

hitchBOT

Alex Tedrow



2022

PERUSAL SCORE ONLY

hitchBOT

Alex Tedrow

for band and audio track

Commissioned by the Indiana University Young Winds program

2022

Program Notes

hitchBOT, the late Canadian hitchhiking robot, was created by professors at McCaster University and Ryerson University in 2013. hitchBOT was a study in “roboethics” (the ethics of robot use) and set out to answer the essential question: “Can robots trust humans?”

The robot was released into the wild and traveled all over North America and Europe. Because hitchBOT couldn’t move on its own, it asked drivers to pick it up and transport it from location to location. hitchBOT eventually became a social media sensation with fans all over the world following its journey. In 2015 hitchBOT was brutally decapitated and vandalized during its attempt to hitchhike across the United States, thus ending the study. Sometimes bad things happen to good robots.

I was inspired by hitchBOT’s tragic story to write this fun, quirky, dark techno-western influenced piece for band and electronics. The audio track is constructed to sound somewhat robotic in nature while the ensemble has room to add expressivity and human artistry to the mix, hinting at the underlying tension present by nature in the ethics of human interaction with technology.

While hitchBOT was not limited to only Western United States, when imagining the idea of hitchhiking robots I couldn’t help but picture two robots hanging out by a campfire in the desert – harmonicas in hand. For this reason the piece has a bit of a country-western flavor hinting at music from some of my favorite classic films (too bad those films didn’t have robots).

Please enjoy!

Performance Notes

- This piece uses an audio mp3 track that should be balanced and synced with the ensemble. Proper level adjustment should be done ahead of time to ensure the band balances appropriately with the audio.
- No click track is required for alignment. The conductor should make sure they can hear the audio clearly (preferably through a monitor or headphones) to stay in sync with the track.
- Timestamps are written in the score next to rehearsal marks. These can be used to rehearse specific sections of music with the audio. The conductor or audio engineer should start the track a few seconds before the listed timestamp to start a new section.
- At m. 29 and m. 61, footnotes are marked in the score to explain given aleatoric figures. In general, individual players should strive *not* to line up gestures. The intended effect in each case is textural.
- Percussionists are prompted to switch instruments throughout the piece. Each part is designed so that it may be performed by 1 player if necessary (multiple mallets may need to be held to make this feasible).
- Any “solo” may be performed as an optional tutti at the discretion of the conductor.
- This score is in transposed written pitch.

(cover art designed by Austin Jones – used with permission)

Grade Level

Grade 2.5

Duration

3.5 minutes

Equipment

- Laptop, tablet, phone, or other device capable of playing audio (email alextedrowmusic@gmail.com for sound file)
- Adapter cable as appropriate for audio device
- Stereo speaker system
- Monitor for conductor
- (no click track or microphones required)

Instrumentation

Flute 1, 2	B♭ Trumpet 1, 2 (requires straight mute)
Oboe (optional)	F Horn (requires straight mute)
Bassoon (optional)	Trombone 1, 2
B♭ Clarinet 1, 2	Euphonium
B♭ Bass Clarinet	Tuba
E♭ Alto Saxophone 1, 2	Timpani
B♭ Tenor Saxophone	Percussion 1 – Snare Drum, Low Tom
E♭ Baritone Saxophone	Percussion 2 – Bass Drum
	Percussion 3 – Xylophone, Suspended Cymbal, Triangle, Guiro
	Percussion 4 – Glockenspiel, Woodblock, Low Tom

Music typeset by the composer

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Tedrow, Alex (ASCAP)

- *hitchBOT*, band and audio track

Transposed Score
Duration: 3.5 min.

"Sometimes bad things happen to good robots."
commissioned by the Indiana University Young Winds program

hitchBOT

Alex Tedrow (b. 1999)

♩ = 132 techno-western groove

5 (0:07)

Flute 1, 2

Oboe (opt.)

Bassoon (opt.)

