# MICHAEL KENT O'BRIEN 

## SLEEPLESS

No. 2 from
Three Nocturnes for Orchestra


To my dear friend, Max Hohn

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## NOTES

All the things that keep us awake: work, deadlines, obligations, missed opportunities, the things we wish we hadn't said, the mistakes we wish we hadn't made or are certain we're going to make, or the raucus circus of demons ranting and dancing around our restless minds between midnight and six am. That's what this piece is about.

Like surfing from wide awake to dreaming to semi-consciousness and back again, this music is in flux, constantly surfing from thought to thought.

Some sections are rhythmically steady. Others are full of rubato, speeding up and slowing down.
From rehearsal mark 18 to 22 there is virtually no rhythmic pulse at all. The solos here should be performed quite freely over the underlying string "pad." Similarly, the closing phrases in the cellos and violas should be quite free and narrative in character, only half awake, as it were.

The piccolo trumpet from measure 251 to 262 which doubles the oboe should be reminiscent of Baroque style and articulated as such. Note that it doubles the oboe and is notated an octave lower than sounding pitch.

The three competing trumpets between rehearsal numbers 6 and 8 might wish to point their bells in different directions if possible.

String bowings are suggestions, and although some are obvious necessities, section leaders and conductors should choose what works best for their interpretation.

The score is notated "in C" without transpositions. However, parts for Bb clarinets, horns in F, and Bb trumpets, (and piccolo trumpet) are transposed. A transposing score is available by request. A performance score and parts in large format are also available.

# Instrumentation 

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-3 Flutes (1. Piccolo)
-2 Oboes
-Three Clarinets in Bb
-2 Bassooons
-Four Horns in F
-Three Trumpets in Bb (1. Piccolo Trumpet in Bb)
-Two Tenor Trombones
-Bass Trombone-
-Tuba
-Timpani
-Percussion 1: Triangle, Vibraslap, High Woodblock, Low Woodblock, Cowbell, Xylophone, Glockenspiel
-Percussion 2: Marimba, Large Crash Cymbal, Medium Crash Cymbal, Suspended Cymbal
-Percussion 3: Snare Drum, Side Drum, High Tenor Drum, Low Tenor Drum
-Percussion 4: Tambourine, Bass Drum, Tam Tam, Suspended Cymbal
-Harp
-Piano
-Violins I
-Violins II
-Violas
-Cellos
-Basses-
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\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline \multirow[t]{4}{*}{} \& 9 \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline \& 2 \& - \& - \& - \& - \& $\cdots$ \& $\cdots$ \& - <br>
\hline \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
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\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{F1. 2 and 3} \& 6 \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - \& . \& $\cdots$ <br>
\hline \& \& \& \& solo $\sim^{-3}$ \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{$\mathrm{ob}^{1}$} \& \& - \& - \& - \& \&  \& $)^{3}$ \& ? <br>
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\hline \& 6 \& - \& - \& - \& - \& \& - \& $\cdots$ <br>
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\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{Cl. in Bb 1} \& - \& - \& . \& , \& , \& \& . \& <br>
\hline \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline \multirow{3}{*}{C1. 2 and 3 in Bb} \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
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\hline \& J \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{Bsn 1} \& \% \& - \& - \& - \& . \& . \& - \& - <br>
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\hline Bsn 2 \& 7 \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - \& $\cdots$ <br>
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\hline \multirow[t]{3}{*}{F. Hn in F 1} \& 18 \& , \& - \& - \& - \& \& \& <br>
\hline \& 9 \& . \& - \& $\cdots$ \& $\cdots$ \& $\cdots$ \& - \& - <br>
\hline \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{F. Hn in F 2} \& \% ${ }^{\text {a }}$ \& $\cdots$ \& . \& - \& - \& . \& - \& $\cdots$ <br>
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\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{F. Hn in F 3} \& ¢ \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - <br>
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\hline \multirow[b]{2}{*}{F. H H in F 4} \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
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\hline \multirow{3}{*}{Tpt in Bb} \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
\hline \& h). \& - \& - \& - \& \& - \& - \& $\cdots$ <br>
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\hline \multirow{3}{*}{$\mathrm{Tpt} \mathrm{in}^{\text {Bb }} 2$} \& \& \& \& \& \& \& \& <br>
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\hline \multirow[t]{2}{*}{B. Tbn} \& 9\% \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - <br>
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\hline Tba \& \% \& $\cdots$ \& $\cdots$ \& - \& - \& - \& - \& - <br>
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