

THE HEAT OF THE SUN

A Dream Cycle for Strings

by Mark Goddard

Op. 46

A STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

I

The structure of all four movements of ‘The Heat of the Sun’ relies on a set of fundamental ‘musical building blocks’, which appear fairly early on, and then return, like old friends.

The most important of these is the high, intense, ‘heat-haze chord’, along with numerous arpeggiated derivatives, which pervade the entire work:



BAR 1. (00:00)

‘Heat-haze chord’

Adagio ♩. = 48

3 soli *pp*

gli altri *p*

3 soli *pp*

gli altri *p*

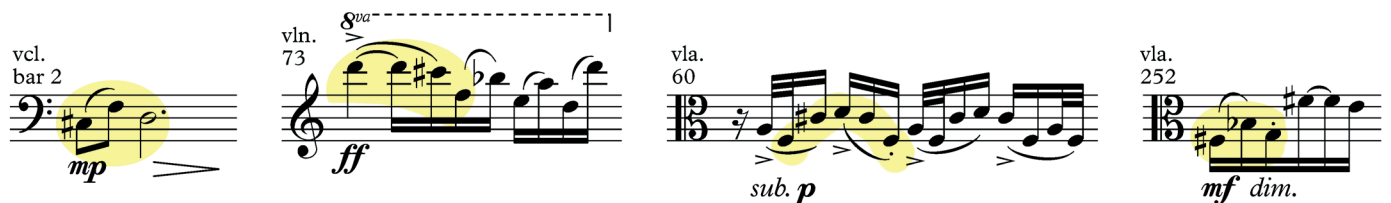
The following melodic motive, based on a descending D (harmonic) minor scale, also permeates the texture of every movement, appearing early in the proceedings and played by the principal cello:

BAR 2. (00:07)

‘D minor cello scale motive’



This theme takes on many guises during its journey through the piece. The last three notes particularly, which contain a ‘diminished fourth’, become an important motive, undergoing numerous developments by way of transpositions, inversions, diminutions etc.:



Another recurring building block — much simpler in character, almost ‘primal’ in contrast — is a very static use of a chord exploiting the sonorous sounds of the ‘open strings’, usually presented by soloists alone. This typically provides a sense of respite from the strenuous and exhilarating music that precedes it. A welcome ‘catch your breath’ moment. This earthy ‘natural’ sound is also used as something of a ‘fate’ theme — the onset of death even.

*Fear no more the heat o' the sun,
Nor the furious winter's rages;
Thou thy worldly task hast done,
Home art gone, and ta'en thy wages:
Golden lads and girls all must,
As chimney-sweepers, come to dust.*

William Shakespeare
Cymbeline Act IV, Scene II

BARS 7, 16, 18... (00:32)

‘Open-strings chord’

musical score for Vln. I, Vla., Vc., and Db. The score shows a solo section for each instrument, marked 'solo'. The dynamics are marked *mf* and *pp*. The instruments are Vln. I, Vla., Vc., and Db.

Two exuberantly dance-like themes provide the first of the ‘day-dreams’, or ‘episodes’. Highly syncopated, these rather naïve tunes stubbornly reappear as mental ‘flash-backs’:

BAR 22. (01:47)

Violin syncopated folk-dance-like tune

musical score for Vln. I, starting at bar 22. The tempo is marked *f* and *Poco Animato*. The tempo marking $\text{♩} = \text{♩}$ is also present. The score shows a syncopated folk-dance-like tune.

BAR 33. (02:22)

Double bass syncopated folk-dance-like tune

musical score for Double Bass, showing a syncopated folk-dance-like tune. The score is written in bass clef and includes a dynamic marking *ff*.

