

Michael Karmon

Caught in the Headlights

for guitar duo

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Duration: ca. 18 min.

Commissioned by:
Newman & Oltman Guitar Duo
Goldspiel/Provost Guitar Duo
Elgart/Yates Guitar Duo
Julian Gray and Ronald Pearl Guitar Duo

Underwritten by the American Composers Forum
with funds provided by the Jerome Foundation.

Program notes:

The title alludes to the ensemble's pairing of identical instruments that, like a pair of car headlights, work in concert to create something larger but can also function on their own. The names of the movements continue the car metaphor: 'I. High Beams' is energetic and emphatic, 'II. Battery's Dead' is moody and slow, 'III. Turn Signals' is short and angular, and 'IV. Big Fuzzy Circles' features the two guitars really working together, just as car headlights do on a dark road at night.

As I was writing the piece, one of my main objective was to simply enjoy the process, and I hope this comes through in the music.

Caught in the Headlights

I. High Beams

Michael Karmon

Aggressive, edgy ♩ = ca. 114+

The musical score is written for Guitar I, Guitar II, and Piano. It is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (Bb). The tempo is marked as 'Aggressive, edgy ♩ = ca. 114+'. The score is divided into systems, with measures 4, 8, 12, and 16 marked at the beginning of their respective systems. The guitar parts are characterized by heavy strumming and aggressive phrasing, while the piano part provides a rhythmic and harmonic foundation. Dynamic markings include *ff* (fortissimo), *f* (forte), *p* (piano), and *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance instructions such as 'strum down' and 'VI' (likely referring to the sixth string) are included. The score concludes with a *p sub.* (piano subito) marking.

20

strum down

ff

strum down

ff

24

VI

mp

ff

f

marcato

f

marcato

f

mp

ff

28

32

Always moving forward

(ord.)

mf

(ord.)

f

+ slight bend

36

p

p

39

mp

43

mp

46

49

mf

53

mf

58

62

legato, lyrical

66

mp

71

mf

76

agitated

f

80

Stringendo

legato, lyrical

p sub.

legato

p sub.

A tempo

85 *strum* *ff*

89 *strum down* *ff* *mf* 1/2 C. VII ④

Resolute, steady

93 1/2 C. VII *ff* *quick strum*

96 IX ⑤ *p* *mf*

99 *pp* *Cresc. poco a poco... espress.* *pp* *Cresc. poco a poco...*

103

(cresc.)

(cresc.)

107

(cresc.)

(cresc.)

110

(cresc.)

(cresc.)

114

f

lyrical

f

118

122

Measures 122-125. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern in G major. The left hand plays a simple bass line with quarter and eighth notes.

126

Measures 126-129. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a more active bass line with eighth notes and quarter notes.

130

(mp)

Measures 130-133. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a more active bass line with eighth notes and quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *(mp)* is present above the first measure.

134

p

mp

Measures 134-137. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a more active bass line with eighth notes and quarter notes. Dynamic markings of *p* and *mp* are present.

138

pp

Measures 138-141. The right hand continues the eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a more active bass line with eighth notes and quarter notes. A dynamic marking of *pp* is present.

145 *sempre l.v.*

p *mf* *p*

152

pp Cresc. poco a poco

156

(cresc.) (cresc.)

159

strum down *ff* strum down *ff*

II. Battery's Dead

Hazy, languid ♩ = ca. 54

Guitar I

Guitar II

gentle VI *p*

gentle *p* ⑥ art. harm.

4

espress. *mp* *pp* art. harm. *p*

7

legato, espress

Rit.

11

sva IV

⑤ ① ⑥ (nat. harms.) ②

pp

15

Fluid (♩ = ca. 92)

mf ④

Rit.

18

♩ = ca. 60

As before, fluid (♩ = ca. 92)

Rit.

p espress. ⑥ ③ ④

⑤ ③ ② ⑥ ⑤

mf

22 $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ **Lyrical, expressive** $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 86$

p espress. *poco accel.* *legato* *p* *poco rit.*

28 *legato* *p* *poco accel.* *poco rit.* *poco accel.* *poco rit.* **A tempo** ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 86$)

p *p*

33 **Stringendo poco a poco**

p

39 **Suddenly slower** $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$ **A bit hesitant** $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$

ff *mp* *ff* *p* (nat. harm.)

44

1 2 + 3 1 2 3 4

48

mp *espress.* ②

52

p

55

With a steady pulse

p *mf* *f*

58

mf *p*

62

p ③ *p*

65

mp

p

68

mp

mp

mp

Full sound with a light touch

70

f

f (bring out top voice)

72

f

f

74

f

f

76

mp 6

78

f (bring out top voice)

④ ⑥

80

82

84

86

ff

ff

88

Dim. poco a poco -----

Dim. poco a poco -----

90

(dim.)

