

Ticked Off

Alun Cook

for 4 or more Bb Clarinets and metronomes.
(If more than 4 players, double in the order: part 3-4-2-1)

The piece starts with a single metronome - preferably clockwork (and loud) - placed centrally on a stool and started by performers (or a stage hand if you want more theatricality). Performers should be standing, clustered close around the metronome. The metronome needs to be prepared i.e. it needs to synchronize with other metronomes used later in the piece and you need to wind it up so it runs down at the end of the piece (almost exactly 5 minutes). If you have to use an electronic metronome, get the stage manager (or whoever) to carry it on stage (ticking) when the performers are already assembled on stage, and to take it away again (still ticking) at the end.

Ideally, players need a metronome for each of the four parts, and these should be electronic so that their clicking is uniform. If you have a choice, choose the loudest available. If you leave out these individual metronomes, I suggest you omit bar 41

Tone-change notes should be about the same pitch but have a change of tone, and maybe flatten very slightly. Fingerings indicated are fine on my clarinet but you might like to experiment on your particular instruments.

The musical score is written for four Bb Clarinets and a Metronome. It is in 4/4 time with a tempo of quarter note = 60. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1-5, and the second system covers measures 6-10. Each Clarinet part has a box above it stating: "The metronome may tick for any amount of time in excess of 2 bars". Clarinet 1 starts in measure 3 with a circled 'A' above a fermata. Clarinet 2 starts in measure 5. Clarinet 3 and 4 are silent throughout. The Metronome part consists of a steady quarter-note pulse. Dynamics include *pp*, *p*, *mp*, and *pp*. There are several tone-change notes indicated by a vertical line of four dots above the staff. A circled 'A' is placed above the first staff in measure 3.

12

mf *pp* *f*

B

18

mf *f* *mf*

C

22

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mf*