

Baptism

for two flutes, two drums, glockenspiel, and
organ (harmonium or electric keyboard)

by Kyle Gann
1983

Baptism (1983) was written as a companion piece for *Mountain Spirit*, back when I was first living on my own in Chicago and thought I might try to put together my own Steve Reich-style chamber ensemble. I was much involved in American Indian music at the time, and *Baptism* is an ecumenical attempt to progressively intertwine two hymns: the Apache hymn "Daxiiasee Bizraaa" (Son of Our Father) of the Native American church (recorded in 1969 on the old ASCH Mankind Series), and the Protestant hymn "Jesus Paid It All." Towards the end of the piece the two hymns get separated out and quoted in their entirety. The piece proceeds through seven stages (I had in mind at the time Swedenborg's account of the seven days of creation or something), marked by an accelerating and decelerating arch form of tempo shifts. As a kind of cornerstone of my "naive pictorialism" aesthetic, the piece is one I still feel affectionate towards. It is dedicated to the conductor James MacDonald, a good friend who conducted the premiere.

World premiere: May 13, 1983, at ARC Gallery in Chicago

Duration: 12 minutes

to James MacDonald

Baptism

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calm, stately!
 $\text{♩} = 80$

The musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is for Flute 1, the second for Flute 2, the third for Drum 1, the fourth for Drum 2, and the bottom two for Organ or Synthesizer. The time signature for the first four staves is $\frac{5}{4}$, while the organ/synthesizer staves are in $\frac{5}{4}$. The key signature is $\#$ major. Dynamics include *p* and *pp*. Measure 1: Flute 1 and 2 play eighth-note patterns. Drums play eighth-note patterns. Organ/synthesizer rests. Measure 2: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Organ/synthesizer rests. Measure 3: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Organ/synthesizer rests. Measure 4: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Organ/synthesizer rests. Measure 5: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Organ/synthesizer rests. Measure 6: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Organ/synthesizer rests. Measure 7: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Organ/synthesizer rests.

The continuation of the musical score starts at measure 7. The top two staves are for Flute 1 and Flute 2, both in $\frac{5}{4}$ time and $\#$ major. The bottom two staves are for Drum 1 and Drum 2, also in $\frac{5}{4}$ time and $\#$ major. Both flutes play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Drums play eighth-note patterns. Measures 8-10: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Measures 11-12: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Measures 13-14: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Measures 15-16: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Measures 17-18: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns. Measures 19-20: Flutes continue patterns. Drums continue patterns.

12

Musical score for Flute 1, Flute 2, Drums 1 & 2, and Organ. The score consists of four staves. Flute 1 and Flute 2 play eighth-note patterns. Drums 1 and 2 provide a steady eighth-note bass line. The Organ part features sustained notes with grace notes and dynamic markings *mp* and *p*. Measure 12 concludes with a forte dynamic.

17

Musical score for Flute 1, Flute 2, Drums 1 & 2, and Organ. The Flutes play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Drums 1 and 2 continue their eighth-note bass line. The Organ part maintains sustained notes. The section ends with a dynamic marking *p*.

Baptism

22

This musical score page shows measures 22 through 27. The instrumentation includes Flute 1, Flute 2, Drum 1, Drum 2, and Organ. The Flutes play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The Drums provide a steady eighth-note bass line. The Organ part consists of sustained notes with horizontal beams connecting them.

27

This musical score page shows measures 27 through 32. The instrumentation remains the same. The Flutes continue their eighth-note patterns. The Drums maintain their eighth-note bass line. The Organ part features sustained notes with horizontal beams, similar to the previous page.

Baptism

31

This musical score page contains four staves. The top two staves are for Flute 1 and Flute 2, both in treble clef. The bottom two staves are for Drum 1 and Drum 2, both in bass clef. The Organ part is on the bottom staff, indicated by a brace. The music consists of measures 31 through 35. Measure 31 starts with Flute 1 playing eighth-note pairs. Measures 32-33 show a rhythmic pattern of eighth-note pairs followed by sixteenth-note pairs. Measure 34 begins with a single eighth note. Measures 35-36 feature sustained notes with grace notes. Measure 37 concludes with a sixteenth-note pattern.

35

This continuation of the musical score from page 4, measures 35-39, shows the same four instruments: Flute 1, Flute 2, Drum 1, and Drum 2, along with the Organ. The score includes measures 35, 36, 37, and 38. The Organ part features sustained notes with grace notes. The flute parts include eighth-note pairs and sixteenth-note patterns. The drum parts provide a steady rhythmic foundation.

