
UNGROUNDED BASE (2012)

KATHRYN Salfelder

Program Note:

Ungrounded Base is a double entendre on the term "ground bass," the compositional device of the seventeenth century, in which a series of variations occurs over a recurring bass line. The seven pitches of this descending chromatic bass (B A# A G# G F# F) differ from historical practice with the addition of the final pitch (F), which obscures the tonic/dominant relationship of B-F#. Unlike earlier repertoire (from the keyboard works of Couperin and Frescobaldi to Beethoven's *32 Variations in C Minor* and the finale of Brahms' *Symphony #4*, to name a few examples), each pitch of the chromatic bass is not assigned the same duration. This obscures the listener's ability to trace the ground bass line.

The work is structured on a modified sonata form. The first theme, rooted in the harmony of the chromatic bass, is an ascending gesture introduced by the solo cello at the onset of the work. The more distant and haunting second theme integrates the ground bass as a melodic line. This theme quotes the recitative that precedes Purcell's *When I Am Laid in Earth* (also known as "Dido's Lament"), from his opera *Dido and Aeneas*, an aria frequently referenced in music history texts as an example of ground bass, chaconne, and chromatic expressivity in late-seventeenth-century music. Development ensues, and the mirror recapitulation presents the two themes in reverse order. Upon arrival at the first theme, the bass line is left unfinished; the brass section continues its ascent, rising to a soaring conclusion.

Ungrounded Base was commissioned by the United States Air Force Band, Washington D.C., as a follow-on commission to *Cathedrals*, winner of the 2009 United States Air Force Arnold D. Gabriel Award.

Performance Notes:

Accidentals remain in effect for the duration of the measure at the octave in which they occur. They are sometimes rewritten within a measure for clarity.

Glissandi occur over entire note durations; grace notes occur before the beat; trills preceded by the same pitch should be approached from above.

 Dotted slurs indicate phrasing

Performance time: c. 8'15"

Instrumentation

Piccolo	C Trumpet 1, 2, 3 & 4
Flute 1 & 2	Horn in F 1, 2, 3 & 4
Oboe 1 & 2	Trombone 1 & 2
Eb Soprano Clarinet	Bass Trombone
Bb Clarinet 1, 2 & 3	Euphonium
Bb Bass Clarinet	Tuba
Bassoon 1 & 2	
Eb Alto Saxophone 1 & 2	Cello
Bb Tenor Saxophone	String Bass
Eb Baritone Saxophone	Harp
	Timpani

Percussion 1: Triangle, 4 Tom-Toms, Orchestral Bells (shared w/Perc. 2), Large Sus. Cymbal (shared w/Perc. 2),
Crotales (1 octave - low)

Percussion 2: Vibraphone, Bass Drum, Orchestral Bells (shared w/Perc. 1), Large Sus. Cymbal (shared w/Perc. 1)

To the Conductor:

Ungrounded Base may be performed one-on-a-part (with two players on each Clarinet 1, 2 & 3) or with additional doublings at the conductor's discretion.

The opening directive, "Intensely; With a Focused, Driven Sound," remains in effect until Meas. 30, irrespective of tempo marking.

UNGROUNDED BASE

Intensely
With a Focused, Driven Sound

KATHRYN Salfelder

Tempo I ($\text{♩} = 152$)

Intensely
With a Focused, Driven Sound

Tempo I ($\text{♩} = 152$)

piccolo
Flute 1
Flute 2
Oboe 1
Oboe 2
Clarinet in E♭
div.
sfp
Clarinet in B♭ 1
sfp
div.
Clarinet in B♭ 2
sfp
div.
Clarinet in B♭ 3
sfp
Bass Clarinet in B♭
ff
mf
f
ff
mf
f
ff
mf
f
ff
mf
f
ff
mf
Bassoon 1
ff
mf
f
ff
mf
f
ff
mf
Eb Alto Saxophone 1
ff
Eb Alto Saxophone 2
ff
Bb Tenor Saxophone
ff
Eb Baritone Saxophone
ff
mf
f
ff
mf
f
ff
mf
Trumpet in C 1
Trumpet in C 2
Trumpet in C 3
Trumpet in C 4
Horn in F 1
Horn in F 2
Horn in F 3
Horn in F 4
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba
Violoncello
ff
mf
Double Bass
ff
bis.
p sempre
Harp
D C B | E F G B A
Timpani
mf
Perc. 1 (Tri, 4 T-toms, Bells, Crot., Sus. Cymb.)
Perc. 2 (Vibes, B.D., Bells, Sus. Cymb.)
Vibraphone, hard yarns
mp
Triangle

UNGROUNDED BASE

2

Tempo II ($\bullet = 72$)

8

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

p

n

Cl. 1

p

Cl. 2

unis.

p

mp

mf

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

ff

Bsn. 1

ff

mp

mf

Bsn. 2

ff

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

ff

C Tpt. 1

ff

(cup mute)

C Tpt. 2

ff

mp

mf

C Tpt. 3

ff

C Tpt. 4

ff

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

espressivo, en dehors

Vc.

f

ff

Db.

