

Christopher Stark

S H Y B R I C K S

for chamber ensemble

(2021)

Commissioned by American Wild Ensemble

Sommerso Publishing

Instrumentation

Flute
Clarinet in B-flat
Horn in F
Percussion
 Crotales
 Hi-Hat
 Temple Blocks
 Bongos
 Tom-toms
 Kick Drum
Violin
Viola
Violoncello

Duration

9 minutes

Program Note

The title, *Shy Bricks*, comes from the introduction to Scott Joplin's *School of Ragtime*, a series of six piano exercises that the composer wrote in 1908 to teach musicians how to properly perform and understand his innovative style. In this short essay, he defends syncopated music from critics who labeled it "light or trashy," and goes on to state, "to shy bricks at 'hateful ragtime' no longer passes for musical culture." When the American Wild Ensemble asked me to write a piece for their *Missouri Music at 200* project, I immediately knew that I wanted to honor the history of Black music in St. Louis, where Joplin lived, because it has had a profound influence on my own musical language—most prominently heard through my use of syncopated rhythmic grooves and blues-inspired melodic inflection.

SHY BRICKS

Driving (♩ = 69; ♩ = 138; ♩ = ♩ *sempre*)

Christopher Stark (b. 1980)

Flute *ff*

Clarinet in B♭ *ff*

Horn in F *ff*

CROTALES
felt mallet, limit attack while still creating resonance, blend into the ensemble

Percussion *sffz* *simile* *mute w/ hand, rhythmic & severe*

Violin *sffz p sub.*

Viola *sffz p sub.*

Violoncello *sffz p sub.*

4

Fl. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Hn. *ff*

Perc. *sffz*

Vln. *sffz p sub.*

Vla. *sffz p sub.*

Vc. *sffz p sub.*

8

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ffz *p sub.*

ffz *p sub.*

ffz *p sub.*

12

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ff *p*

ffz *p sub.*

ffz *p sub.*

ffz *p sub.*

ffz *p sub.*

ffz *p sub.*

ffz *p sub.*

16

Fl. *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Cl. *ff* *p* *ff*

Hn. *ff* *p* *ff*

Perc. *ffz* *p sub.* *ffz* *p sub.*

Vln. *ffz* *p sub.* *ffz* *p sub.*

Vla. *ffz* *p sub.* *ffz* *p sub.*

Vc. *ffz* *p sub.* *ffz* *p sub.*

20

Fl. *ff* *p*

Cl. *p* *ff* *p*

Hn. *p* *ff*

Perc. *ffz* *p sub.* *ffz* *p sub.*

Vln. *ffz* *p sub.* *ffz* *p sub.*

Vla. *ffz* *p sub.* *ffz* *p sub.*

Vc. *ffz* *p sub.* *ffz* *p sub.*

24

Fl. *ff* *p*

Cl. *ff* *p*

Hn. *p* *ff* *p*

Perc. *p* *ff* *p*

Vln. *sffz* *p sub.*

Vla. *sffz* *p sub.*

Vc. *sffz* *p sub.*

27

Fl. *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Cl. *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Hn. *ff* *p* *ff* *p*

Perc. *p* *ff* *p*

Vln. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

Vla. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

Vc. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

31

Fl. *ff* *p* *ff* *ff* *p* *ff*

Cl. *ff* *p* *ff* *ff* *p* *ff*

Hn. *ff* *p* *ff* *ff* *p* *ff*

Perc. *ff* *p* *ff* *ff* *p* *ff*

Vln. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

Vla. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

Vc. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

35

Fl. *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Cl. *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Hn. *p* *ff* *p* *ff*

Perc. *ff* *ff* *ff* *ff*

Vln. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

Vla. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

Vc. *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.* *sffz* *p sub.*

39

Fl. *p* *ff* *p*

Cl. *p* *ff* *p*

Hn. *p* *ff*

Perc. *p* *ff* l.v.

