Rusty Banks Parental Discretion

Bass Clarinet, Stereo Playback, and
Boomboxes



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Notes:

Parental Discretion is a reworking of my piece, 2ba4, which is a work for tuba and electronics written in a style I have dubbed "Brassplotation." Imagine it as the soundtrack to an R. Crumb animation where a tuba does horrible, *horrible* things. Unlike most of my work, this one lends itself handily to being reworked for various low instruments, in this case the bass clarinet, which combines the low-down of a bass guitar with the wonkiness of a clavinova. There are also explicit references to the sub-genre of music known as trip-hop, a style that flourished in the late 1990s. Trip hop itself often makes references to the conspicuously vintage sounds of tremolo guitar (think spy movies) and lo-fi scratchy vinyl sounds. Thematically, the motives are based primarily on funk riffs derived from the blues scale. The first three notes of the C minor blues scale (C Eb F) also provided the architectural structure for the piece in that the work centers first around C, then Eb, then F before returning to C. Elements of the performer's part are echoed by boomboxes placed behind the audience.

The work is suitable for all ages.

Performance Instructions:

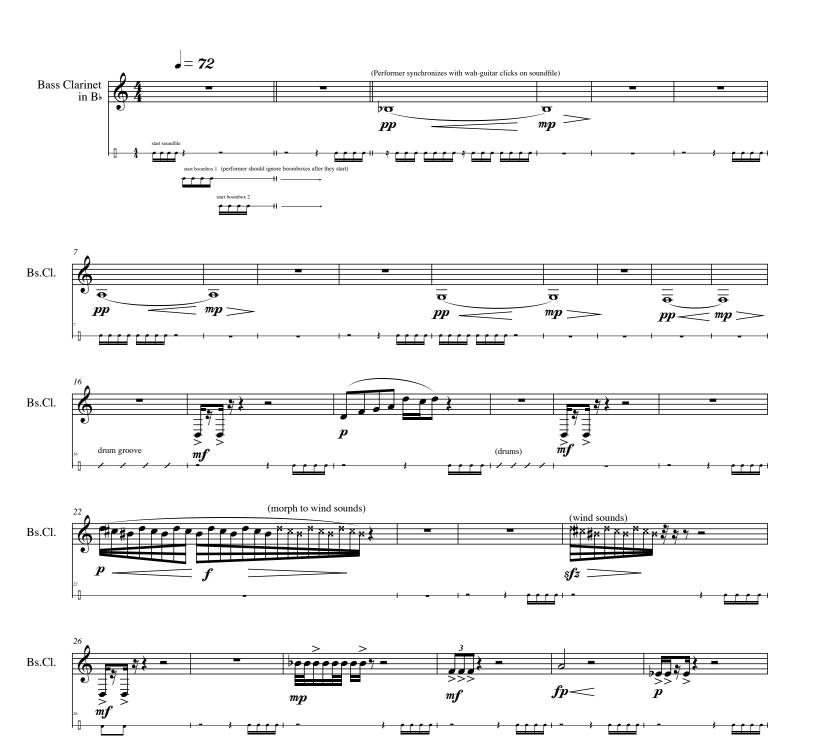
Parental Discretion is a work for live bass clarinet, stereo soundfile played over a P.A. system (or very nice stereo) and two portable CD players or "boomboxes" that are behind the audience. The clarinetist synchronizes with the stereo soundfile being played over the PA and essentially ignores the boomboxes. To start the piece, all three soundfiles need to be cued to zero and on pause. On boomboxes, this is best achieved by pressing play, then pause, and using the track advance button to return to track one. With all CDs ready, start the soundfile with which the clarinetist synchs. Start one boombox a quarter note later, then the other boombox another quarter note later, as indicated on the score. The material on the boombox CDs is mostly echoes of fragments of the performer's part. The boomboxes needn't be precisely synchronized for the piece to be effective. As long as the start of the CDs is sequential, and fairly close to a quarter note apart, the piece will work.

Performers are also welcome to use other methods to achieve the same goal.

Parental Discretion

Rusty Banks

for B. Bass Clarinet, hi-fi stereo soundfile playback , two lo-fi soundfile playback (boomboxes)







Parental Discretion (Bass Clarinet)

