrative, yet intended to suggest symbols that are frequently associated with May 1st. The conflicting themes and imagery that surround this day have proven to be a great source of inspiration and seem well suited for the craft of composition, a creative medium that is firmly rooted in the notion of tension and release.

While the pre-Christian origins of the holiday can be traced back to various points around the globe in the Eastern and Western hemispheres, its celebration has significantly expanded in meaning within the last century. While its traditional imagery crystallized into symbols of the innocent, serene, and pastoral, capitalism's rise and the emergence of a new employing class furnished it with additional meaning throughout the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Due in part to its proximity to the Chicago Haymarket riots on May 4th, 1886, the holiday has since served as a surrogate memorial for the affair and has continually evolved throughout the decades into an all-purpose day of rage for the resistant and disenfranchised. Ironically, its meaning has come full circle within the last half-century, as sustainability and the search for alternative energy sources have made their way to the forefront of the public debate. It is precisely this nexus that I wish to show the listener: a point of convergence between the pastoral, industrial, and resistant.

### \*

#### Instrumentation

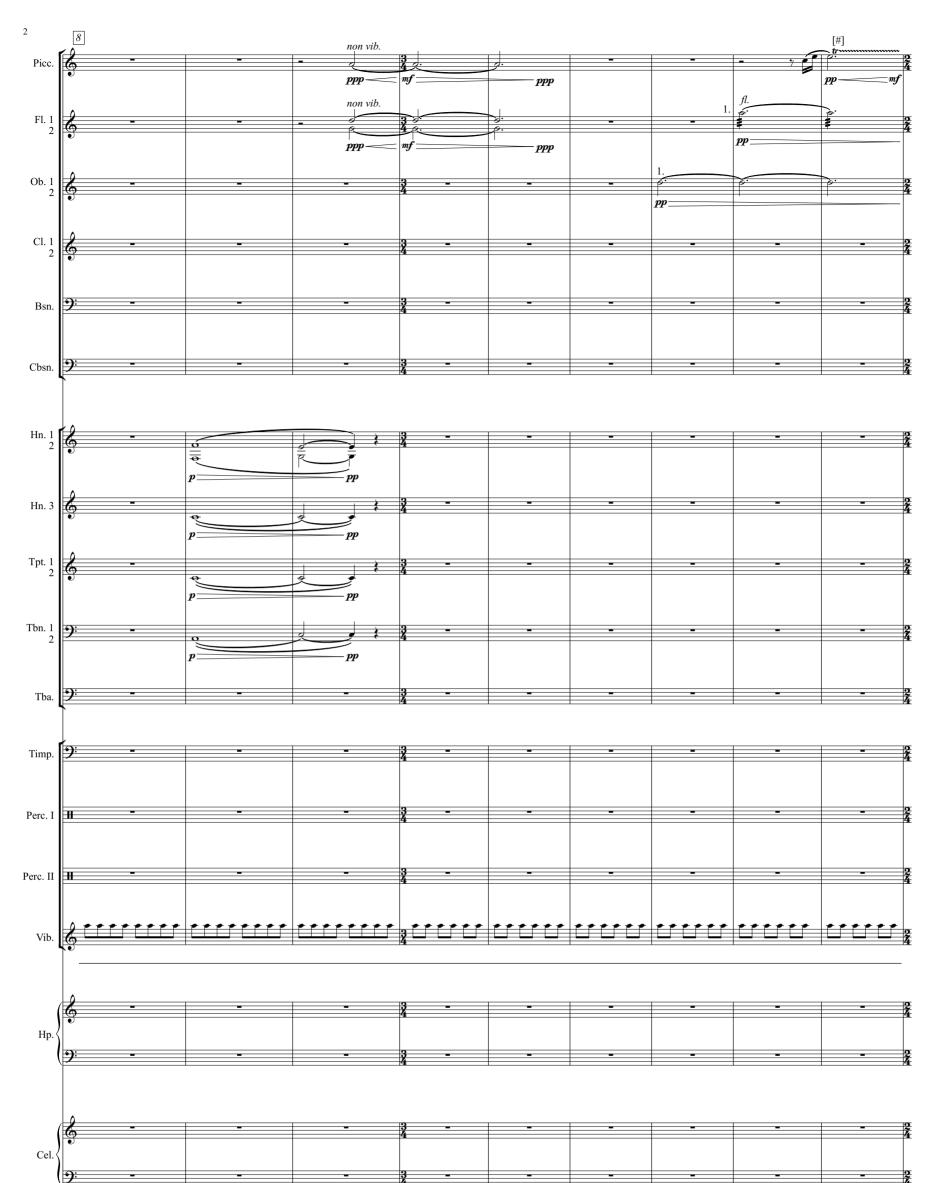
Piccolo	Timpani (5)	
2 Flutes	Percussion I	Large susp. cymbal
2 Oboes		Tam-tam
2 Clarinets in Bb		Temple blocks (5)
Bassoon		Triangle
Contrabassoon	Percussion II	Small susp. cymbal
3 Horns in F		Bass drum
2 Trumpets in C		Brake drums (3)
2 Trombones		Siren
Tuba	Vibraphone	
	Celeste	
	Harp	
	Strings	