BAR 44. (02:53)

An increasingly complex development section starts here, where the 'D minor cello scale motive' is continually remodelled and interspersed with the exuberant treble and bass folk-dance-like motives:

The musical score for Bar 44 (02:53) is presented in a multi-staff format. The staves are labeled on the left: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Vc., Db., and Db. The score is written in 4/4 time. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure is marked with a 44. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *sub. f* (sub-fortissimo), and *pizz. (snap)* (pizzicato snap). The score also includes performance instructions such as *arco* (arco) and *pizz.* (pizzicato). The score is written in a multi-staff format, with each staff representing a different instrument. The staves are labeled on the left: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Vc., Db., and Db. The score is written in 4/4 time. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure is marked with a 44. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *sub. f* (sub-fortissimo), and *pizz. (snap)* (pizzicato snap). The score also includes performance instructions such as *arco* (arco) and *pizz.* (pizzicato). The score is written in a multi-staff format, with each staff representing a different instrument. The staves are labeled on the left: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Vc., Db., and Db. The score is written in 4/4 time. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure is marked with a 44. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *sub. f* (sub-fortissimo), and *pizz. (snap)* (pizzicato snap). The score also includes performance instructions such as *arco* (arco) and *pizz.* (pizzicato).

BAR 51. (03:08)

Here, both folk-dance-like motives combine:

a tempo

49

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *arco* *ff*

Vla. *arco* *ff*

Vc. *unis. arco* *ff*

Vc.

Db. *unis. arco* *ff*

Db.

BAR 73. (03:42)

The 'D minor cello scale motive' is further modified here, and combined with the 'Bass folk-dance-like' melody:

ff
arco

(non trem.)
div.

(non trem.)

tutti unis.
ff

tutti
ff

The musical score for Bar 73 (03:42) features five staves. The Violin I and Violin II parts (Vln. I and Vln. II) are in treble clef, marked *ff*, and include the instruction *arco*. The Viola parts (Vla.) are in alto clef, marked *(non trem.)* and *div.*. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Double Bass (Db.) parts are in bass clef, marked *tutti unis.* and *ff*. The Vc. part includes a *ff* marking. The Db. part includes a *tutti* marking. The score is divided into three measures by vertical bar lines. The first measure contains a yellow highlight. The second measure contains a yellow highlight. The third measure contains a yellow highlight. The Vln. I and Vln. II parts play a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Vla. parts play a rhythmic pattern. The Vc. and Db. parts play a bass line with slurs and accents.

BAR 90. (04:13)

After an electrifying frenzy of excitement, the first movement reaches a breathtaking climactic tutti and subsides into respite.

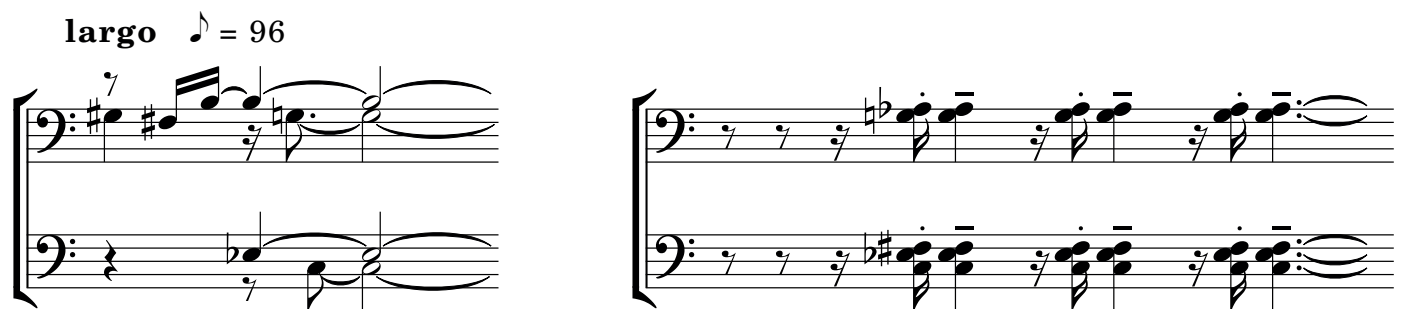
The image displays two pages of a musical score, likely from a symphony, showing the first movement. The left page contains measures 76 through 89, and the right page contains measures 90 through 97. The score is written for a full orchestra, with staves for Violins I and II, Violas, Cellos, and Double Basses. The music is in 4/4 time and features a complex, rhythmic pattern. The right page includes a section marked "poco a poco rall." (poco a poco rallentando) starting at measure 97. The score is presented in a standard musical notation format, with notes, rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., *f*, *dim.*) clearly visible.