B♭ Clarinet 1, 2

B♭ Bass Clarinet

E♭ Alto Saxophone 1, 2

B♭ Tenor Saxophone

E♭ Baritone Saxophone

B♭ Trumpet 1, 2

F Horn

Trombone 1, 2

Euphonium

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Percussion 3

Percussion 4

Audio Track

G, A, D

Snare Drum

Low Tom

Bass Drum

Xylophone

Glockenspiel

(robotic beat and riser)

(harmonica)

(flute sound)

(electronic beat)

1 2 3 4 5 6

7

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Track

7

8

9

10

11

12

13 (0:22)

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Track

12

13

14

15

16

17

[illegible]

24

Fl. 1, 2 *pp* *mf* *mp* *pp* *f*

Ob. *pp* *mf* *mp* *pp* *f*

Bsn. *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p*

B♭ Cl. 1, 2 *pp* *mf* *mp* *pp* *f* *a2* *mf*

B. Cl. *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p*

A. Sx. 1, 2 *pp* *mf* *mp* *pp* *f* *a2* *mf*

T. Sx. *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *a2*

B. Sx. *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p*

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2 *straight mute* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *mute off*

Hn. *straight mute* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *mute off*

Tbn. 1, 2 *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Euph. *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Tuba *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Timp. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Perc. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *f*

Perc. 2 *f*

Perc. 3 *pp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Perc. 4 *f*

Track (spacey synth sounds)

24 25 26 27 28 29

* air sounds - improvise swells blowing air through instrument without tone; try not to line up with others

30

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timpani

Perc. 1 (snare + tom drum)

Perc. 2 (bass drum)

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Track

30 31 32 33 34 35 36

37 (1:05)

Fl. 1, 2 *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *mf* *p*

B $\flat$ Cl. 1, 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *mf* *p*

A. Sx. 1, 2 *mf*

T. Sx. *p* *mf* *p*

B. Sx. *p* *mf* *p*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1, 2 *mf*

Hn. *p* *mf* *p*

Tbn. 1, 2 *p* *mf* *p*

Euph. *p*

Tuba *p*

Timp. *p*

Perc. 1 *p*

Perc. 2 *p*

Perc. 3 *p* Triangle

Perc. 4 *mf* Glockenspiel

Track

37 38 39 40 41 42

43

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Tim.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Track

(snare + tom drum)

(bass drum)

(triangle)

(glockenspiel)

(harmonica)

(beat from intro)

(harmonica)

(flute sound)

mf *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *f* *mp*

43 44 45 46 47 48

49 (1:27)

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Temp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Track

Xylophone

Glockenspiel

Woodblock

(flute sound)

(chirpy synth)

f *fp* *f* *p* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

a2

49 50 51 52 53

54 57 (1:41)

Fl. 1, 2 a2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2 *fp* *fp* *mf* *fp* *f* *mf*

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2 a2 *f* *fp* *f* *mf* *fp* *f* *mf*

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2 a2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1 (snare + tom drum) *f* *fp* *fp* *f* *mf* *fp* *f* *mf*

Perc. 2 (bass drum) *mp* *f* *fp* *mf*

Perc. 3 (xylophone) *mf* *mf* *mf* Guiro

Perc. 4 Glockenspiel Woodblock

Track (bass synth)

54 55 56 57 58 59

60

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Track

60 61 62 63 64

* play boxed notes in order freely; repeat figure for duration shown; start slowly and continue accelerating; improvise dynamic swells; breathe as necessary

65 (1:56)

Fl. 1, 2 *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Bsn. *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

B $\flat$ Cl. 1, 2 *mf*

B. Cl. *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

A. Sx. 1, 2 *mp* *mf*

T. Sx. *mf* *f*

B. Sx. *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

B $\flat$ Tpt. 1, 2 *mf* straight mute

Hn. *mf* straight mute

Tbn. 1, 2 *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

Euph. *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

Tuba *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

Temp. *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

Perc. 1 (snare + tom drum) *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

