“Critical mass” is a scientific term that refers to the smallest amount of fissile material needed to sustain a nuclear chain reaction. The work begins with an explosion of sound, then launches forward through small, ever-growing melodic fragments that expand outward and upward. Ostinati and lively, bold rhythmic statements are present throughout the work, which ends in an almost violent display of musical imagery.

Instrumentation

1 — Conductor Score
10 — Flute
2 — Oboe
2 — Bassoon
4 — 1st B♭ Clarinet
4 — 2nd B♭ Clarinet
4 — 3rd B♭ Clarinet
2 — B♭ Bass Clarinet
2 — 1st E♭ Alto Saxophone
2 — 2nd E♭ Alto Saxophone
2 — B♭ Tenor Saxophone
1 — E♭ Baritone Saxophone
3 — 1st B♭ Trumpet
3 — 2nd B♭ Trumpet
3 — 3rd B♭ Trumpet
2 — 1st F Horn
2 — 2nd F Horn
2 — 1st Trombone
2 — 2nd Trombone
2 — 3rd Trombone
2 — Euphonium
4 — Tuba
Percussion — 7 players:
1 — Bells
1 — Xylophone
2 — Percussion 1
   (Snare Drum, Bass Drum)
5 — Percussion 2
   (Suspended Cymbal/Triangle/
    Woodblock, Tambourine/
    Tom)
1 — Timpani

World Parts
available for download from
www.alfred.com/worldparts
E♭ Alto Clarinet
E♭ Contra Alto Clarinet
B♭ Contra Bass Clarinet
1st E♭ Horn
2nd E♭ Horn
1st Trombone in B♭ T.C.
2nd Trombone in B♭ T.C.
3rd Trombone in B♭ T.C.
1st Trombone in B♭ B.C.
2nd Trombone in B♭ B.C.
3rd Trombone in B♭ B.C.
Euphonium in B♭ B.C.
Euphonium T.C.
Tuba in B♭ T.C.
Tuba in B♭ B.C.
Tuba in E♭ T.C.
Tuba in E♭ B.C.
String Bass
Faster \( \cdot = 192 \)

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

Cls.

B. Cl.

A. Saxes

T. Sax.

Bar. Sax.

Tpts.

Hns.

Trbs.

Euph.

Tuba

Bells

Xyl.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Timp.