B_{AR} 100. (04:44)

From here, the mood becomes progressively subdued and reflective. The healing properties offered by the assiduous ‘open strings chord’ are presented again, but partially punctured by lingering memories of the ‘heat-haze’.

BAR106. (05:00)

Harmonic elements of this 'sun-chord' have evolved into new, fragmented accompaniment figures:



Over this, a soaringly expressive solo violin recalls hints of the initial 'D minor cello scale motive', now ruminative and self possessed.

J
(♩ = ♩) **tempo I** ♩ = 96

109 solo *mp* *espress* *mp*

111 *mf* *mf* *mp*

poco rall.

112 *p* **largo** ♩ = 96 *8va* (loco)

BAR 122. (06:33)

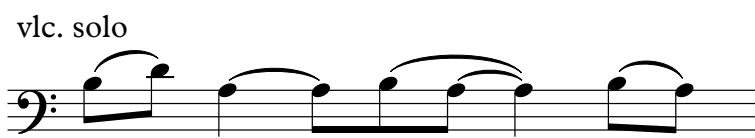
The movement ends with the a ‘final gasp’ of the ‘D minor cello scale motive’, as if stumbling under the desert heat.



II

BAR 123. (06:45)

The 'slow movement' begins gently enough with the solo cello's anguished D minor harmonic diminished fourth of the first movement being rehabilitated into the more optimistic key of G major.



BAR 12. (07:28)

The feeling of serenity is enhanced when the theme is taken up by four soloists — a string quartet where the second violin is replaced by a double bass:

L

128

Vln. I
mp
solo
arco

Vla.
p

Vc.
p

Db.
solo
pizz.
p
arco

BAR 137. (08:33)

Tutti resumes here, with the cellos and basses more pressingly reciting a variant of the same tune, far below gentle ostinato figurations in the violins.

M *più mosso* $\text{♩} = 100$
tutti div.

Vln. I *f* *ppp sempre*

Vln. II *ppp sempre*

Vla. *f*

Ve. *f* *mp espress.*

Db. *f* *mp espress.*

BAR 153. (10:19)

The peaceful atmosphere is rudely interrupted, firstly in the forceful reappearance of the ominous ‘open strings chord’, then an all too familiar arpeggiated run in the first violins, based on the ‘heat-haze’ material, and finally a nervy and stratospheric declaration by the violins based on the ‘D minor’ material.

P *presto* $\text{♩} = 160$
div.

Vln. I *f* *f dim.*

Vln. II *f* *f dim.*

Vln. II *f dim.*

Vla. *f dim.*

Ve. *f dim.*

Ve. *f dim.*

Db. *f dim.*

BAR 165. (10:37)

This intrusion finally throws us all into the dark and sinister world which forms the middle section of the movement. The threatening diminished fourth interval is back — and with a vengeance,

165

The first system of the musical score for 'The Swan Song' is written on a single five-line staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked 'Andante' and the dynamics are 'ff' (fortissimo). The notation includes several measures with eighth and sixteenth notes, some with accents, and a measure with a sixteenth-note rest. The system concludes with a measure containing a sixteenth-note rest and a 'mf' (mezzo-forte) dynamic marking.

...combined with the fully realised aggressive potential of the 'heat-haze-tone-clusters', only this time, less like a heat-haze, and more like an ill-boding smouldering fire!

[illegible]

BAR 208. (11:40)

The ashes burst into flames at the climax of the movement, disturbingly heralded by the ubiquitous ‘heat-haze’ arpeggio figure, followed by an impenetrable texture formed of macabre variants of the syncopated folk-dance-like theme of the first movement.