Vln. *sffz* *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vla. *sffz* *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

Vc. *sffz* *p sub.* *cresc. poco a poco*

43

Fl. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Cl. *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

Hn. *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *p* *p*

Perc. *p* *f* *p* *p*

Vln. *(mp)* *(mf)*

Vla. *(mp)* *(mf)*

Vc. *(mp)* *(mf)*

48

Fl. *p* *f* *ff*

Cl. *p* *f* *ff*

Hn. *f* *p* *p* *f* *ff*
(mute residual resonance)

Perc.

Vln. (*f*) *ffz*

Vla. (*f*) *ffz*

Vc. (*f*) *ffz*

53

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p*

Hn. *p*

Perc. **HIGH TEMPLE BLOCKS**
(felt mallets) *ff*

Vln. pizz. arco *p*

Vla. pizz. arco *p*

Vc. pizz. *p*

57

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ffz

ffz

ffz

p

p

p

HIGH BONGO

T.Bls.

pizz.

pizz.

pizz.

62

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ffz

ffz

ffz

f < ff

p

p

p

p

arco

arco

arco

BONGOS

T.Bls.

68

Fl. *p* *ff*

Cl. *p* *ff*

Hn. *p* *ff*

Perc. HIGH TOM-TOM Bngs. T.Bls.

Vln. pizz. arco *p* *sfz* *f* < *ff*

Vla. pizz. arco *p* *sfz*

Vc. pizz. arco *p* *sfz*

72

Fl. *p* *ff*

Cl. *p* *ff*

Hn. *p* *ff*

Perc. Toms Bngs. T.Bls.

Vln. pizz. arco 3 3 *p* *sfz* *f* < *ff*

Vla. pizz. arco 3 3 *p* *sfz*

Vc. pizz. arco 3 3 *p* *sfz*

77

Fl. *p* *ff*

Cl. *p* *ff*

Hn. *p* *ff*

Perc. *p* *ff* *f* *ff*

Vln. pizz. arco *sffz* *p* *sffz*

Vla. pizz. arco *sffz* *p* *sffz*

Vc. pizz. arco *sffz* *p* *sffz*

82

Fl. *p* *ff* *p*

Cl. *p* *ff* *p*

Hn. *p* *ff* *p*

Perc. *p* *ff* *f* *ff*

Vln. pizz. arco *sffz* *p* *sffz* pizz. arco *sffz* *p*

Vla. pizz. arco *sffz* *p* *sffz* pizz. arco *sffz* *p*

Vc. pizz. arco *sffz* *p* *sffz* pizz. arco *sffz* *p*

96

Fl. *mf* legato *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Cl. *p* *mf* legato *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Perc.

Vln. *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

104

Fl. *pp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *p* *mf* *pp* *p* *mf*

Perc. *Crot.* arco, l.v.

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

112

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf *p* *mf* *pp* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

mf *mf* *mf*

p *mf*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

120

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

mf *pp* *p* *mf* *p*

mf *mf* *mf*

p *mf*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

128

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

p *p* *mf* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

136

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

pp *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

mf

p *mf* *p* *mf*

mf *p* *mf*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

144

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *p* *mf* *pp*

Hn. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Perc. **HI-HATS**
closed (unfastened) (felt mallet) *pp*

Vln. *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p sempre*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

152

Fl. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *pp sempre*

Perc. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

160

Fl. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Perc. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

168

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

174

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *f* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *f*

Hn. *p* *mp* *mf* *f* *p sub.* soloistic

Perc. *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *sfz* *pp poss. sempre (barely audible, very muted)*

Vln. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *p sub.* legato

Vla. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

Toms K.D. Low Tom
mute w/ hand +

179

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Hn. simile

Perc. +

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* legato

Vla. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* legato

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

186

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* *p*

194

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Hn.

Perc.

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

202

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

210

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

pp *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

p *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *pp* *p* *mf*

218

Fl. *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Hn.

