

# Dans les Nuages

I. When We Were Young

II. We Shifted

III. Cloud Breath

for  
baritone  
vibraphone  
harp  
bass clarinet

composed by

**Phillip Sink**

text by

**Tim Lane**

2011

## Preface

Program Notes: This piece began as a collaboration between the poet, Tim Lane and composer, Phillip Sink. The poems were written in honor of Tim's twentieth wedding anniversary.

The first song, "When We Were Young" reminisces on the how humans interacted (and dated) before the internet. To illustrate the forward motion of time, I chose to write a highly rhythmic passacaglia. The harmonic cycle represents time passing and occasional moments of rest (i.e. "the clouds stand still"). To represent the human aspect of the poem, I developed a highly interactive fabric among the players.

The second song "We Shifted" represents the early part of Tim's relationship to his wife. For this song, I removed the sense of pulse so that the form takes the shape of a cloud. Players must read from the score and communicate with each other throughout.

The third song, "Cloud Breath," represents Tim's marriage in present day. The song starts out with an interlude, reflecting back on moments in "When We Were Young." Through a series of tempo modulation, time is stretched, representing the return to the present. Scale motives represent breathing.

Transposed Score

Runtime: c.13:30

Perusal Score

Dans les Nuages

by Tim Lane

-for Sheila  
with our 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
in mind

"When We Were Young"

When we were young  
we couldn't store  
our thoughts in  
clouds—  
we couldn't text,  
we couldn't trade  
flirtations  
on the fly.  
Before we met,  
we couldn't save  
our love in  
phones—  
we couldn't cast  
our brilliant  
luck  
across these  
fleecy skies.

"We Shifted"

We shifted  
on her front porch  
while the traffic  
spread through us  
like tequila,  
we drank cold pop  
green bottles of Coke,  
while the satellites  
nudged apart our thighs,  
and we didn't chat,  
no, we didn't chat,  
as if we been together  
all our lives,  
nervous terriers;  
flushed and wired;  
cautious gamblers;  
blind and deaf  
to the  
sirens,  
lilacs,  
and murders.  
Oh, my love!  
I text you now,  
because you invited me over.  
Oh, my love!  
I *friend* you now,  
because we created this folder.

*The clouds stand still;  
the clouds move on.*

I lie awake reading while waiting  
for you to drift upstairs—our  
bedspread striated, deep muscle,  
dark ocean blue. Across the hall I  
can hear the kids breathing.

soft breath  
baby's breath  
natural breath  
musical breath  
poetic breath  
historical breath  
quick breath  
instantaneous breath  
multiple breath  
simultaneous breath  
linked breath  
downloaded breath  
lilac breath  
gambler's breath  
Jasper John's breath  
murderer's breath  
siren breath  
cloud breath  
cloud breath  
cloud breath  
Oh, my love

Perusal Score

Dans les Nuages

Transposed Score

Runtime: c.11:30

"When We Were Young"

Composed by Phillip Sink  
Text by Tim Lane

*driving, but relaxed*  
♩ = 108

**A**

Baritone Solo

Vibraphone  
motor off  
*mp* (x noteheads are deadstrokes)

Harp  
*mf*

Bass Clarinet  
in B $\flat$

*mf*

**B**

*lightly*  
*mf*

When we were young When

*p*

in a relaxed groove  
*mf* *mp*

17

Bar. Solo

we were young we were young when we were young

Vib.

Hp.

B. Cl.

*mf*

23

Bar. Solo

When we were young we couldn't store we couldn't store our thoughts we couldn't store

Vib.

Hp.

B. Cl.

*f mp*

**C** *sim.*

28

Bar. Solo

our thoughts in clouds

Vib.

Hp.

