

gauze

for chamber ensemble (2009–10)

Instrumentation

Bass flute

B-flat clarinet (+ bass clarinet)

Tenor saxophone

Piano

Percussion (2 clay discs, 2 heavy bricks, 2 light bricks, 2 straw mats, 2 small wooden boxes, snare drum, large wooden box, timpano, small spring drum, metal grate, bass drum)

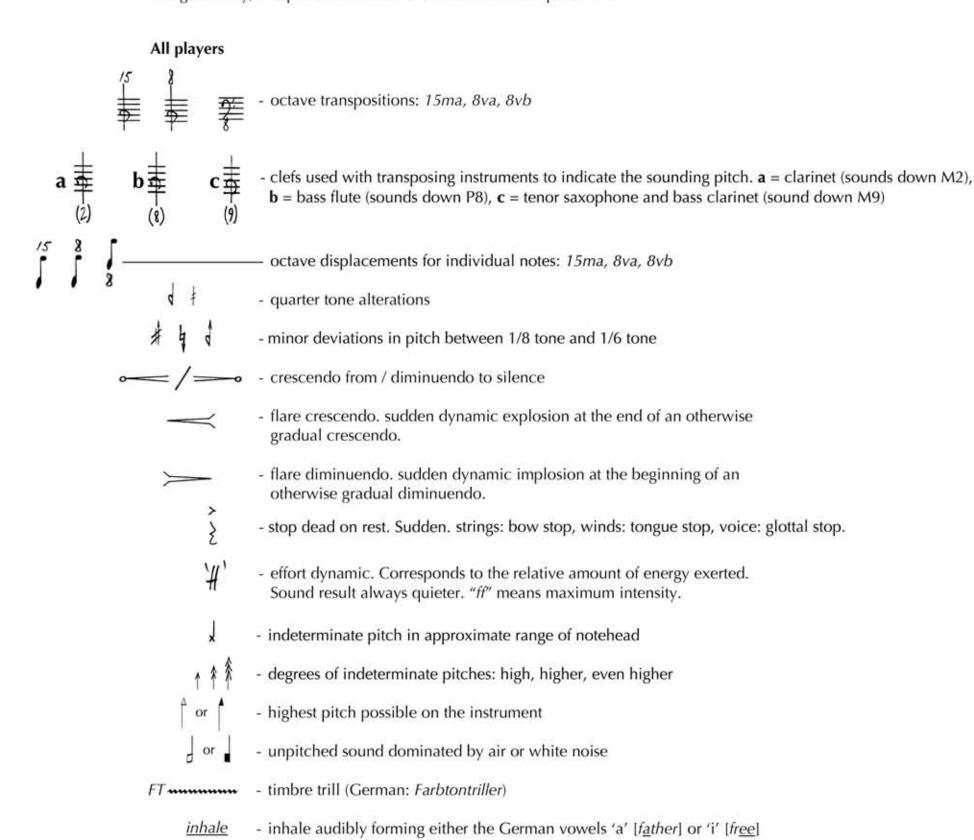
Harp Violin Viola Cello

Duration: ca. 22 minutes

Score is transposing. Exception: The harp is notated at sounding pitch despite the scordatura.

Performance notes

From m.73 until the end of the first movement, the strings are the dominant force. Beneath this sound surface, the rest of the ensemble is often only very distantly audible, slightly altering the texture in a way that is acoustically distinct from the string surface alone. In other words, the ensemble writing "muddies the waters," without ever breaking through the meniscus formed by the strings. Ideally, it is perceived more as an absence than a presence.



- Assume non vibrato unless otherwise stated.
- Tempo indications are guidelines, not absolutes.
- Rests occur one bar before and one bar after entries and are otherwise omitted.
- Accidentals apply only to the notes they directly precede.

Winds

T - tongued attack

Z - teeth note

or flz. - fluttertongue (German: Zahnton)

noise - let noise (air, overtones) through

air - air sound dominates tone (used with square noteheads)

1/2 air - air sound with written tone audible, but weak

air -> tone - gradual transition from one timbre to the next

dyad - two pure tones. minimize any other pitches if they occur.



- key clicks

- Flute - individual notes

In mm. 28–34 and 177–184 of the first movement, the tone is destabilized by circular breathing. Aim for a constant sound and allow the pitch to come in and out of focus as a natural result of circular breathing in this low register. Sometimes the pitch may disappear completely in air. Vulnerable.

Fingerings and index numbers are given for most dyads and multiphonics. The sources are: C. Levine, *The Techniques of Flute Playing II* and P.-Y. Artaud, *Flûtes au présent*.

- closed embouchure (mouth covers hole)

open embouchure (ord.)

- away from flute (no sound from flute)

inhale (while playing)

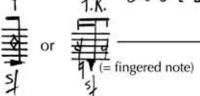
pizz.