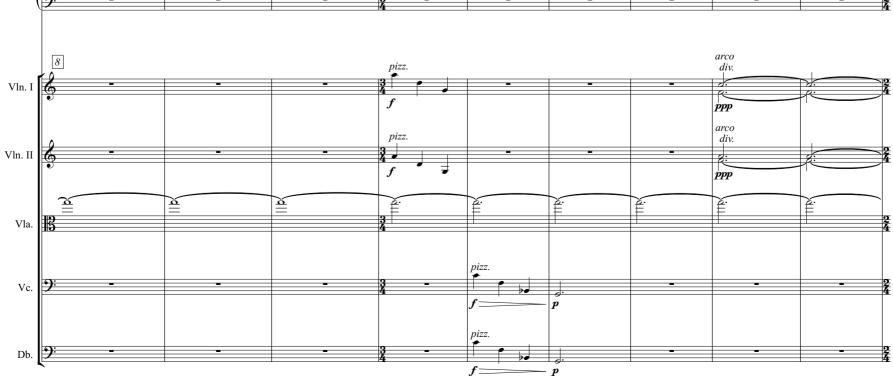
Duration: 9'



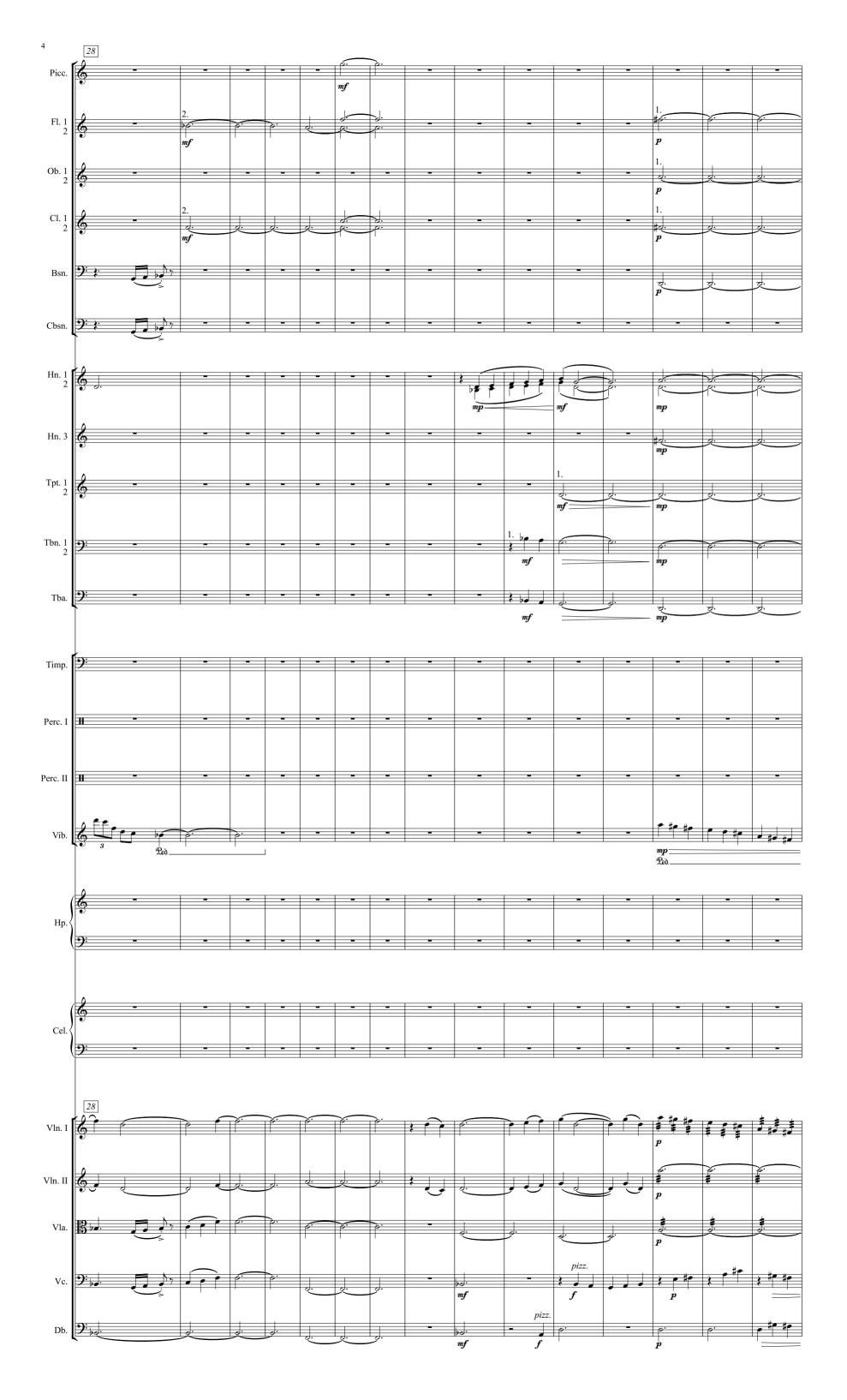
