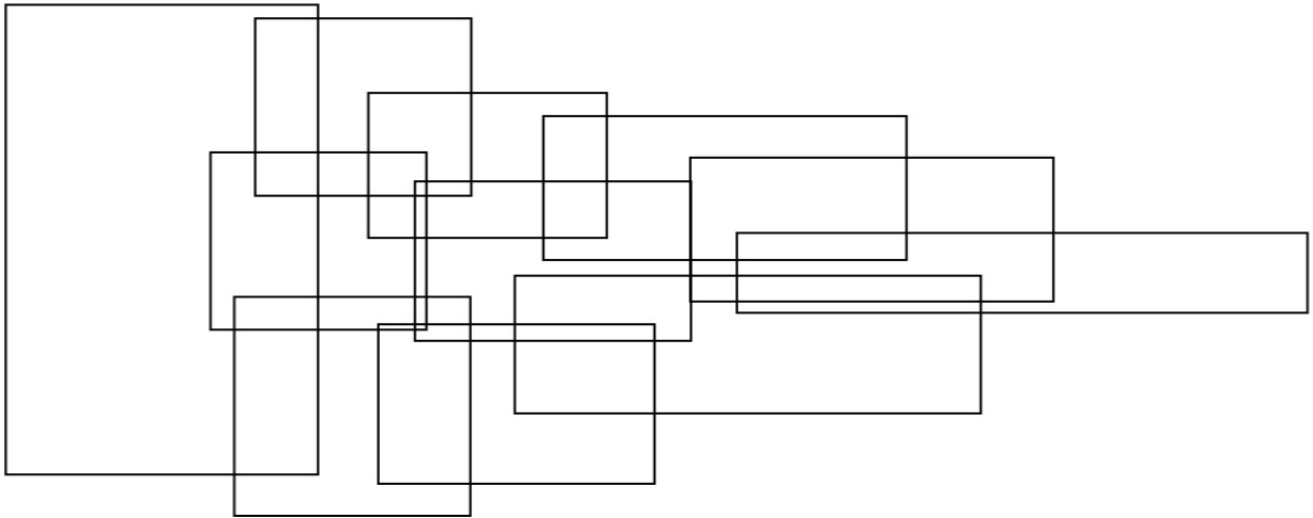


Alicia Castillo

Tightrope

for low clarinet choir



full score

2025

PROGRAM NOTE

Balancing between extreme textures, *Tightrope* explores the delicate tension a performer faces when transitioning from being masked within the security of an ensemble, to emerging as a featured soloist. The piece draws inspiration from the metaphor of walking a tightrope, where every step is a calculated risk and every movement is amplified for all to see.

ca. 8 minutes

PERFORMANCE NOTES

If there are any performers doubling Bass Clarinet 1, Bass Clarinet 2, or Contra Alto, subtly stagger dropping out after the downbeat of measure 38, until only one performer remains on each part at measure 40. This will create a smooth reduction in volume before the texture transitions into solo lines.

The homophonic and polyphonic texture eventually pull apart to reveal a single soloist at Rehearsal D in measure 47. If the work is performed with a conductor, pause conducting during the solo and resume at Rehearsal E. All other performers have been instructed to wait for a cue at Rehearsal E.

The halfway point of the tightrope is said to be the most challenging moment of tightrope walking; it's the furthest point away from support and leaves the walker vulnerable on the most unstable part of the rope. The solo at Rehearsal D marks the halfway point and makes a soloist in the ensemble act as a tightrope walker in the middle of the wire. The solo should be played freely; the given rhythms are just suggestions. The soloist controls the pace of the performance during that moment and can take their time moving between gestures to mimic hesitancy, making the audience question whether the performance is unraveling or coming to a close.

Moving past the middle point of a highwire signals getting closer to the end of navigating a difficult situation and seeing the light at the end of a tunnel. Accordingly, the soloist should increase speed and energy leading into Rehearsal E, representing growing determinacy and certainty as the rest of the ensemble returns to support the soloist.

Tightrope

Alicia Castillo

With weight ♩ = 50

flz. ord.

Score for the first system, measures 1-5. The instruments are Basset Horn, Alto Clarinet in Eb, Bass Clarinet in Bb 1, Bass Clarinet in Bb 2, Contra Alto Clarinet in Eb, and Contrabass Clarinet in Bb. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature changes from 6/4 to 4/4 at measure 2, and back to 6/4 at measure 4. Dynamics include *f*, *sfz*, *mf*, and *p*.

