

Universe to Universe Report #74
(on the sounds made by dogs)

for basset hornist and narrator

Colin G. Johnson

Programme Note

Universe to Universe Report #74 (on the sounds made by dogs) was written in 2020. It consists of a narration, in the form of an imaginary report between two universes, and a part for basset horn. The basset horn part begins with a monotone rhythmic pattern, a little redolent of Morse code. This has interruptions, which become more frequent for the first half of the piece, and then less frequent, until the monotone returns at the end. Are these interruptions transmission difficulties, or the random barking of dogs? This is one of a number of recent pieces that play with tropes and conceits from science fiction, including *Five Glimpses into Alternative Universes* (2019) from trombonist and pianist, and *Variations on a Cosmological Theory* (2020) for small ensemble performing over videoconferencing.

Length

Around two to two-and-a-half minutes.

Biography

Colin Johnson is active in both composition and improvisation. He is particularly interested in pieces that have explored structured frameworks in which human musicians work with a mixture of technology, composed material, random choices, theatrical miniatures, found texts from internet searches, and improvised material. He is particularly interested in ways of structuring musical and theatrical material by drawing on ways in which people have attempted to formalise complicated systems: computer programs, role-playing games, instruction manuals, finite state machines, flow charts, examination rubrics, engineering drawings, assembly instructions for flat-pack furniture, communications protocols, signage, etc. Sometimes he writes straightforward music for acoustic instruments.

or, more simply

Colin Johnson is a composer with wide interests, ranging from straightforward pieces for acoustic instruments to music theatre works and frameworks for improvisation.

Performance Notes

The basset horn part starts the piece. The narrator should join after a few seconds. There should be enough music to ensure that the narration has finished by the time the player reaches the end; if not, the last four bars should be repeated until the narration is over. The narration should include the title (“Universe to Universe Report...”).

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Basset Horn Part in F

Universe to Universe Communication #74 (on the sounds made by dogs)

Basset Horn
(Part in F)

Colin G. Johnson (2020)

Allegro

mp

4

7

10

13

16

19

22

Basset Horn

25

28

31

34

37

40

43

46

49

51

Basset Horn

53

55

58

61

64

67

70

73

Repeat, if needed, until narration has finished.

76

79

Narration

Universe to Universe Report Number Seventy-four

This the seventy-fourth report on differences between our two universes since the wormhole was discovered.

We have observed that, by contrast with your universe, the sound made by dogs (or rather, the nearest equivalent species in our universe to dogs) plays a considerably greater role in our universe compared to yours. Five examples follow. For convenience, we have used the name of the closest species of dog found in your universe.

Number one. Our ability to digest food is considerably enhanced if that digestion takes place in the same room as the contented, quiet snore of a Saint Bernard.

Number two. In our universe, the act of worship is only effective if accompanied by the distant howl of a Welsh Springer Spaniel.

Number three. It is widely believed in our universe that Labradors are the medium through which a sense of moral justice is imbued into our population, and therefore every sitting courtroom must have one in attendance, and no judgement can be passed until three clear barks have been heard at some point during the proceedings.

Number four. If correctly timed, the yap of a West Highland Terrier can make putting nails into walls almost effortless in our universe.

Number five. It has been observed in our universe that the breathing of a Basset Hound, even if almost inaudible, can vastly increase the capacity of painters to express emotion in their paintings.

That concludes report number seventy-four. We expect report number seventy-five to be transmitted in around thirty-five days' time.

Over.

Basset Horn Part at Concert Pitch

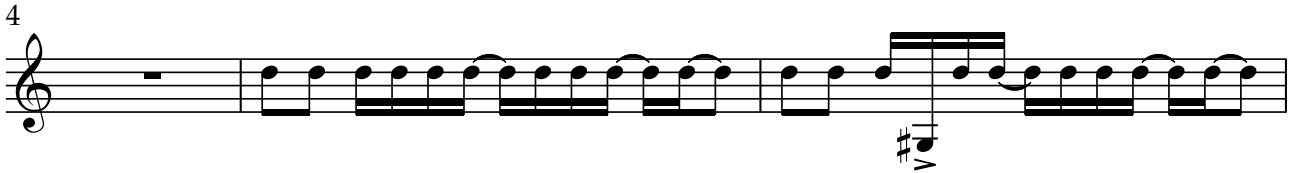
Universe to Universe Communication #74 (on the sounds made by dogs)