(dim.)

94

p

pp

ff

p

pp

Freely, fluid (♩ = ca. 92)

102

espress.

p

pp

mf

105

6 2 0
IV

109

Rit. $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$
espress.

2 0

p

114 Lyrical, expressive $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 86$

poco accel.-----poco rit.-----

legato

p

120

poco accel.-----poco rit.-----

A tempo
($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 86$)

Stringendo poco a poco

p

126

Suddenly slower $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$

ff *mp* *p*

III. Turn Signals

Fast, with nervous energy ♩ = ca. 116

The musical score is written for two guitars, labeled "Guitar I" and "Guitar II". The music is in 4/4 time and consists of 19 measures. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The tempo is marked "Fast, with nervous energy" with a quarter note equal to approximately 116 beats per minute. The score is divided into systems of four measures each, with measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 16, and 19 indicated at the start of their respective systems. The notation includes various musical symbols such as treble clefs, time signatures, dynamic markings (*mf*, *f*, *p*, *mp*), articulation marks (accents, slurs), and performance instructions like "rasq." (rassando) and "sim." (similando). The piece features intricate melodic lines and complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth and thirty-second notes, as well as rests and ties.

Guitar I

Guitar II

mf

f

p

mp

mf

mf

mf

f

rasq.

sim.

22

mf

25

p *f* *mp* *p* *sfz*

*scratch

(strum)

*Optional scratch along the low strings with either the right or left hand nails. One or both players can do this.

IV. Big Fuzzy Circles

Bright and lively ♩ = ca. 84

Guitar I

Guitar II

pp

pp

3

f

f

p

6

f

mf

9

f

11

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

13

15

18

C. IV

21

1/2 C. VII

23

25

0 ③ ④

27

29

p *p* *mp*

31

33

35

Measures 35-36. The right hand plays a continuous eighth-note pattern. The left hand has a few notes with rests.

37

Measures 37-39. Measure 37 continues the eighth-note pattern. Measure 38 has a change in time signature to 2/4. Measure 39 has a change to 3/4 and includes *p* ponticello and sul tasto markings.

40

Measures 40-43. Measure 40 has a change in time signature to 3/4 and includes *espress.* and *mf* markings. Measures 41-43 continue the eighth-note pattern.

44

Measures 44-47. Measures 44-47 continue the eighth-note pattern with some chords in the right hand.

48

Measures 48-51. Measures 48-51 continue the eighth-note pattern with some chords in the right hand.

52

ord.

mf

55

f

f

57

6

6

(even)

p sub.

60

legato

mp

63

67

niente

Freely, lush (♩ = ca. 62)

poco accel.----- poco rit.----- poco accel.-----

71 **Rit.**

pp
p

74 **poco rit.**----- **a tempo, poco rit.**----- **poco accel.**----- **poco rit.**-----

p
pp

77 **Accel.**----- **A tempo, bright and lively** ♩ = ca. 84

f
mf

80

f
mf

82

f
mf

84

87

90

92

95

98

100

102

104

106

109

mf

114

Continue in the same tempo —
sim.

niente

pp

ff

together

start very slow

Accel. poco a poco

Cresc. poco a poco

(repeat pattern)

ppp

ff

Mvt. I tempo (♩ = ca. 114)

115

strum down

ff

mp

ff

ff

mp

ff

VI

Mvt. II tempo (♩ = ca. 60)

A tempo ♩ = ca. 84

118

nat. harms.

f

ff

f

ff

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Guitar I

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I. High Beams

Michael Karmon

Aggressive, edgy ♩ = ca. 114+

strum down

ff

f

4

p *f* *mf*

11

p

21

strum down

ff

VI 0

mp

26

marcato

ff *f*

31

Always moving forward
(ord.)