Hp.

D ♯

D ♮

Timp.

Tempo II (♩ = 72)

Perc. 1

(vibes)

Perc. 2

16 Piu agitato
(♩ = 76)

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timpani

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

16 Piu agitato
(♩ = 76)

allarg. . .

UNGROUND BASE

23 **Tempo II**
($\text{♩} = 72$)

Picc. *ff*

Fl. 1 *ff*

Fl. 2 *ff*

Ob. 1 *ff*

Ob. 2 *ff*

E♭ Cl. *ff*
unis.

Cl. 1 *ff*

Cl. 2 *ff*

Cl. 3 *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. 1 *ff*

Bsn. 2 *ff*

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax *tutti (open)*

C Tpt. 1 *ff*

C Tpt. 2 *open ff*

C Tpt. 3 *open ff*

C Tpt. 4 *open ff*

Hn. 1 *warmly*

Hn. 2 *pp*

Hn. 3 *warmly*

Hn. 4 *pp*

Tbn. 1 *pesante*

Tbn. 2 *warmly*

B. Tbn. *warmly*

Euph. *warmly*

Tba. *warmly*

Vc.

Db.

Hp. *mf* *f*
gloss.

Timp. D C B | E F G A

23 **Tempo II**
Low Tom-Tom
Bass Drum *ff*

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2

30 Cantabile

Picc.

(one player) leggiere \flat tr

Fl. 1 *pp sempre*

(one player) leggiere

Fl. 2 *pp sempre*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

ppp solo

Cl. 1 Two solo players \leftarrow *ppp*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

solo, espressivo

Bsn. 1 $\frac{13}{4}$ *mf*

Bsn. 2 $\frac{9}{4}$

sotto voce

p

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4 sotto voce in stand

Tbn. 1 $\frac{9}{4}$ *p* sotto voce in stand 3

Tbn. 2 $\frac{9}{4}$ *p*

B. Tbn. $\frac{9}{4}$

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

30 Cantabile

Perc. 1 $\frac{11}{4}$ (hard yarns)

Vibes

Perc. 2 *p*

UNGROUND BASE

6

34

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 1 solo *ppp*

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

pizz
pizz *mp*

Db.

mp

Hp.

p

D C♯ B♯ | E F G♭ A♯

Timp.

Perc. 1 (vibes)

Perc. 2

38

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

sotto voce

Bsn. 1

p

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

cup mute

3

C Tpt. 4

cup mute

pp

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

solista, espressivo

Tbn. 1

p

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

F ♫ E ♫

#

B ♫

F ♫

E ♫

Timp.

38

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

UNGROUNDED BASE

8

48 Tempo I ($\downarrow = 152$)

50

53

Picc.

Fl. 1 (tutti) *ff*

Fl. 2 (tutti) *ff*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl. tutti *ff*

Cl. 1 tutti *ff*

Cl. 2 *ff*

Cl. 3 *ff*

B. Cl. *p sub*

Bsn. 1 *mf* *ff*

Bsn. 2 *mf* *f*

A. Sax 1 *ff*

A. Sax 2 *ff*

T. Sax *ff* *mf* *f*

B. Sax *ff* *mf* *f*

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc. *p*

Db.

Hp.

Tim.

Tri.

Perc. 1 Bells Small brass mallets

Perc. 2 *mf*

53

UNGROUNDED BASE

10

58

UNGROUNDED BASE

11

UNGROUNDED BASE

12

72 Tempo II ($\downarrow = 72$)

79

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Eb Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

72

Tempo II ($\text{♩} = 72$)

Crotales

sempr. l.v.

Vibes, soft yarns
solo w/harp

79

UNGROUNDED BASE

13

UNGROUND BASE

14

89

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

Perc. 1
(vibes)

Perc. 2

93

leggiere

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1
p

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

(one player at a time; stagger breathe)

Cl. 1
p sempre

Cl. 2
p

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1
p

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1
pp

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1
straight mute
p

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.
p

Db.
mp

bis.
pp

D C B♭ | E♯ F♯ G♯ A

sim.
G ♫

Timp.

Perc. 1
hard yarns

Perc. 2
p

93

UNGROUND BASE

16

97

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

one player, open

C Tpt. 3

tutti cup mute

C Tpt. 4

p cup mute

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

101

UNGROUNDED BASE

101

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

101

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

solo, straight mute

open

p

p

G♯

UNGROUNDED BASE

18

109

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2 one player

Cl. 3 p semplice

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2 f p solo, cantabile

A. Sax 1 mp

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1 tutti open pp solo, cup mute

C Tpt. 2 sfz open mp

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1 3 mf p >

Hn. 2

Hn. 3 3 mf p >

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1 f mf

Tbn. 2 3 > f 3

B. Tbn.

Euph. f poco marc. 3 3 p

Tba. 3 f 3 f 3 p senza vib.