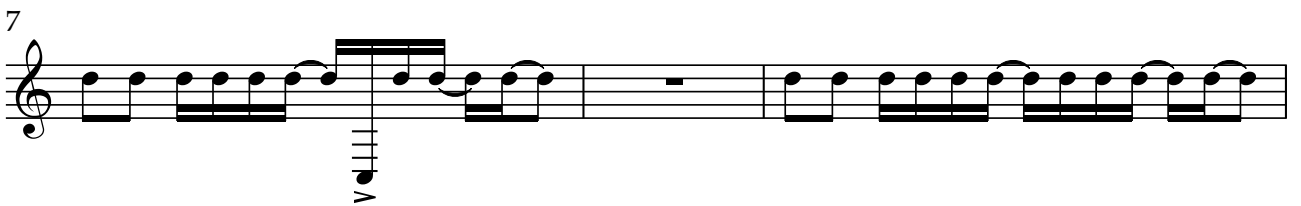
(Concert Pitch)

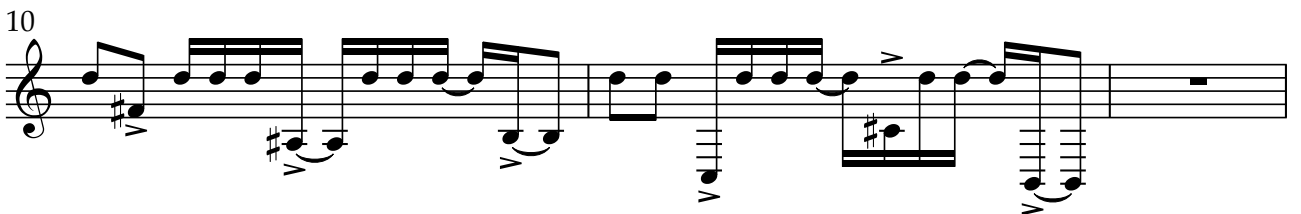
Colin G. Johnson (2020)

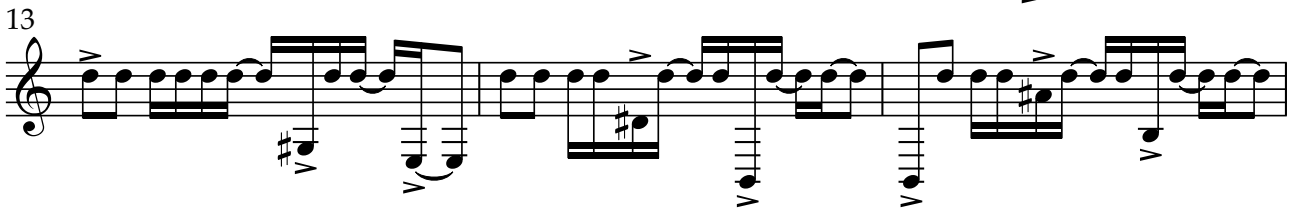
Allegro

Basset Horn 

B. Hn. 


B. Hn. 

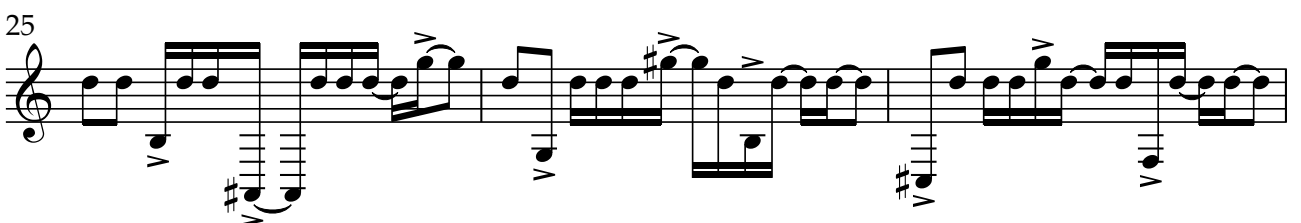
B. Hn. 

B. Hn. 

B. Hn. 

B. Hn. 

B. Hn. 

B. Hn. 

B. Hn. 28

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 28. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

B. Hn. 31

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 31. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

B. Hn. 34

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 34. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

B. Hn. 37

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 37. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

B. Hn. 40

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 40. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

B. Hn. 43

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 43. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

B. Hn. 46

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 46. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

B. Hn. 49

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 49. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

B. Hn. 52

Musical staff for B. Hn. starting at measure 52. The staff contains a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals and dynamic markings.

55
B. Hn.

58
B. Hn.

61
B. Hn.

64
B. Hn.

67
B. Hn.

70
B. Hn.

73
B. Hn.

Repeat, if needed, until narration has finished

76
B. Hn.

79
B. Hn.