Baptism

subito faster
♩ = 88

40

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

mp

mp

45

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

50

This musical score page contains five staves. The top two staves are for Flute 1 and Flute 2, both in treble clef. The third staff is for Drum 1 and the fourth for Drum 2, both in bass clef. The bottom staff is for the Organ, also in bass clef. Measure 50 begins with Flute 1 playing eighth-note pairs. Flute 2 enters with eighth-note pairs. Drums 1 and 2 provide rhythmic support. The Organ plays sustained notes. Measure 51 continues with similar patterns, with a measure repeat sign indicating a return to the beginning of the measure.

55

This musical score page contains five staves. The top two staves are for Flute 1 and Flute 2, both in treble clef. The third staff is for Drum 1 and the fourth for Drum 2, both in bass clef. The bottom staff is for the Organ, also in bass clef. Measure 55 begins with Flute 1 playing eighth-note pairs. Flute 2 enters with eighth-note pairs. Drums 1 and 2 provide rhythmic support. The Organ plays sustained notes. Measure 56 continues with similar patterns, with a measure repeat sign indicating a return to the beginning of the measure. The word "Baptism" is centered at the bottom of the page.

59

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

accel.

faster!
63 $\text{♩} = 100$

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

68

This musical score page contains four staves. The top two staves are for Flutes 1 and 2, both in treble clef. The flute parts feature various note heads and stems, with some notes connected by horizontal lines. The bottom two staves are for Drums 1 and 2, both in bass clef. The drum parts consist of vertical stems with horizontal dashes at the top, indicating the beat. The organ part is located on the far left, with its own staff and clef. It features several sustained notes with horizontal lines extending from them, indicating long tones.

72

This musical score page contains four staves. The top two staves are for Flutes 1 and 2, both in treble clef. The flute parts feature various note heads and stems, with some notes connected by horizontal lines. The bottom two staves are for Drums 1 and 2, both in bass clef. The drum parts consist of vertical stems with horizontal dashes at the top, indicating the beat. The organ part is located on the far left, with its own staff and clef. It features several sustained notes with horizontal lines extending from them, indicating long tones. A small label "Baptism" is centered at the bottom of the page.

Musical score for Flutes 1 and 2, Drums 1 and 2, and Organ. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system starts at measure 76. Flute 1 and Flute 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Drums 1 and 2 provide a steady eighth-note bass line. The Organ part features sustained notes with slurs. Measure 76 ends with a repeat sign. Measures 77-78 continue the pattern. Measure 79 begins with a dynamic change, indicated by a crescendo arrow. Measures 80-81 show a continuation of the rhythmic patterns. The second system starts at measure 80. Flute 1 and Flute 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Drums 1 and 2 provide a steady eighth-note bass line. The Organ part features sustained notes with slurs.

Continuation of the musical score from the previous system. The score consists of two systems of music. The first system starts at measure 80. Flute 1 and Flute 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Drums 1 and 2 provide a steady eighth-note bass line. The Organ part features sustained notes with slurs. Measures 80-81 continue the pattern. Measure 82 begins with a dynamic change, indicated by a crescendo arrow. Measures 83-84 show a continuation of the rhythmic patterns. The second system starts at measure 85. Flute 1 and Flute 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Drums 1 and 2 provide a steady eighth-note bass line. The Organ part features sustained notes with slurs.

Baptism

85

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

90

Intense
subito $\text{♩} = 120$

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

95

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

100

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

105

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score page contains five staves. Flute 1 (top) and Flute 2 play eighth-note patterns. Drums 1 and Drums 2 provide rhythmic support. The Organ (bottom) provides harmonic foundation with sustained notes and chords. Measure 105 begins with a dynamic of p .

109

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score page continues the instrumentation from the previous page. The dynamics p , mf , and f are used. The Organ part includes a section labeled "Baptism".

113

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

f

mf

mp

rit.

117

slower! $\text{♩} = 108$

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

mp

mf

3

Baptism

121

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score excerpt shows parts for Flute 1, Flute 2, Drums 1, Drums 2, and Organ. The flute parts feature melodic lines with grace notes and sixteenth-note patterns. The drums provide a steady rhythmic foundation. The organ part includes sustained bass notes and harmonic chords. Measure 121 concludes with a dynamic instruction f .