B. Cl.

*mf f*

*f* *ff* *gliss.*

33 **D**

Bar. Solo *mf*  
The clouds stand still\_\_\_\_\_ The

Vib. *mf* *sub p*

Hp. *mf* *sub p*

B. Cl. *mf* *sub p*  
w/ space 3 sim. 3 3 3 3

39 **E**

Bar. Solo  
clouds move on. When we were young We couldn't text couldn't text. We couldn't

Vib. *mp*

Hp. *f* *l.v.* *mf*  
A<sub>4</sub>

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

44 *mf* *f*

Bar. Solo  
trade We couldn't trade flir - ta - tions\_\_\_\_\_ trade flir - ta - tions\_ on the fly\_\_\_\_\_

Vib.

Hp. A<sub>b</sub> G<sub>b</sub>

B. Cl. *mp*

51 **F**

Bar. Solo

Vib.

Hp. *mf*  $G_4$

B. Cl. *mf* 5 5 6 7 6 6

55 *mf* **G** *with feeling*

Bar. Solo

Be - fore we met Be - fore we met, We

Vib. *mp*

Hp. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp* 6

61

Bar. Solo

could not save our love, in our

Vib.

Hp. *mp* gliss.

B. Cl.



66 *ff* **H**

Bar. Solo *ff* phones. The clouds stand

Vib. *p*

Hp. *p*

B. Cl. *f*

70 **I**

Bar. Solo still the clouds move on.

Vib. *f* *mp* let ring

Hp. *f* l.v.

B. Cl. *f*

75 *mf* **J**

Bar. Solo off When we were young

Vib. *mf*

Hp. *p* *mp*

B. Cl.

82

Bar. Solo *floatingly*  
Be-fore we met We couldn't try our bril - liant luck a - - cross  
motor on, medium speed

Vib. *mp*

Hp. *G<sub>7</sub> B<sub>7</sub> D<sub>7</sub>*

B. Cl. *lightly p*

88

Bar. Solo  
these flee - - cy skies.

Vib.

Hp. *p* *p* *G<sub>7</sub> A<sub>b</sub>*

B. Cl.

94

Bar. Solo *mf*  
a - - cross these flee - - cy

Vib.

Hp. *8<sup>va</sup>*

B. Cl.

98 *Falsetto*

Bar. Solo

skies

Vib.

Hp.

B. Cl.

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*

# "We Shifted"

*with nervous tension*

3-4"      3-4"      3-4"      4-5"

Baritone

Vibraphone

Harp

Bass Clarinet in Bb

3-4"      6-7"

Bar.

Vib.

Hp.

B. Cl.

(with a regular pulsation)

(end even if all notes aren't played)

7-8"

Bar.

Vib.

Hp.

B. Cl.

sim.

*pp*      *mf*      *n*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piece titled "We Shifted". It is marked "with nervous tension". The first system covers measures 1-4, with durations of 3-4, 3-4, 3-4, and 4-5 seconds. The instruments are Baritone, Vibraphone, Harp, and Bass Clarinet in Bb. The Vibraphone part starts with a piano (p) dynamic, followed by a forte (f) dynamic, then a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, and ends with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The Harp part starts with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, followed by a forte (f) dynamic, then a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, and ends with a forte (f) dynamic. The Bass Clarinet part is marked with a piano-piano (pp) dynamic. The second system covers measures 5-7, with durations of 3-4 and 6-7 seconds. The instruments are Baritone, Vibraphone, Harp, and Bass Clarinet. The Vibraphone part starts with a forte (f) dynamic, followed by a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, then a forte (f) dynamic, then a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, and ends with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The Harp part starts with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, followed by a forte (f) dynamic, then a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, and ends with a forte (f) dynamic. The Bass Clarinet part is marked with a piano-piano (pp) dynamic and includes the instruction "(with a regular pulsation)". The third system covers measures 8-10, with a duration of 7-8 seconds. The instruments are Baritone, Vibraphone, Harp, and Bass Clarinet. The Vibraphone part starts with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, followed by a forte (f) dynamic, then a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, then a forte (f) dynamic, then a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, and ends with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic. The Harp part starts with a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, followed by a forte (f) dynamic, then a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, then a forte (f) dynamic, then a mezzo-piano (mp) dynamic, and ends with a forte (f) dynamic. The Bass Clarinet part is marked with a piano-piano (pp) dynamic and includes the instruction "sim.". The score ends with a final measure marked with a piano-piano (pp) dynamic and a fermata.