mf + slight bend

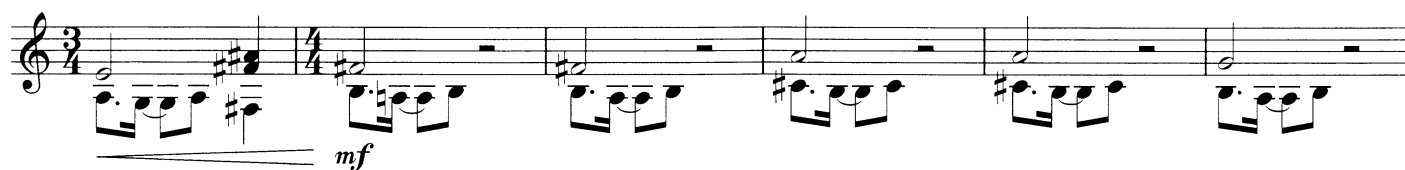
36

40

mp

44

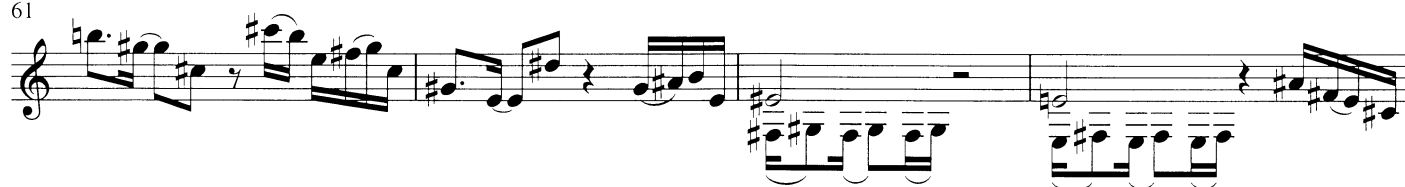
50



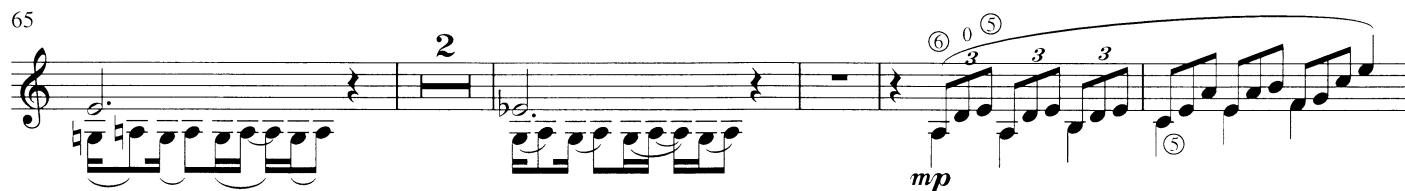
56



61



65



72



78 agitated



Stringendo

legato, lyrical

p sub.

84



A tempo

strum

strum down

90



Resolute, steady

quick
strum

95



101

pp Cresc. poco a poco ...

105

(cresc.)

109

(cresc.)

113

(cresc.)

117

f

121

125

129

(*mp*)

133

p

137

pp

145 *sempre l.v.*

p

153

⑥ *Cresc. poco a poco*

0

158

(cresc.)

⑥

strum down

ff

II. Battery's Dead

Hazy, languid ♩ = ca. 54

5

gentle VI

IV

5

espress.

mp

4

p

legato, espress

8

Rit.

8va

p

Freely

Accel. poco a poco

Fluid (♩ = ca. 92)

IV

5 1 6 (nat. harms.) 2

pp

mf

4

16

Rit.

♩ = ca. 60

espress.

As before, fluid (♩ = ca. 92)

Rit.

espress.

♩ = ca. 60

6 3 4

5 3 0 6 5

2

p

mf

p

Lyrical, expressive

♩ = ca. 86

legato

p

poco accel.-----

poco rit.-----

poco accel.-----

poco rit.-----

32

A tempo Stringendo poco a poco

p

4

5

2

5

4

0 3

Suddenly slower ♩ = ca. 66

A bit hesitant ♩ = ca. 60

39

ff *mp*

44

49

54

f

58

mf

62

66

mp

Full sound with a light touch

70

f

74

77

79

81

83

85

87

90

95

mp *f* (bring out top voice)

ff

p

pp *ff*

Freely, fluid (♩ = ca. 92)

103

pp *mf*

106

⑥ ② 0

109

Rit. ♩ = ca. 60
espress. *p*

Lyrical, expressive
114 ♩ = ca. 86

poco accel. ----- poco rit. ----- poco accel. ----- poco rit. -----
legato *p*

A tempo Stringendo poco a poco
122 (♩ = ca. 86)

p

Suddenly slower ♩ = ca. 66

129

ff *mp*

III. Turn Signals

Fast, with nervous energy ♩ = ca. 116

Musical score for 'Turn Signals' in treble clef, 4/4 time. The piece is fast, with a tempo of approximately 116 beats per minute. It features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The dynamics range from *mf* (mezzo-forte) to *sfz* (sforzando). The score includes a scratch instruction and a strum instruction. The piece is divided into measures, with measure numbers 5, 9, 15, 19, and 23 indicated.