203 *div a 3*
Vln. I
p *mf* *fff*

BAR 215. (12:01)

Merciful tranquillity is eventually restored before the movement ends, with the return of the original ‘serene theme’, this time made radiant thanks to pizzicato adornments.

V
215 *mesto (tempo primo)* ♩ = 80
Vln. I *pizz.* *mp* *f* *mp* *arco solo* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *poco rall.*
Vln. II *pizz.* *mp* *f* *pp*
Vla. *solo* *espress.* *f* *p* *mf* *p*
Vc. *solo 1* *V* *f* *p* *mf*
Vc. *solo 2* *V* *f* *p*
Vc. *gli altri* *pizz.* *mf* *p*
Db. *solo* *pizz.* *p*

BAR 220. (12:30)

The slow movement ends as it started, with the solo cello relishing the 'serene theme'.

Score for Bar 220 (12:30) featuring Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), Violoncello (solo 2), and Double Bass (Db.).

The score is written in 12/8 time and consists of four measures. The dynamics and articulation are as follows:

- Vla.:** *f* (first measure), *mp* (second measure), *mf* (third measure), *pp* (fourth measure), *p* (fifth measure).
- Vc.:** *f* (first measure), *mp* (second measure), *mf* (third measure), *p* (fourth measure).
- Vc. (solo 2):** *f* (first measure), *mp* (second measure), *mf* (third measure), *pp* (fourth measure), *pizz.* (fifth measure), *mp* (sixth measure).
- Db.:** *f* (first measure), *mp* (second measure), *mf* (third measure), *pp* (fourth measure), *pizz.* (fifth measure), *mp* (sixth measure).

The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and triplets, indicating a complex and expressive performance.

III

This movement is a fast and furious fugato — a determined race to the finish. Positioned third where a ‘Scherzo’ might traditionally appear, this is no Scherzo (or ‘joke’)! It’s a scary night-mare-like episode, short lived, but terrifying while it lasts, which constantly pits opposing elements against each other.

BAR 222. (12:55)

This first bar (and later at bar 250), comprises a strong pizzicato figure, once again, calling on the belligerent quality of the ‘heat-haze arpeggio’, but this time backwards (descending).

Molto agitato ♩ = 138

The image displays a musical score for Bar 222, marked 'Molto agitato' with a tempo of 138 beats per minute. The score is for four instruments: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 3/8. The bar number '222' is written above the first staff. Each instrument part begins with the instruction 'tutti pizz.' (tutti pizzicato) and a forte 'ff' dynamic marking. The Vln. I part starts on a whole note G4, followed by a descending eighth-note arpeggio (F#4, E4, D4) and a quarter rest. The Vln. II part starts on a whole note G4, followed by a descending eighth-note arpeggio (F#4, E4, D4) and a quarter rest. The Vla. part starts on a whole note G4, followed by a descending eighth-note arpeggio (F#4, E4, D4) and a quarter rest. The Vc. part starts on a whole note G2, followed by a descending eighth-note arpeggio (F#2, E2, D2) and a quarter rest. The score is written on four staves, with the first staff for Vln. I, the second for Vln. II, the third for Vla., and the fourth for Vc.

BAR 223. (12:58)

The fugato subject, distinctive in its own right, is thematically heavily influenced once more by existing motives, including the idiosyncratic use of the diminished fourth.



BAR 254. (13:38)

A new, sublime melody appears in the first violins: towering sustained notes, then navigating wide sweeping intervals. All this contrasts spectacularly with the fast, staccato assiduity of the detailed ostinato writing below it.