Vc. f n

Db. senza vib. f n

Hp. mp p

Tim.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Vib., hard yarns p

D C B♭ | E F♯ G♯ A♯ A ♫

115 Tenderly, Longingly

UNGROUND BASE

20

118

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

sotto voce

A. Sax 2

p

sotto voce

T. Sax

p

sotto voce

B. Sax

p

tutti cup mute

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

pizz

mf

pizz

Db.

pizz

mf

Hp.

G

Timp.

(vibes)

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

123

123

132

126

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

cup mute

C Tpt. 3

cup mute

C Tpt. 4

cup mute

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

muted

Tbn. 1

cup mute

Tbn. 2

cup mute

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

132

UNGROUND BASE

22

136

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

137

UNGROUND BASE

143 Pesante

accel.

23

(♩ = 84)

Picc. Fl. 1 Fl. 2 Ob. 1 Ob. 2 E♭ Cl. Cl. 1 Cl. 2 Cl. 3 B. Cl. *fff* Bsn. 1 *fff* Bsn. 2 *fff*

A. Sax 1 A. Sax 2 T. Sax B. Sax

C Tpt. 1 *fff* C Tpt. 2 *fff* C Tpt. 3 *fff* C Tpt. 4 *fff*

Hn. 1 *fff* Hn. 2 *fff* Hn. 3 *fff* Hn. 4 *fff*

Tbn. 1 *fff* Tbn. 2 *fff* open B. Tbn. *fff*

Euph. *fff* Tba. *fff*

Vc. *fff* arco Db. *fff*

Hp.

Tim. Timp.

143 Pesante
Low tom-tom
Perc. 1 *fff* B.D. Sus. cymbal
Perc. 2 *ff* *p < ff*

accel. (♩ = 8)

149 Driven!
= 168

$\text{♩} = 168$

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1 *mp*

Ob. 2 *mp*

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1 *tutti*

Cl. 2 *mp*

Cl. 3 *mp*

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2 *mp*

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1 *pp sub*

C Tpt. 2 *pp sub*

C Tpt. 3 *pp sub*

C Tpt. 4 *pp sub*

Hn. 1 *f*

Hn. 2 *p sub*

Hn. 3 *f*

Hn. 4 *p sub*

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

D♭

p.d.l.t.

Hp. *ff*

D♯ C♯ B♯ | E♯ F♯ G♯ A♯

Timp.

149 Driven! *J = 168*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

157

156

157

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

UNGROUND BASE

26

163

Picc.

Fl. 1 *mf*

Fl. 2 *mf*

Ob. 1

Ob. 2 *p ff*

E♭ Cl. *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf sim. f*

Cl. 3 *mf sim. sim.*

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1 *mp*

Bsn. 2

167

sim.

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2 *mp*

T. Sax *mf* *sim. mp*

B. Sax *mf*

C Tpt. 1 *mp*

C Tpt. 2 *mp*

C Tpt. 3 *mp*

C Tpt. 4 *mp*

Hn. 1 *mp*

Hn. 2 *mp*

Hn. 3 *mp*

Hn. 4 *mp*

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn. *f* *mf f*

Euph.

Tba. *mf f*

Vc.

Db. *mf f*

Hp. *B*

Timp. *pp mf pp pp*

163

167

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Bells, med. brass mallets
sempre l.v. *3* *3* *3*

UNGROUNDED BASE

27

177

179

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

Perc. 1

(t-toms)

(bells)

Perc. 2

179

179

UNGROUNDED BASE

piccolo

flute 1

flute 2

oboe 1

oboe 2

E♭ clarinet

clarinet 1

clarinet 2

clarinet 3

bassoon 1

bassoon 2

A. alto saxophone 1

A. alto saxophone 2

Tenor Saxophone

B. bassoon

C. trumpet 1

C. trumpet 2

C. trumpet 3

C. trumpet 4

Horn 1

Horn 2

Horn 3

Horn 4

Tuba 1

Tuba 2

B. Bassoon

Euphonium

Tuba Bassoon

Bassoon

Horn

Timpani

Percussion 1

(t-toms)

(bells)

Percussion 2

179

179

UNGROUNDED BASE

piccolo

flute 1

flute 2

oboe 1

oboe 2

E♭ clarinet

clarinet 1

clarinet 2

clarinet 3

bassoon 1

bassoon 2

A. alto saxophone 1

A. alto saxophone 2

Tenor Saxophone

B. bassoon

C. trumpet 1

C. trumpet 2

C. trumpet 3

C. trumpet 4

Horn 1

Horn 2

Horn 3

Horn 4

Tuba 1

Tuba 2

B. Bassoon

Euphonium

Tuba Bassoon

Bassoon

Horn

Timpani

Percussion 1

(t-toms)

(bells)

Percussion 2

179

179

UNGROUNDED BASE

183

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

E♭ Cl.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

A. Sax 1

A. Sax 2

T. Sax

B. Sax

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

C Tpt. 3

C Tpt. 4

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Vc.

Db.

Hp.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

185

185

UNGROUNDED BASE

30