**A** 3-4" *mf* 5-6" *mf* in a recitative style 5-6" *mf*

Bar. We shift - ed We shift - ed

Vib. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *p*

Hp. *mp* p.d.l.t. p.d.l.t.

B. Cl. match vibes *pp* *mp* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

5-6" *f* 9-10" *f*

Bar. *f* on her front porch while the traffic spread through us like te - qui -

Vib. *mf* *mp*

Hp. *mp* (p.d.l.t) (with baritone)

B. Cl. w/ harp *ppp* *f* *pp* *pp* *n*

**B** 7-8" *with forward momentum*

Bar. la

Vib. *mp* *f* *ff*

Hp. *f* ord. *mp* *f* *ff*  
 G<sub>4</sub> D<sub>4</sub> B<sub>3</sub> F<sub>3</sub> G<sub>4</sub> A<sub>3</sub> F<sub>4</sub> C<sub>4</sub> B<sub>3</sub>

B. Cl. *mp* *f*

8-9"

*mf* *f* triplet feel *let singer guide*

Bar. we drank cold pop green bot tles of Coke, while the sat - te - lites nudged a - part our

Vib.

Hp. p.d.l.t. *mp* *mf* ord. p.d.l.t. *mf* A $\sharp$  B $\sharp$  triplet feel E $\flat$  A $\flat$

B. Cl. *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* (with baritone) *p* *mf*

Bar. thighs and we didn-t chat... no... we didn-t chat as if we'd been to-ge-ther all our

Vib. (deadstroke) *mf*

Hp. ord. A $\sharp$  C $\sharp$  C $\sharp$

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

**C** *deliberate, but free*

Bar. lives.

Vib. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Hp. All  $\sharp$  *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

B. Cl. *pp* *mf*

Bar. *mf* *gliss.*  
Ner - vous terr-i-ers flushed and wired cau - tious

Vib. *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Hp. *pp* *pp* *Bb* *mf* *pp*

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

**D** *with much motion and guts*

Bar. *f*  
gam - blers blind and deaf to the si - rens li - lacs and mur - der - ers

Vib. *mf* *pp* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

Hp. *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *Eb*

B. Cl. *mf* *f*

**E** *work up the courage...* *ff*  
Oh, my

Vib. *ff* *ad lib. any order*

Hp. *f* *gliss.* *half pedal* *ad lib.*

B. Cl. *mf* *p*

Bar. *b<sub>2</sub>* love! I text you now be - cause

Vib. *mp*

Hp. *C<sub>b</sub>* *G<sub>b</sub>* *mf* *C<sub>1</sub>* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

**F** *much more relaxed, slowly paced*

Bar. you in-vit-ed me o - ver Oh, my love! I friend you now be-cause we cre - a - ted this fold

Vib. *mp*

Hp. *gliss.* *mf* *C<sub>b</sub>* *E<sub>1</sub>* *E<sub>b</sub>*

B. Cl. *mf* *n*

Bar. der cre - a - ted this fold - er

Vib. *p*

Hp. *mp* *C<sub>1</sub>* *E<sub>1</sub>* *F<sub>b</sub>* *E<sub>b</sub>* *F<sub>1</sub>* *C<sub>1</sub>* *E<sub>1</sub>* *C<sub>b</sub>*

B. Cl.



**G** *without hesitating*  
niente

Bar. *tapering off*

Vib. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Hp. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*  
F $\flat$  B $\natural$  G $\sharp$  E $\flat$  D $\sharp$

(take short breaths as needed in between pitches)

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

Bar. *mf* *pp*

Vib. *mf* *pp* *unwind to the end*

Hp. *mf* E $\natural$  *pp*

B. Cl. *taper off until out of breath* *niente*

# "Cloud Breath"

$\text{♩} = 140$  with bound energy

Baritone: The clouds stand still.

Vibraphone: w/ medium yarn

Harp: gong

Bass Clarinet in B $\flat$ : with strong pulsation sim.