## MAY\*DAY



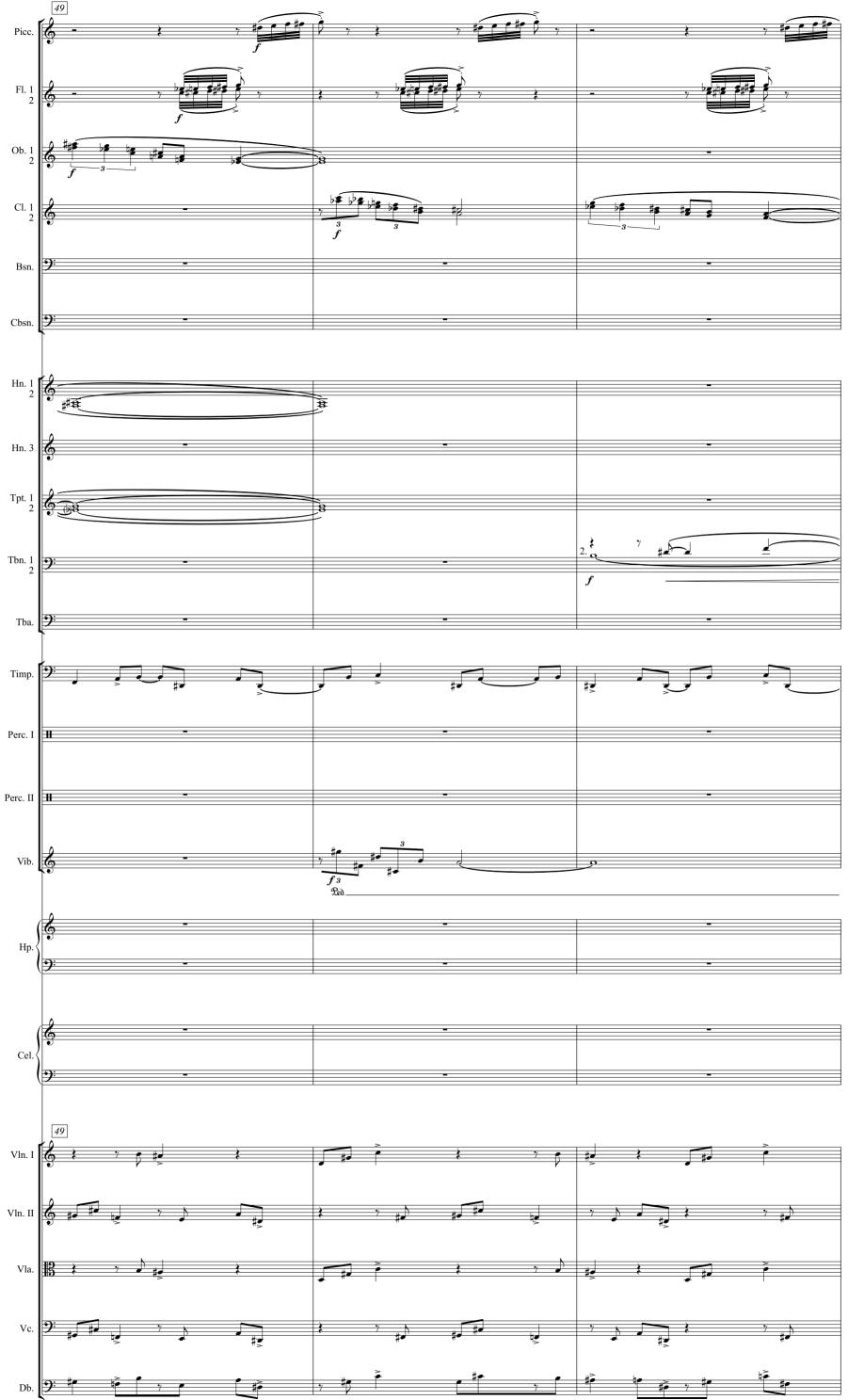










