A Cry from a World Aflame (Elegiac music for strings, trumpets and percussion), as the title suggests, is a musical representation of a world where war and conflict are ever-present factors and where there are many losers — combatants, civilians, children. This piece commemorates the losers. Although the music has decided programmatic qualities, its ten minute length should rather be seen as a symbol of the pity of war and of strife.

The musical materials consist of an insistent rhythm assigned largely to the timpani, a recurring 'chord of death' made up of all twelve notes of the chromatic scale, an expressive melodic note row introduced on unison violins and violas, and a bugle-like theme scored for muted trumpets which appears more than halfway through the piece. The arrival of the quartet of trumpets sees the mood becoming more plaintive, with subsequent suggestions of a requiem for the fallen. The 12-note row plays a pivotal role throughout the work, most notably its initial interval -that of a falling (or rising) major seventh.

The piece closes with an elegiac solo for unmuted trumpet that draws the variegated strands together.

Duration 10-11 minutes

## A CRY FROM A WORLD AFLAME

Elegiac Music for Strings, Trumpets and Percussion

JOHN SIMON











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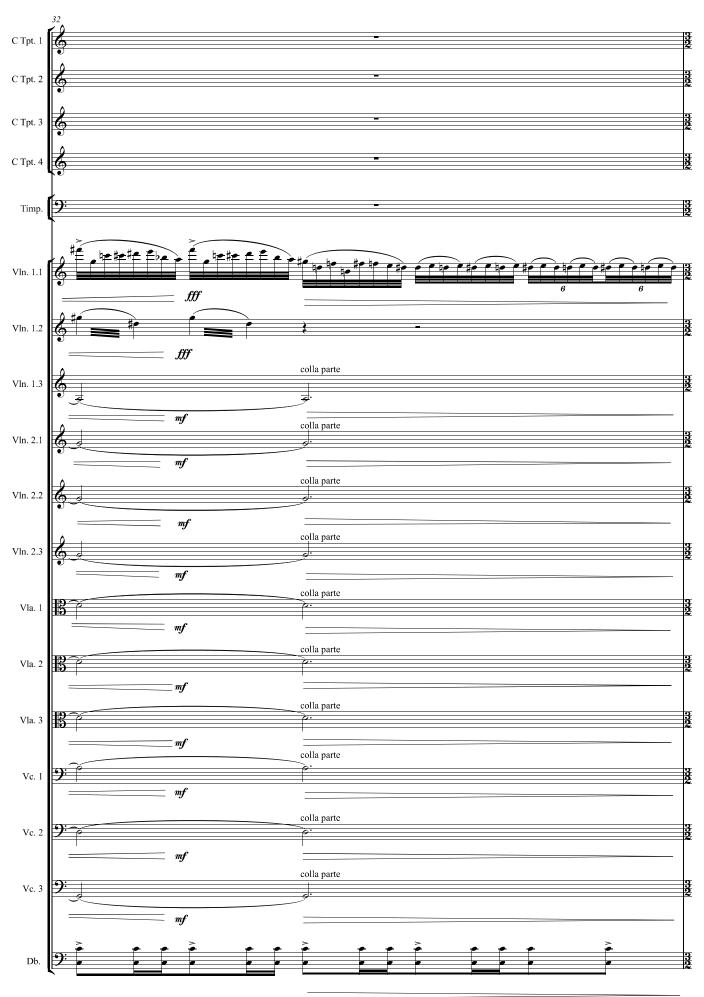








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