

# 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

Kyle Gann  
1983

calm, stately!  
♩ = 80

Musical score for the first system of 'Baptism'. It features five staves: Flute 1, Flute 2, Drum 1, Drum 2, and Organ or Synthesizer. The time signature is 5/4. The tempo is marked 'calm, stately!' with a quarter note equal to 80 beats per minute. The dynamics are marked 'pp' for the flutes and 'p' for the drums. The Organ or Synthesizer part is currently silent.

Musical score for the second system of 'Baptism', starting at measure 7. It features four staves: Flute 1, Flute 2, Drum 1, and Drum 2. The time signature is 5/4. The dynamics are marked 'pp' for the flutes and 'p' for the drums. The Organ or Synthesizer part is not shown in this system.

12

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*p*

*p*

*mp*

*p*

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 12 through 16. It features five staves: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Drum 1 (Dr. 1), Drum 2 (Dr. 2), and Organ (Org.). The Flute parts are in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Flute 1 begins in measure 12 with a series of eighth notes, marked *p*. Flute 2 has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 12, followed by eighth notes and a triplet in measure 14, also marked *p*. The drum parts consist of eighth-note patterns in both hands. The organ part has a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, marked *mp* in measure 12 and *p* in measure 13. The organ part features a complex texture with many beamed notes and ties.

17

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*3*

*3*

Detailed description: This system of musical notation covers measures 17 through 21. It features the same five staves as the previous system. Flute 1 continues with eighth-note patterns, including a triplet in measure 18 and a triplet in measure 20. Flute 2 also continues with eighth-note patterns and triplets. The drum parts maintain their eighth-note patterns. The organ part continues with its complex texture, featuring many beamed notes and ties, with a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

22

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

27

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

31

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

35

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*Baptism*

subito faster  
♩ = 88

40

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

45

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

50

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

55

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*Baptism*



59 accel. - - - - -

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

63 faster!  
♩ = 100

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

68

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This system contains measures 68 through 71. It features five staves: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Drum 1 (Dr. 1), Drum 2 (Dr. 2), and Organ (Org.). The Flute parts play melodic lines with various articulations and slurs. The Drum parts play a steady, rhythmic pattern. The Organ part provides harmonic support with sustained chords and moving lines in both the treble and bass clefs.

72

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This system contains measures 72 through 75. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The Flute parts continue their melodic development. The Drum parts maintain their rhythmic pattern. The Organ part continues with harmonic support, including a more active bass line in measure 75.

*Baptism*

76

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

80

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

85

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Intense  
subito ♩ = 120

90

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

95

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*mp*

*mp*

100

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*f*

*f*

105

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Dr. 1  
Dr. 2  
Org.

This system of music covers measures 105 to 108. It features five staves: Flute 1, Flute 2, Drum 1, Drum 2, and Organ. The Flute 1 part begins with a melodic line in measure 105, while the Flute 2 part has a whole rest. The organ part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands. The drum parts play a consistent rhythmic pattern. Measure 106 includes a dynamic marking of *b<sup>o</sup>* (basso continuo) for the Flute 2 part. Measure 108 features triplet markings in the Flute 2 part.

109

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Dr. 1  
Dr. 2  
Org.

*p* *mf* *f*

*p* *mf* *f*

*Baptism*

This system of music covers measures 109 to 112. It features the same five staves as the previous system. The Flute 1 part has a whole rest in measure 109 and then enters with a melodic line. The Flute 2 part has triplet markings in measure 109 and then continues with a melodic line. The organ part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both hands. The drum parts play a consistent rhythmic pattern. Dynamic markings of *p*, *mf*, and *f* are present in measures 110, 111, and 112 respectively. The word *Baptism* is written below the organ staff at the end of the system.