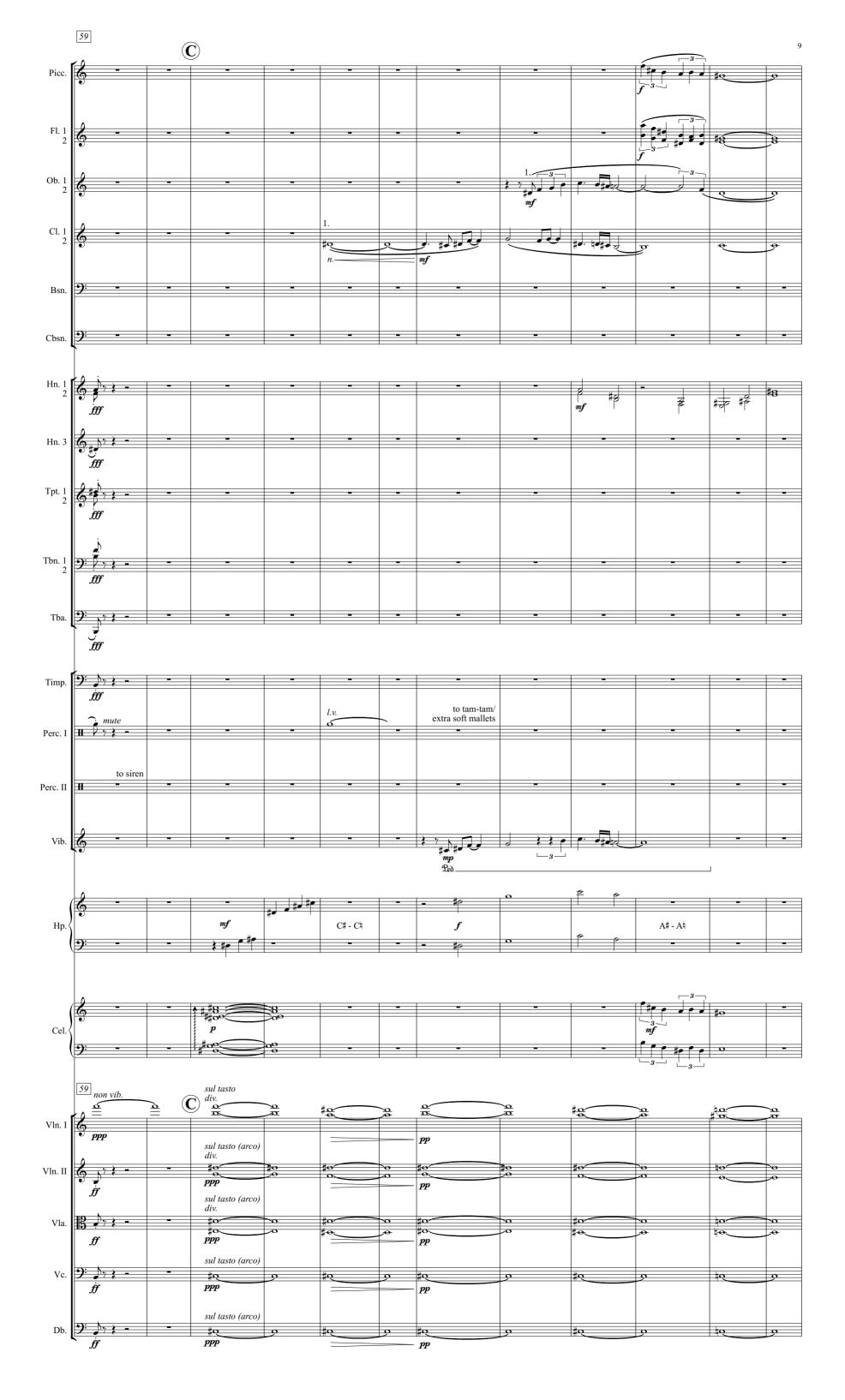






















Cel.