- circular breathing

- German vowels.

pizzicato: lip or tongue

- audible consonant attacks. 'ç' as in German i<u>ch</u>



____ tongue ram (sounds down major seventh)

=

C' - like German i**ch**

fast, mostly chromatic run following written contour (audible variation in air sound)

iç' May

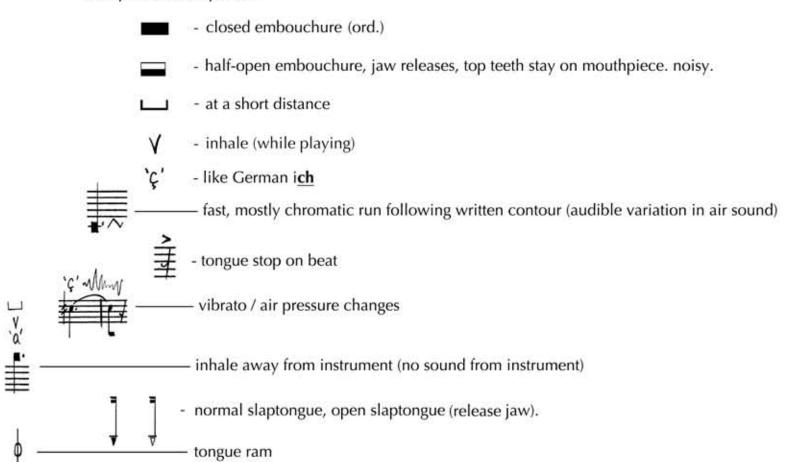
- tongue stop on beat

- vibrato / air pressure changes

- inhale away from flute (no sound from flute)

Clarinet and saxophone — individual notes

Fingerings and index numbers are given for most dyads and multiphonics. The sources are G. Krassnitzer, *Multiphonics für Klarinette mit deutschem System* and D. Kientzy, *Les sons multiples aux saxophones*.

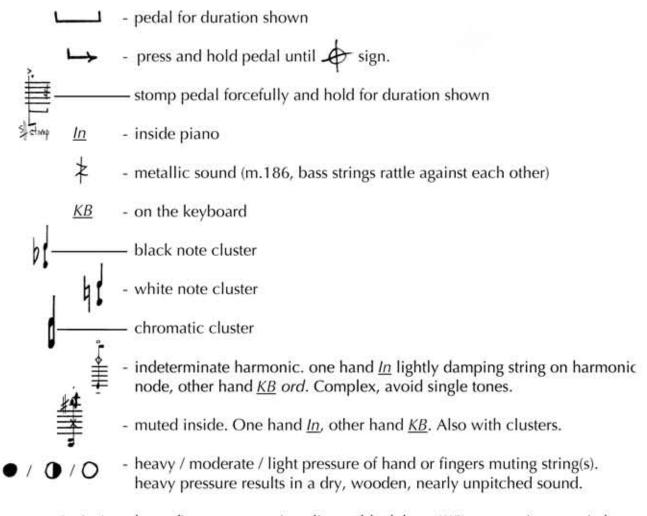


- Piano - individual notes

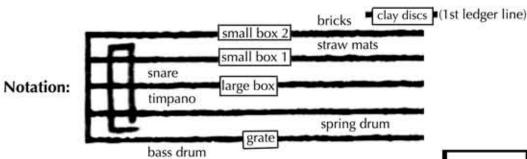
The pianist needs the following: wide spool of thread (c. 15cm wide if possible), soft brush, e-bow, plectrum, plastic ruler. All of these are used exclusively inside the piano. Rest props not in use on either 1) heavy black cloth (e.g., laid over the tuning pegs inside) or 2) a wooden music stand tilted flat with heavy black cloth to minimize noise.

spool of thread: placed across the lowest bass strings (as many as possible) and the thread is pulled gently by alternating hands. Sonic result: very quiet cluster.

<u>e-bow</u>: one hand, if free, can regulate the dynamic by applying light pressure at the very beginning of the vibrating string. By slowly and very lightly tapping the string, a sort of *smorzato* or 'volume vibrato' can be achieved (m. 179–81).



'guiro' - loose fingers, aggressive gliss on black keys (KB). percussive, no pitch.



— Percussion — individual notes

Instruments 2 clay discs, 2 heavy bricks, 2 light bricks, 2 straw mats, 2 small wooden boxes, large wooden box, metal grate, snare drum, 1 large timpano, bass drum

<u>clay discs</u>: ca. 12 cm diameter. The saucer-like bottom component of flowerpots is ideal. <u>bricks</u>: heavy and light. 2 distinct sounds: bright (heavy bricks) & dark (light bricks). <u>mats</u>: two straw mats with ca. 70 cm diameter. Place one on timpano and lightly

grind the second on top of the first in a circular motion using both hands.

boxes: wooden boxes/cubes open on one side. two small (ca. 16 cm side), one large (ca. 20–70 cm per side). Should sound alarming, like wood breaking. Best if one side (e.g., the bottom) is "loose", i.e. fitted into slots/grooves with some

wiggle room. This will give a sudden cracking sound when struck.