A musical score for three staves: Vln. I, Vla., and D.B. The time signature is 3/8. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The Vln. I staff has a melody with sustained notes and wide intervals, marked *pp*, *cresc.*, and *mp*. The Vla. staff has a fast, staccato ostinato pattern, marked *pp sempre*. The D.B. staff has a sustained melody, marked *pp*. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains three measures. The second system contains four measures. The Vln. I staff has a melody with sustained notes and wide intervals, marked *pp*, *cresc.*, and *mp*. The Vla. staff has a fast, staccato ostinato pattern, marked *pp sempre*. The D.B. staff has a sustained melody, marked *pp*. The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains three measures. The second system contains four measures.

BAR 273. (14:02)

Invertible counterpoint turns the tables here, sending the prickly semi-quaver figure high into the violins and giving the cellos the opportunity of an expressive, satin-like theme.

Bar 273. (14:02). The score shows five staves: Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Db. Vln. I and Vln. II play a rapid, prickly semi-quaver figure. Vla. is silent. Vc. plays a smooth, expressive theme marked *arco* and *mf*, which becomes *f* in the final measure. Db. plays a simple, steady accompaniment.

BAR 294. (14:30)

Canonic writing (in this case, between the violin sections) sparks a new phase, building tension.

Bar 294. (14:30). The score shows two staves: Vln. I and Vln. II. Vln. I plays a melodic line marked *sub. mp*, which becomes *p* in the final measure. Vln. II plays a supporting line marked *ff*, which becomes *mp* in the final measure. The two lines are in canon. The final measure of the excerpt shows a crescendo leading into the next section.

BAR 332. (15:22)

A fortissimo section represents the pinnacle of the rivalry between the upper and lower sections of the orchestra.

8^{me}

Vln. I *ff*

Vln. II *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Db. *ff*

The musical score for Bar 332, measures 15:22 to 15:28, is presented for five instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 3/8. The section is marked fortissimo (*ff*). The Violin I and II parts feature complex, rapid sixteenth-note passages with various articulations (accents, slurs, and breath marks). The Viola part also has a complex melodic line. The Violoncello and Double Bass parts provide a rhythmic foundation with eighth-note patterns. The section concludes with a final measure containing triplets in the Violin I and II parts.

B_{AR} 347. (15:41)

The nightmare ends with blessed deliverance in the shape of the habitual ‘open-strings chord’, followed by a more subdued rendition of the cellos’ ‘satin-like theme’, and concludes with a bar of fully subjugated fugato.

calmato $\text{♩} = 108$

G.P. **rit.**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Vc.

Db.

Db.

pp

pp

pizz.

pp

div. staccatissimo

p

pizz.

pp

staccatissimo

p

pizz.

pp

IV

The brief final movement is a retrospective ‘Epilogue’. A final assemblage of day dreams before we ‘come to dust’ (as Shakespeare describes in the poem).

B_{AR} 358. (16:05)

The blazing introduction throws us straight back to the oppression of the desert heat: accented triplet figures derived directly from the ‘heat-haze’ chord, do battle with an anxious melody played by pairing first violin and cello sections, playing an octave and a fourth apart (like a ‘Quarte de Nasard’ stop on the organ).

Vivace ♩ = 120

358

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

arco

f *ff*

arco

f *ff* *mf*

arco

f *ff*

tutti arco

f *ff*

f *ff*

BAR 378. (16:35)

A new dream (or ‘episode’) begins: muted violins play mysteriously as if in a trance, with divisi double basses contributing eerie harmonics — a spellbinding sound world, once more drawing on harmonic language borrowed from the omnipresent ‘heat-haze’ arpeggios.

GG
poco meno mosso ♩ = 72

div. con sord.
 378

Vln. I
p *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*

Vln. I
 con sord.
p *p* *p* *p* *p* *p*
 (sul G) *sim.*

Db.
 div.
mf sempre
 (sul D) (sul G)

Db.
mf sempre

BAR 382. (16:47)

Over this, a bemused cello solo meanders across the supernatural landscape.

GG **poco meno mosso** ♩ = 72

378 *solo — espress sempre*

mp *mf* *f*

385 *port.* *port.*

mp *f* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

BAR 408. (18:01)

The dangerous hot sun brings us back to reality...