Perc.

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

226

Fl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Cl. *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

Hn.

Perc. T.Bls.

Vln. *pp* sempre

Vla. *mf* sub. e sempre

Vc. *mf* sub. e sempre

mf *pp*

234

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

mf *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

con sord.

pp

242

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

mf *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *ff*

solistic

Bngs.

mf *ppp* *p*

ff *ff* *ff*

250

Fl. *ff* *p*

Cl. *ff* *p*

Hn. *p sub.*

Perc. *f* *pp* Toms like an echo K.D.

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

260

Fl. *p sempre* senza vib.

Cl. *p sempre*

Hn. *p* *mf* *p sempre* senza sord.

Perc. *p* *mf* *p* *p* *ppp* *p* Hats Toms

Vln. *p* *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

270

Fl. *simile*

Cl. *p sempre simile*

Hn. *mf* *p*

Perc. *mf* *p* *p* *ppp* *p*

Vln. *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p*

278

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

296

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

304

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

f *ff* *ff*

f *ff* *ff*

f *ff*

310

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff *p sub.* *mf* *p* *mf*

ff *p* *mf* *p*

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *ff*

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *ff*

ff *ff*

ff

K.D.

319

Fl. *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf*

Hn. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Perc.

Vln. soloistic *poco f*

Vla. *poco f*

Vc. *poco f*

328

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Hn. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. Crot. arco, l.v. *mf* *mf* *mf*

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

336

Fl. *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Hn. *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

Perc. *mf* *mf*

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

soloistic

344

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Hn. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Perc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vln. *mf* *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

soloistic

legato

legato

352

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

pp *mf* *p* *mf* *mf*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

360

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

mf *pp*

p *mf* *pp*

p *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

mf

fading away

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

368

Fl. *pp mp pp mp pp mp pp mp*

Cl. *pp mp pp mp pp mp pp mp*

Hn. *pp mp pp mp pp mp pp mp*

Perc. *pp poss. sempre (simile)*
Low tom
felt mallet
simile, mute w/ hand

Vln. *p mf p mf p mf p mf*

Vla. *p mf p mf p mf p mf*

Vc. *p mf p mf p mf p mf*

379

Fl. *pp mp pp mp pp mp pp mp*

Cl. *pp mp pp mp pp mp pp mp*

Hn. *pp mp pp mp pp mp pp mp*

Perc. *pp mp pp mp pp mp pp mp*

Vln. *p mf p mf p mf p mf*

Vla. *mf p mf p mf p mf p mf*

Vc. *p mf p mf p mf p mf*

390

Fl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Hn. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Perc. *ppp*

Vln. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

399

Fl. *mp* *pp* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *pp* *mp*

Hn. *mp* *pp*

Perc. -

Vln. *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p* *mf*

413

Fl. *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *pp*

Hn. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Perc. *sfz* *mute* *Crot.* *felt mallet* *simile*

Vln. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

421

Fl. *mf* *pp*

Cl. *mf* *pp*

Hn. *mf* *pp*

Perc. *+* *>*

Vln. *p* *mf* *pp* *mp*

Vla. *mf* *pp* *mp*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *mp*

428

Fl. *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *pp*

Hn. *mp* *pp*

Perc. *+* *>*

Vln. *ppp* *p*

Vla. *ppp* *p* *n*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *n*

435

Fl. *p* *pp* *ppp*

Cl. *p* *pp* *ppp*

Hn. *p* *pp*

Perc. *p* *pp*

Vln. *n* *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *pp* *n*

442

Fl. *pp* *ppp*

Cl. *pp* *ppp*

Hn. *pp* *ppp*

Perc. *p* *pp*

Vln. *n* *ppp*

Vla. *n* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *n*

449

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

n

n

[illegible]

466

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

pp

ppp

471

Fl.

Cl.

Hn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ppp

pp

ppp

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

p