

DAVID BIEDENBENDER

STAYING THE NIGHT

for flute and clarinet

BENT SPACE MUSIC

Commissioned by the Crescent Duo and Central Michigan University.

Performance materials available from Bent Space Music (Publisher):  
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**Duration: ca. 6:30**

## PERFORMANCE NOTE

*Staying the Night* is a collaborative project with poet Robert Fanning, whose poem should *always* precede this piece in performance in recorded form (recording available through the composer). Robert's beautiful words served as the stimulus for this music, and I am deeply indebted to him for his work, without which this piece could not exist.

There are no individual parts for this piece, as it is intended for both players to read from the transposed score. Photocopying is permitted for the purposes of making a fold-out or single sheet version of the score that can be placed across several music stands.

## STAYING THE NIGHT

By Robert Fanning

I want to touch everything she touched  
yesterday: my fingers lingering on her shelves  
and counter. I flip through the paperback  
left half-read on the nightstand, inhale  
the crumpled yellow hand towel near her  
bathroom sink, breathe in the dust and dander  
of her apartment air. My wife sifts a pile  
of unpaid bills, lifts a framed photo, reads  
an inscription on a birthday card. This home's  
a sudden museum. From the living room,  
I hear our daughter knock a glass thing over  
and giggle. I move to save the breakables from wreckage  
then remember: nothing can now be ruined.  
We're the guests of someone gone.  
From a stack of papers, I pull some brief note  
she wrote, marvel at her slight, precise lettering.  
On her fridge shelf, a tub of leftover spaghetti,  
an unfinished sandwich. In a drawer the perishables  
sweat: a new head of lettuce, a few pieces of fresh fruit.  
I choose to eat the peach she chose from the grocery's  
produce rows, not knowing it would outlive her.  
Later, before going to sleep in her bed, I see  
a still life next to the kitchen sink: one white bowl  
upside down, one fork, one knife, and beside the faucet  
her unwashed drinking glass. Lifting the glass, I hope  
to see her lipstick's usual pink wedge, scour for  
a fingerprint, some smudge. I fill it half-full  
with water, cover the rim with my lips,  
turn it in a circle, slowly. This is how  
I kiss my sister goodbye.



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Staying the Night

21 **accel.**

Fl. *sim.*

Cl. *sim.*

**26** Faster, gaining energy ♩ = 80

Fl. *mf sim.*

Cl. *mf sim.*

31 (2+3) (3+2) *cresc. poco a poco*

Fl. *cresc. poco a poco*

Cl. *cresc. poco a poco*

36 (3+2) (2+3)

41 **accel.**

Fl. *accel.*

Cl. *accel.*

Staying the Night

46 Ecstatic ♩ = 92

Fl. *f sim.*

Cl. *f sim.*

Measures 46-49: Flute and Clarinet parts. Flute has a dynamic of *f sim.* and a triplet of eighth notes. Clarinet has a dynamic of *f sim.* and triplets of eighth notes.

Fl. *cresc.*

Cl. *cresc.*

Measures 50-53: Flute and Clarinet parts. Flute has a dynamic of *cresc.* and a triplet of eighth notes. Clarinet has a dynamic of *cresc.* and triplets of eighth notes.

57 Searing, biting ♩ = 66

Fl. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Measures 54-58: Flute and Clarinet parts. Flute has a dynamic of *ff* and a five-measure rest. Clarinet has a dynamic of *ff* and a five-measure rest. Measure 57 has a dynamic of *ff weeping* and a dynamic of *ff > f*.

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Measures 59-63: Flute and Clarinet parts. Flute has a dynamic of *mf* and a dynamic of *mf*. Clarinet has a dynamic of *mf* and a dynamic of *mf*.

Fl. *radiant!*

Cl. *f*

Measures 64-68: Flute and Clarinet parts. Flute has a dynamic of *radiant!* and a dynamic of *fff*. Clarinet has a dynamic of *f* and a dynamic of *fff*.

\*smooth glissando for entire duration note

Staying the Night

87

Fl. *cresc.*

Cl. *cresc.*

91

Fl. *p*

Cl. *p*

95

96

Fl.

Cl.

99

Fl. *cresc.*

Cl. *cresc.*

103

Fl. *mp* *cresc.*

Cl. *mp* *cresc.*

6

Staying the Night

107

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mf* *pp* *mf*\*

111

113

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

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

115

Fl. *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

Cl. *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

119

Fl. *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *mf*

Cl. *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *mf* *pp* *f* *mf*

123

125

Fl. *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *mf* *pp* *f* *mf*

Cl. *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *mf*

\*sharp crescendo with abrupt release; do not rearticulate



8

**147 Withering**

Staying the Night

(no rit.)

Fl. *p* *pp* *pp* < *mf* *p* > *pp*

Cl. *p* *pp* *p* > *pp*

151

Fl. *pp* < *mf* *p* > *pp*

Cl. *pp* < *mf* *pp* < *mf*

155

Fl. [rest]

Cl. *pp* < *mf* *pp* < *mf* *pp*

**159 Still** ♩ = 56

Fl. *f* *pp*

Cl. *ff* *pp*

[15-20"]  
[play breathy whistle tones]

163

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

[breath sound through clarinet]