408 JJ

Vln. I

Vln. I

Vln. II div. arco

Vln. II arco

Vla. div. V slow gliss. p ff

Vla. V slow gliss. p ff

Vc. slow gliss. p ff

Db. unis. slow gliss. p ff

p ff ff

The musical score for Bar 408 (18:01) is a page from a score for a string ensemble. It features five staves: Vln. I, Vln. I, Vln. II, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., and Db. The first two Vln. I staves are identical. The Vln. II staves are marked 'div. arco'. The Vla. staves are marked 'div. V' and 'slow gliss.'. The Vc. staff is marked 'slow gliss.'. The Db. staff is marked 'unis.' and 'slow gliss.'. The score includes dynamic markings: 'p' (piano) and 'ff' (fortissimo). The tempo is marked 'JJ' (Allegretto). The bar number '408' is at the top left. The score is in 4/4 time.

A progression of short, retrospective memories appear:

BAR 413. (18:15)

The unnerving viola tone clusters make an entrance, below a luminously expressive violin solo.

413 **KK**

Violin I (Vln. I): *solo* (measures 413-416), *pp* (measure 413), *mp* (measures 414-415), *mp* (measure 416), *poco rubato a tempo* (measures 413-416).

Violin II (Vln. II): *f* (measures 413-414), *mf* (measures 415-416), *mp* (measures 413-414), *p* (measures 415-416).

Viola (Vla.): *f* (measures 413-414), *mf* (measures 415-416), *mp* (measures 413-414), *p* (measures 415-416).

Violoncello (Vc.): *ff* (measures 413-414), *mp* (measures 415-416).

Double Bass (Db.): *ff* (measures 413-414), *mp* (measures 415-416).

Other instruments: *gli altri con sord.* (measures 413-416).

BAR 421. (18:36)

The ‘open strings chord’ takes root from here and simply refuses to budge until the bitter end. Muted violins sadly play the first few notes of the [previously] energetic syncopated folk-dance-like tune, now reduced to a crawl — played so slowly it’s barely recognizable as the same tune.



At the same time, in a macabre slow motion counter-subject, muted second violins play the first few notes of the double bass folk-dance-like tune, again, apathetically.



BAR 431. (19:01)

Fragments of the serene tune from the slow movement are heard next, again, on muted strings. But they only get so far before the bland open-strings chord is all that can be heard, ominously prevalent beneath the texture throughout this final phase.

Vln. II

p

con sord.

Vla.

p

con sord.

Vc.

p

pizz. arco

Db.

p

BAR 434. (19:16)

The ‘heat-haze’ chord occurs for the last time. It’s back to it’s original shape:

adagio ♩ = 48

3 soli

426

Vln. I

p *pp*

3 soli

Vln. II

p *pp*

7 16

BAR 436. (19:20)

The 'last gasp' from the cellos is truncated by a 'terminal pluck' — that fateful 'open strings chord' has the 'final, pizzicato, word'.

The musical score for Bar 436 (19:20) features the following parts and markings:

- Vln. II:** Marked "gli altri" in the first measure and "pizz." in the third measure. The note is marked *p*.
- Vla. (top):** Marked "pizz." in the third measure. The note is marked *p*.
- Vla. (bottom):** Marked "senza sord." in the first measure and "pizz." in the third measure. The note is marked *p*.
- Vc. (top):** Marked "(solo)" in the first measure. It plays a melodic line from measure 16 to 17, marked *mf*, and a final note in measure 18 marked *p*.
- Vc. (bottom):** Marked "senza sord." in the first measure. It plays a melodic line from measure 16 to 17, marked *mf*, and a final note in measure 18 marked *p*.
- Db. (top):** Marked "pizz." in the third measure. The note is marked *p*.
- Db. (bottom):** Marked "pizz." in the third measure. The note is marked *p*.

For more information, see:

www.MarkGoddard.online/op46