113

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*f*

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*rit.*

117

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*mp*

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

*slower!* ♩ = 108

3

3

3

Baptism

121

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

125

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*mf*

*mf*

Baptism



129

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

133

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

137

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

141

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Baptism

145 **rit.** - - - - - **slower!** ♩ = 96

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

150

mp

p

3

3

3

3

3

3

3

154

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This system of music covers measures 154 to 157. It features five staves: two for flutes (Fl. 1 and Fl. 2), two for drums (Dr. 1 and Dr. 2), and one for organ (Org.). The flute parts are melodic, with Fl. 1 starting on a half note and Fl. 2 on a quarter note. The drum parts consist of a steady eighth-note pattern. The organ part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both the treble and bass clefs.

158

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

This system of music covers measures 158 to 161. It features five staves: two for flutes (Fl. 1 and Fl. 2), two for drums (Dr. 1 and Dr. 2), and one for organ (Org.). The flute parts continue their melodic lines, with Fl. 1 starting on a half note and Fl. 2 on a quarter note. The drum parts consist of a steady eighth-note pattern. The organ part provides harmonic support with chords and moving lines in both the treble and bass clefs.

162

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Musical score for measures 162-165. The score is arranged in a system with five staves: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Drum 1 (Dr. 1), Drum 2 (Dr. 2), and Organ (Org.). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The organ part features a sustained bass line with chords. The flute parts have melodic lines with dynamics marked *mf*. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated in the first flute part.

166

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

Musical score for measures 166-169. The score continues with the same five-staff system. The organ part continues with its sustained bass line. The flute parts have melodic lines with dynamics marked *mf*. A triplet of eighth notes is indicated in the first flute part.

170

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Dr. 1  
Dr. 2  
Org.

This musical system covers measures 170 to 173. It features five staves: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Drum 1 (Dr. 1), Drum 2 (Dr. 2), and Organ (Org.). The Flute 1 part begins with a rest in measure 170, followed by a melodic line in measures 171 and 172, and a final note in measure 173. Flute 2 plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The drums provide a consistent rhythmic pattern. The organ part consists of sustained chords in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand, with a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in measure 173.

174

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Dr. 1  
Dr. 2  
Org.

This musical system covers measures 174 to 177. It features the same five staves as the previous system. In measure 174, Flute 1 plays a melodic line with a slur over measures 174 and 175. Flute 2 plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The drums continue their rhythmic pattern. The organ part features sustained chords in the left hand and a melodic line in the right hand, including a triplet of eighth notes in measure 177.

178

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

slower!  
♩ = 88

*p*

183

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

*pp*

Baptism

188

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Dr. 1  
Dr. 2  
Glock.  
Org.

*p*

This system contains measures 188 through 192. It features six staves: Flute 1, Flute 2, Drum 1, Drum 2, Glockenspiel, and Organ. The organ part is a continuous accompaniment of chords. The flute parts have melodic lines with some triplets and dynamics like *p*. The drums play a steady rhythmic pattern.

193

Fl. 1  
Fl. 2  
Dr. 1  
Dr. 2  
Glock.  
Org.

*p*

This system contains measures 193 through 197. It features the same six staves as the previous system. The organ part continues with its chordal accompaniment. The flute parts have melodic lines with some triplets and dynamics like *p*. The drums play a steady rhythmic pattern.



198

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Org.

*pp*

204

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

*mp*

*p*

3

3

Baptism

208

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Dr. 1

Dr. 2

Glock.

Org.

*p*

3

February- April, 1983  
Chicago, Illinois

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a concert band or orchestra. It features five staves: Flute 1 (Fl. 1), Flute 2 (Fl. 2), Drums (Dr. 1 and Dr. 2), Glockenspiel (Glock.), and Organ (Org.). The score begins at measure 208. Flute 1 has a melodic line with slurs and accents. Flute 2 has a more active line with slurs and accents. The drums play a steady eighth-note pattern. The glockenspiel has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The organ provides a harmonic accompaniment with slurs. A dynamic marking of *p* (piano) is placed below the flute staves. A rehearsal mark '3' is placed below the flute staves. The score concludes with a double bar line. In the final measure, there is a text box containing the date and location: 'February- April, 1983 Chicago, Illinois'.