A MOUTHFUL OF GRAVEL
and other predicaments

for chamber orchestra

Ethan Frederick Greene (2009)

Master of Music

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ABSTRACT

A Mouthful of Gravel for chamber orchestra couples a continuous, yet evolving motor rhythm with one large thematic unit, presented "chopped up" throughout the piece with gradually-waning intensity. The harpsichord takes on a prominent role throughout, though the piece is by no means a concerto. Structural signposts appear in the way of verbal mumbling by sections of the orchestra, percussive striking of a metal bowl atop an oven grate, and instrumental mimicry of gravel and speech sounds. The piece is approximately seven minutes long.
INSTRUMENTATION:

2 Flutes  
(2. doubles Piccolo)  
2 Oboes  
(2. doubles English Horn)  
2 B♭ Clarinets  
(2. doubles B♭ Bass Clarinet)  
2 Bassoons  
4 Horns in F  
2 Trumpets in B♭  
2 Trombones  
1 Tuba  
Timpani  
Percussion (2 players)  
Harpsichord (2 x 8', 1 x 4', Buff)  
Strings (minimum 44443)

Duration: c. 7'

NOTES:
The harpsichord is to be positioned at the front of the stage throughout the piece.

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* Rest metal bowl upright on oven grate.
  Top line: bowl
  Bottom: oven grate
MUMBLE: "wala-wala"
MUMBLE: "mala-maga"
MUMBLE: "aurora-bore"