

The Last Three Minutes

for orchestra: 2(pic).2.2(bcl).2/2.2.1/timp.2perc[xylophone, glock., 2 pairs of crash cymbals, sus. cymbal, tam-tam, vibraphone, bass drum, snare]/hp.pf(=cel)/str

3.5 minutes

Brooke Joyce (1997)

Premiered by the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra, 1998

Winner, Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra Young Composers Showcase, 1997

Program Note:

*The Last Three Minutes*, written for the Cleveland Chamber Symphony's Young Composer Series in 1997, is a short orchestral *scherzo* that derives its name from physicist Paul Davies' book of the same name, which explores possible scenarios for the end of the universe. Though my piece is not as serious as Davies' subject, the title does reflect the perpetual motion of the music; it is short, fast, mostly loud and about three minutes long. My goal is to build expectations and then pull the rug from underneath the listener in the final seconds—a sonic realization of Elliot: "not with a bang, but a whimper."