Score for the second system, measures 6-9. The instruments are B. Hn., Alto Cl., B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, C. A. Cl., and Cb. Cl. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature changes from 5/4 to 4/4 at measure 7, and back to 5/4 at measure 9. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, *sfz*, and *mf*. A rehearsal mark 'A' is placed above measure 6.

Score for the third system, measures 10-13. The instruments are B. Hn., Alto Cl., B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, C. A. Cl., and Cb. Cl. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 at measure 11, and back to 3/4 at measure 13. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *f*. A rehearsal mark '12' is placed above measure 10. The instruction 'flz.' appears above measure 13.

Castillo - Tightrope - 2

16 ord.

B. Hn.

Alto Cl.

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

C. A. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

21 B

25

The musical score is for a woodwind ensemble, specifically for the parts of B. Hn., Alto Cl., B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, C. A. Cl., and Cb. Cl. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The score is divided into three systems, each containing six staves. The first system (measures 16-20) starts with a 3/4 time signature and a 4-measure rest for the B. Hn. part. The second system (measures 21-24) begins with a section labeled 'B' and features a 6/4 time signature. The third system (measures 25-28) starts with a 4-measure rest for the B. Hn. part. The score includes various dynamic markings (p, mf, f, sf, mp) and articulation (tr, accents). The score ends at measure 25.

Castillo - *Tightrope* - 3

29

B. Hn.

Alto Cl.

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

C. A. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

32

B. Hn.

Alto Cl.

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

C. A. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

36

B. Hn.

Alto Cl.

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

C. A. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Everyone as a soloist

Pulling apart

Castillo - *Tightrope* - 4

Unraveling even more
Solo (if part is doubled)

B. Cl. 1

Solo (if part is doubled)

B. Cl. 2

Solo (if part is doubled)

C. A. Cl.

n

Blending into one voice

D

Solo
Freely, out of time with no perceptible pulse

Slow, hesitant
Repeat 3-4x

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

n

n

p

n

p

n

pp

p

B. Cl. 2

Becoming faster, more connected
Repeat 3-4x

Speeding up

Trill, increasing in speed and energy

mp *mf mp* *p* *mf sp* *mp*

Castillo - Tightrope - 5

E Regaining confidence
a tempo

63 Rebuilding together

67

Instrumentation:

- Basset Horn
- Alto Clarinet in Eb
- Bass Clarinet in Bb
- Contra Alto Clarinet in Eb
- Contrabass Clarinet in Bb
- B. Cl. 1
- B. Cl. 2
- C. A. Cl.
- Cb. Cl.

Performance Instructions:

- Solo:** Basset Horn, Alto Clarinet in Eb, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Contra Alto Clarinet in Eb, Contrabass Clarinet in Bb.
- Tutti:** B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, C. A. Cl., Cb. Cl.
- flz. (flautissimo):** B. Hn., Alto Cl., B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, C. A. Cl., Cb. Cl.
- ord. (ordinario):** B. Hn., Alto Cl., B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, C. A. Cl., Cb. Cl.

Dynamic Markings: *f* (forte), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *flz.* (flautissimo), *ord.* (ordinario), *p* (piano).

Rehearsal Markings: **63**, **67**

Tempo: a tempo

Castillo - *Tightrope* - 6

74 *ord.* *3* **F** As the beginning *rit.*

B. Hn. *3* *mf* *f*

Alto Cl. *4* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. 1 *3* *mf* *f*

B. Cl. 2 *3* *mf* *f*

C. A. Cl. *3* *mf* *f*

Cb. Cl. *3* *mf* *f*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for measures 74 through 78. The page is numbered 74 in a circle at the top left. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The score is for six instruments: B. Hn., Alto Cl., B. Cl. 1, B. Cl. 2, C. A. Cl., and Cb. Cl. The music is in 3/4 time. Measures 74 and 75 feature a triplet of eighth notes in the woodwinds. Measure 76 is marked with a forte (f) dynamic. Measure 77 is marked with a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. Measure 78 is marked with a forte (f) dynamic. The score includes a first ending bracket for measures 74-75, labeled 'ord.' and '3'. A second ending bracket for measures 76-78 is labeled 'F' and 'As the beginning rit.'. The woodwinds play a triplet of eighth notes in measures 74 and 75, followed by a half note in measure 76, and then a quarter note in measure 77, and a half note in measure 78. The strings play a quarter note in measure 74, a half note in measure 75, and a quarter note in measure 76, and then a quarter note in measure 77, and a half note in measure 78.

80

B. Hn.

Alto Cl.

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

C. A. Cl.

Cb. Cl.

p