

*Icons of a Child's Nightmare* is a personal reflection of recent American atrocities that have occurred within the last 15 years and how these events have affected the innocence and purity of a child growing up in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Throughout the piece, one hears short sound clips of news reports, press conferences, interviews, and presidential addresses regarding these issues. Each one of these clips blend and fade into one another, signifying the collage-like effect of someone in a dream-like state. One can also hear a low synthesized bass drum sound throughout the piece, signifying the heartbeat of the dreaming child.

*Icons* was composed specifically using sounds from Propellerhead's "Reason" software. These sounds were controlled through Digital Performer using DP's "Rewire" feature. The sound clips were also edited and arranged using Digital Performer. The tape consists of several drum machines, a synthesized bass entitled "Hyperbottom," a patch entitled "Glass Veil" on Reason's "Subtractor" synthesizer, and a synthesized rhodes piano patch utilized by Reason's "NN19" sampler. Because no live recordings are available, a MIDI realization of the string quartet parts are included in this recording. These sounds were realized using professionally sampled solo string sounds through the AKAI S2000 sampler.

The notated score utilizes a three staff reduction of the tape part to be used as cues for the string quartet. In general, the bottom two staves are used to provide (as accurately as possible) musical transcriptions of important cues utilized by the Reason "instruments." The top staff of the tape part provides cues for the audio clips used throughout the piece. In some cases the speech patterns of the sound clip are transcribed in whole and in some cases they are notated where the sound clip begins in relation the beat, while part or all of the text is indicated above that.

In performance, the quartet may use a click track DAT (provided by the composer) or they may opt to use a tape without a click track and play the piece by using the musical cues provided in the part. It is also recommended that the quartet be amplified to match the timbre and volume of the tape part.

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# Icons of a Child's Nightmare

For String Quartet and CD

John Max McFarland

♩ = 90

CD Cues

*Bass Drum Heart Beat*

Pres. Bush: "freedom itself was..".

9/11 Survivor: "There was glass blown..."

Reporter: Some of the alleged gunmen's..."

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello



7

Columbine Secretary: "I don't believe that we were aware..."

Pres. Bush: the u-nit-ed states will hunt down



54

News Reporter:  
"No Emotion."

"Timothy McVeigh  
showed no emotion."

"Several Children were  
believed to have been killed  
there."

(Glass Veil)

(Hyperbottom)



58

"No Emotion."

"He'll die by  
lethal injection."

60

OK Bombing Witness: "The whole building shook,  
then everything just started falling down"

(Glass Veil)

Redrum Drum Kit + 6 + cr. cym

(Hyperbottom)

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*