6  $\text{♩} = 105$   $\text{♩} = 84$  *mf*

Bar. The

Vib. *f* *mp*

Hp. *f* *mp*

B. Cl. with less pulsation *f* *mp*

10  $\text{♩} = 70$

Bar. clouds move on.

Vib. *mf*

Hp. *mf*

B. Cl. very smooth, with little pulsation *mf*

13 B

Bar. *mf* I lie a - wake

Vib. bowed *mf*

Hp. *f* *mp* B $\flat$  A $\sharp$

B. Cl. *f* *p* *mp* 6 6 6 6

16

Bar. read - ing while wait - ing for you to drift up stairs.

Vib.

Hp. p.d.l.t. *ord.* E $\sharp$  A $\flat$  p.d.l.t.

B. Cl. 6 6 6 6

19

Bar. Our bed - spread. Stri - a - ted Deep mu - sle.

Vib.

Hp.

B. Cl. 5 5 5 5

[♩ = 87.5]

**C**  $\leftarrow \text{7} \rightarrow$  [ $\text{♩} = 50$ ]

22

Bar. *Dark o - cean blue*

Vib. *ord.*

Hp. *All  $\sharp$  mf* *B $\flat$ -B $\flat$  f mp*

B. Cl. *mf* *f*

**D with child-like curiosity**  $\text{♩} = 88$

27 *spoken ad lib.*

Bar. *a-cross the hall I can hear the kids breath - ing*

Vib. *mp* *mf half pedal*

Hp. *A $\flat$  mp*

B. Cl. *pp*

33 *mp*

Bar. *Soft breath ba - by's breath na - tur - al*

Vib. *p*

Hp. *B $\sharp$  A $\sharp$  p p*

B. Cl.

38 *f*

Bar. breath mu - si - cal breath

Vib. *f*

Hp. B $\flat$  *p* *f* F $\flat$

B. Cl. *hp.* *f*

42 **E** *mf* *3*

Bar. po - e - tic breath

Vib. *mp*

Hp. C# *mp*

B. Cl. *n*

47 **F** *f* *3* *mf* *3* *f*

Bar. hi - stor - i - cal breath quick and in - stan - ta - ne - ous breath

Vib. *f*

Hp. *f* *3*

B. Cl. *mp* *mf* *mf* *mf*

52

Bar. *mf* **G** freely 3

Mul - ti - ple breaths si -

Vib. *p* *mf*

Hp. *p* *mf* *p* p.d.l.t.

B. Cl. *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp* *p*

gliss. solo 5

59

Bar. *f* *mp* *mf* **H** *f*

- mul - ta - ne - ous breath, linked breath Down - load - ed breath Li - lac - gam -

Vib. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

Hp. *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

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

half

66

Spoken light-hearted character Sing

Spoken in a serious, mischievous character Sing

bler's Ja - sper John's breaths Mu - der - er's breath si -

Vib. *mp*

Hp. *mf* *mp* *mp*

B. Cl. *mp* *mp* *p*

ord.

71 *f* In Falsetto I [♩ = 70.4] as if drifting away

Bar. *ren breath cloud breath.*

Vib. *mf* 5 5 5 5

Hp. *mf* 5 5 5 5

B. Cl.

75 ↑ inhale

Bar.

Vib. *Cloud breath*

Hp. *p* 5 5 5 5 *8va*

B. Cl.

78 ↓ exhale w/ audible sigh ↑

Bar. *Cloud breath.*

Vib.

Hp. (8) *mp* 5 5 5 5 *f* *p* 5 5 5 5

B. Cl.

82 ↑ *gliss.* *ord. gliss.*  
Bar. Oh  
Vib.  
Hp. 5 5 5 5  
B. Cl.

84 *ad lib.* *long hold (until out of breath)*  
Bar. *p* my love... l.v.  
Vib. *p l.v.*  
Hp. *mf* *f* C<sub>7</sub> Eb *p*  
B. Cl. decay w/ harp *ppp* *n*