grate: thin metal grate with checkered hole pattern. German: Lochschutzgitter.
ca. 40 x 70 cm. Three contact points: rim, edge (flat part of front on perimeter

of hole pattern) and holes.

spring drum: small one-headed drum with long, coiled metal spring attached to head.

snare stick

hand

bass drum mallet

metal ruler

hammer

knitting needle

MALLETS: 3mm knitting needles, soft bass drum mallets, snare sticks, long metal ruler, metal hammer

_____ circular motion, long, all the way to next beat _____ fast swipe, always short (notated duration insignificant)

nails - with fingernails

heel - with heel of hand

timpani: strike mat (lying on timp. head)

b palm - with palm of hand

- gradual transition from hilt of stick (near hands) to tip

on rim

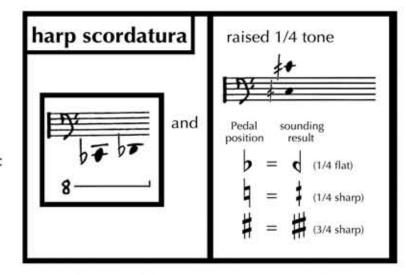
- rimshot (shaft on rim, tip on head)

dead stroke

— Harp — individual notes

*

- four strings on the harp must be retuned as follows:
- bowhair (from cello or bass bow) is required to bow the lowest string. This is available from any shop that rehairs bows.
- · all harmonics written at sounding pitch



air I & air II - choose 2 'white noise' gestures that project well on your instrument. some suggestions:
 (a) open palm circles on metal strings, (b) palm/fingertips/fingernails circles on sounding board,
 (c) brush circles over low strings

 a metallic noise sound. this can be due to pedal, metal strings hitting each other, etc. in each case, the cause is clearly notated.

glass - white noise produced by circling upside-down drinking glass on harp sounding board or small wooden table.

- note names under the staff indicate necessary pedal changes

 - note names in parenthenses under the staff are recommended changes for upcoming passages

— Strings — individual notes

SPx - sul ponticello extreme. ff tends toward distortion. pp fragile, white sound.

SP sul ponticello. written tone clearly audible.

1/2 SP poco sul ponticello

normale

1/2 ST poco sul tasto

ST - sul tasto

STx sul tasto extreme

FL at the octave node. hollow wooden-flute sound.

BR on bridge, strings not heard at all, flat hair.

T or I - behind bridge on indicated string

Body anywhere on body of instrument (arco)

- on right side of body in the curve (vln/vla: near I, vlc: near IV)

- on left side of body in the curve (vln/vla: near IV, vlc: near I)

 bow <u>at</u> finger at written note. bowhair literally touches finger. finger

- no audible pitch air

high harmonic, heavy distortion, very fast glissando. white burst.

flautando - fast, floating bowstrokes

- harmonic finger pressure (also used at non-harmonic nodes)

breathe into f-hole

- focused airstream into f-hole. full, single breath. turn instrument into a comfortable for this if time allows.

The string trio from m. 73 to the end is frantic and the pitch content is very muffled. Any distinct pitches that do emerge are either instable and strained or clear and sudden.

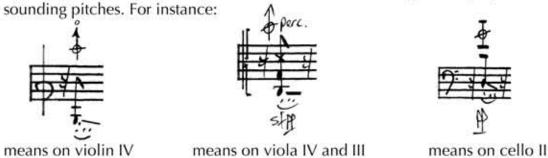
muffle all strings in the lower third with fingers spaced roughly in sixths.

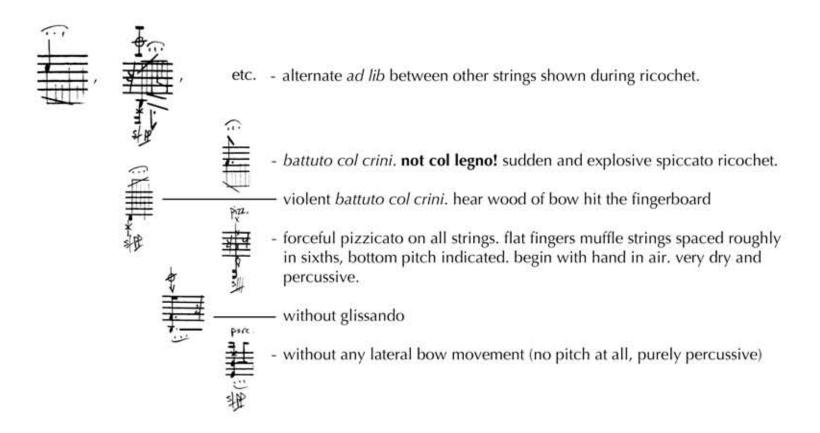
- muffle all strings near the middle with fingers spaced roughly in sixths.

- muffle all strings in the upper third with fingers spaced roughly in sixths.

- muffle all strings as high as possible.

These muffling indications are a means of notating indeterminate, general pitch. Glissandi used with muffling indications are small and remain in range of the indication. Noteheads appearing with these muffling indications indicate the strings to be played, not the





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