125

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score excerpt continues with parts for Flute 1, Flute 2, Drums 1, Drums 2, and Organ. The flutes play eighth-note patterns, and the drums maintain a consistent tempo. The organ provides harmonic support with sustained notes and chords. Measure 125 ends with a dynamic instruction *mf*. Below the score, the word "Baptism" is written in italics.

129

This musical score page shows four staves. The top two staves are for Flute 1 and Flute 2, both in treble clef. The bottom two staves are for Drum 1 and Drum 2, both in bass clef. The Organ staff is at the bottom, also in bass clef. Measure 129 starts with Flute 1 playing eighth-note pairs. Flute 2 enters with eighth-note pairs. Drums 1 and 2 play eighth-note patterns. The Organ provides harmonic support with sustained notes. Measures 130-131 show similar patterns, with the Organ's harmonic function becoming more prominent.

133

This musical score page continues from measure 133. The Flutes play eighth-note pairs, and the Drums play eighth-note patterns. The Organ's harmonic role increases, particularly in the later measures. The section concludes with the word "Baptism" centered at the bottom of the page.

137

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score excerpt shows five staves. Flute 1 and Flute 2 play eighth-note patterns. Drums 1 and Drums 2 provide rhythmic support with sixteenth-note patterns. The Organ part features sustained notes and harmonic chords. Measure 137 concludes with a dynamic change.

141

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score excerpt continues with the same instrumentation. The Organ part includes sustained notes and harmonic chords. The piece ends with a dynamic marking 'p' and the word 'Baptism' centered below the staff.

145

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

rit.. - - - - - slower! $\text{♩} = 96$

mp

p

150

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

154

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score excerpt shows five staves. Flute 1 and Flute 2 play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Drums 1 and Drums 2 provide a steady eighth-note bass line. The Organ part consists of sustained notes with long horizontal dashes underneath, indicating sustained sounds.

158

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score excerpt continues with the same instrumentation. The Flutes play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The Drums provide a steady eighth-note bass line. The Organ part consists of sustained notes with long horizontal dashes underneath, indicating sustained sounds.

Baptism

162

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

166

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

170

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This musical score excerpt shows five staves. Flute 1 has a short rest followed by a melodic line. Flute 2 plays eighth-note patterns. Drums 1 and 2 provide rhythmic support with sixteenth-note patterns. The organ part consists of sustained notes with grace notes.

174

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This excerpt continues the musical style from measure 170. The instrumentation remains the same: Flute 1, Flute 2, Drums 1, Drums 2, and Organ. The organ part features sustained notes with grace notes. Measures 174 and 175 show a transition, indicated by three measures of rests followed by a return to the original instrumentation.

Baptism

178

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

slower!
♩ = 88

Baptism

188

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

193

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

This musical score page contains two systems of music, each consisting of six staves. The instruments are Flute 1, Flute 2, Drum 1, Drum 2, Glockenspiel, and Organ. Measure 188 starts with Flute 1 playing eighth-note pairs. Measure 193 begins with Flute 1 playing eighth-note pairs. The Organ part in both systems features sustained notes with grace notes. Measure 193 includes a dynamic marking 'p' over the drum parts and a performance instruction 'Baptism' at the end.

198

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This section of the score covers measures 198 through 203. It features two flutes playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes, two drums providing a steady eighth-note bass line, and an organ providing harmonic support with sustained notes and octave leaps. Measure 203 includes dynamic markings *pp* (pianissimo) and *p* (piano).

204

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

This section of the score covers measures 204 through 209. It features flute entries with sustained notes and grace notes, drums continuing their eighth-note pattern, and a glockenspiel providing rhythmic punctuation. The organ maintains its harmonic function. The word "Baptism" is printed at the bottom center of the page.

208

A musical score page featuring five staves. The top two staves are for Flute 1 and Flute 2, both in treble clef. The third staff is for Drums 1 and 2, indicated by a bass clef and a double bar line. The fourth staff is for the Glockenspiel (Glock.). The bottom staff is for the Organ (Org.), indicated by a bass clef and a brace. Measure 1 starts with Flute 1 playing a eighth-note followed by a sixteenth-note sharp. Measure 2 begins with a dynamic *p*. Measures 3 and 4 feature rhythmic patterns involving eighth and sixteenth notes. Measure 5 consists of rests. Measure 6 contains a single eighth note. Measure 7 has a dynamic *p*. Measure 8 concludes with a fermata over the Organ's bass line. In the bottom right corner of the Organ staff, there is handwritten text: "February- April, 1983" and "Chicago, Illinois".