Measures 1-4: *mf*

Measures 5-8: *mp*

Measures 9-14: *mf*

Measures 15-18: *mf*

Measures 19-22: *mp*

Measures 23-26: *p*, *f*, *mp*, *p*, *sfz* (with strum instruction)

*Optional scratch along the low strings with either the right or left hand nails. One or both players can do this.

IV. Big Fuzzy Circles

Bright and lively ♩ = ca. 84

Musical score for 'Big Fuzzy Circles' in treble clef, 4/4 time. The piece is bright and lively, with a tempo of approximately 84 beats per minute. It features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *f* (forte). The score includes a *secco* instruction and a *VII* instruction. The piece is divided into measures, with measure numbers 4, 8, and 11 indicated.

Measures 1-3: *pp*

Measures 4-7: *f*

Measures 8-10: *f*

Measures 11-13: *mp*, *f*

14

17

20 C. IV 1/2 C. VII

23

26

29

31 *p*

33

35

37

f

41 *espress.*
mf

49

55 *f*

58 *legato*
mp

64

70 **Rit.** *pp*

Freely, lush ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 62$)
poco accel. ----- poco rit. ----- poco accel. -----

74 *p* *pp*

poco rit. ----- a tempo, poco rit. ----- poco accel. ----- poco rit. -----

77 **Accel.** ----- **A tempo, bright and lively $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 84$**
f

80

83

86

89

92

95

98

101

104

107

113

[illegible]

Guitar II

Caught in the Headlights

I. High Beams

Michael Karmon

Aggressive, edgy ♩ = ca. 114+

VI strum down

ff

4

p

f

8

mf

13

17

p sub.

21

strum down

ff

25

mp

ff

f

29

33

Always moving forward

(ord.)

f

p

p

p

mp

②

43

47

51

mf

65

legato, lyrical

75

agitated

f

82

Stringendo

legato

p sub.

86

A tempo

ff

89

strum down

ff *mf*

93

Resolute, steady

ff

96

99

espress.

mp Cresc. poco a poco...

105

(cresc.)

115

lyrical

f

124

133

mp

143

mf

p

152

pp Cresc. poco a poco

156

(cresc.)

159

ff

strum down

II. Battery's Dead

Hazy, languid ♩ = ca. 54

gentle *p*

⑥ art. harm.

5 art. harm. *pp*

p

Rit.

12 Freely

guitar I

guitar I

Lyrical, expressive ♩ = ca. 86

poco accel.-----

24 legato *p*

poco rit.-----

32 A tempo Stringendo poco a poco

p

Suddenly slower ♩ = ca. 66

38 *ff*

A bit hesitant ♩ = ca. 60 (nat. harms.)

p

45

51 *mp*

espress.

With a steady pulse

55 *p* *mf*

p *f* *mf*

60

p

66

p

Full sound with a light touch

70

f (bring out top voice)

72

74

76

80

85

ff

p

90

p

97 *pp* *espress.* **Freely, fluid** guitar I *p* 3 5 4 6 3 4 9

Lyrical, expressive ♩ = ca. 86

114 *p* *legato* *poco accel.* *poco rit.* 4

A tempo

Stringendo poco a poco

122 *p*

Suddenly slower ♩ = ca. 66

127 *ff* *p*

III. Turn Signals

Fast, with nervous energy ♩ = ca. 116

rasq. *f* *p* *mf*

7 *mf*

12

16 *f* 2

21 *mf*

24 *p* *f* *mp* *p* *sfz* (strum) *scratch

IV. Big Fuzzy Circles

Bright and lively ♩ = ca. 84

Musical score for "The Wind" by John Williams, featuring a piano solo. The score is in treble clef and includes various dynamics (pp, p, mf, f, mp) and articulations (accents, slurs). It shows a progression of chords and melodic lines across 26 measures.

29 *p* *mp*

33

38 ponticello *f* sul tasto *p sub.* ④ ⑤ ③

42 ④ ⑤ ⑥

46 ③ ④

50

53 ord. *mf*

56 (even) *f* *p sub.*

60

65 *Rit.* niente

Freely, lush (♩ = ca. 62)

poco accel. ----- poco rit. -----

poco accel. ----- poco rit. -----

poco rit. ----- poco accel. -----

72

p *pp*

76

----- poco rit. -----

Accel. ----- A tempo, bright and lively ♩ = ca. 84

mf

80

83

86

89

92

secco

p sub. ----- *ff* *f*

95

98



112

start very slow

Accel. poco a poco

Cresc. poco a poco

ppp

with gtr. I

ff

Mvt. I tempo (♩ = ca. 114)

Mvt. II tempo

(♩ = ca. 60)

nat. harms.



119 A tempo ♩ = ca. 84