Perc. 2 (bass drum) *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

Perc. 3 (guiro)

Perc. 4 (woodblock) Low Tom *f* *fp* $\leq$ *f*

Track

65 66 67 68 69 70

73 (2:10)

71

Fl. 1, 2 *ff* *p sub.* solo

Ob. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

B♭ Cl. 1, 2 *ff* *p sub.*

B. Cl. *ff*

A. Sx. 1, 2 *ff* *p*

T. Sx. *ff*

B. Sx. *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2 *ff* mute off

Hn. *ff* mute off

Tbn. 1, 2 *ff*

Euph. *ff*

Tuba *ff*

Temp. *ff*

Perc. 1 *ff*

Perc. 2 *ff*

Perc. 3 *p* *mf* Suspended Cymbal

Perc. 4 *ff*

Track (synth chords)

71 72 73 74 75 76

81 (2:25)

77

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn. *Tenor Saxophone*

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl. *Tenor Saxophone*

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx. *solo*

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Tim.

Perc. 1 *(snare + tom drum)*

Perc. 2 *(bass drum)*

Perc. 3 *Xylophone*

Perc. 4 *Glockenspiel*

Track *(bass gliss.) (electronic beat)*

77 78 79 80 81 82

musical notation details:

- Fl. 1, 2: *f*, *tutti*, *a2*
- Ob.: *p*, *f*
- Bsn.: *p*, *fp*, *fp*
- B♭ Cl. 1, 2: *a2*, *fp*, *fp*
- B. Cl.: *p*, *fp*, *fp*
- A. Sx. 1, 2: *fp*, *fp*, *f*, *a2*
- T. Sx.: *p*, *fp*, *fp*, *tutti*
- B. Sx.: *fp*, *fp*
- B♭ Tpt. 1, 2: *open*, *f*, *open*
- Hn.: *fp*, *fp*
- Tbn. 1, 2: *fp*, *fp*
- Euph.: *fp*, *fp*
- Tuba: *fp*, *fp*
- Tim.: *fp*, *fp*
- Perc. 1: *fp*, *fp*, *f*
- Perc. 2: *f*, *mp*
- Perc. 3: *f*
- Perc. 4: *f*
- Track: *f*

83

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Perc. 4

Track

83

84

85

86

87

88

89 (2:40)

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

(snare + tom drum)

Perc. 1

(bass drum)

Perc. 2

(xylophone)

Perc. 3

Woodblock

Perc. 4

Glockenspiel

Track

(majestic beat)

mf

f

p

a2

97 (2:54)

94

Fl. 1, 2 *f* *p* *f* stagger breathe

Ob. *f* *p* *f* stagger breathe

Bsn. *f* *p* *ff*

B♭ Cl. 1, 2 *f* *p* *f* stagger breathe

B. Cl. *f* *p* *ff*

A. Sx. 1, 2 *f* *p* *f* stagger breathe

T. Sx. *f* *p* *ff*

B. Sx. *f* *p* *ff*

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2 *f* *p* *f* stagger breathe

Hn. *f* *p* *f* stagger breathe

Tbn. 1, 2 *f* *p* *ff*

Euph. *f* *p* *ff*

Tuba *f* *p* *ff*

Temp. *f* *p*

Perc. 1 *f* *p* *f*

Perc. 2 *f* *p* *f*

Perc. 3 *f*

Perc. 4 *f*

Track (double time beat)

94 95 96 97 98 99

100

Fl. 1, 2

Ob.

Bsn.

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

B. Cl.

A. Sx. 1, 2

T. Sx.

B. Sx.

B♭ Tpt. 1, 2

Hn.

Tbn. 1, 2

Euph.

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1 (snare + tom drum)

Perc. 2 (bass drum)

Perc. 3 (xylophone)

Perc. 4 (Low Tom)

Track

100 101 102 103 104 105

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