

Alex Stephenson

CANTUS

(2019)

for sixteen players

Commissioned by Steven Schick for Palimpsest
First performed by Palimpsest
Steven Schick, conductor
Conrad Prebys Concert Hall, UC San Diego, La Jolla, California
January 29, 2020

DURATION: 9 minutes

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute (doubling Alto Flute)

Oboe (doubling English Horn)

2 Clarinets in B-flat (1st doubling Clarinet in E-flat tuned 31 cents flat – see performance notes,
2nd doubling Bass Clarinet in B-flat and Contrabass Clarinet in B-flat)

2 Horns in F

Trombone

Percussion (2 players)

Player 1: Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Crotales (both octaves), Guiro, Triangle (large), Bass Drum

Player 2: Tubular Bells, Tuned Almglocken , 2 Suspended Cymbals (small, medium),
Chinese Cymbal, Tam-tam, Bongos (pair), Congas (pair), Vibraslap (large), Whip

Piano

Keyboard – see performance notes

2 Violins

Viola

Cello

Double Bass (with low C extension)

PERFORMANCE NOTES

General

THE SCORE IS IN C, with the exception of the retuned E-flat clarinet and keyboard, which sound 31 cents lower than written in the score. Standard octave transpositions also apply: glockenspiel and crotales sound two octaves higher than written, double bass sounds one octave lower than written.

Accidentals remain in effect for the remainder of the bar. This applies to all accidentals, including the microtonal accidentals defined below. Qualifying accidentals have been added in some passages for ease of reading.

Microtones

♭ = 31 cents flat

♭ = one semitone + 31 cents flat (131 cents flat)

HORNS: wherever possible, realize these pitches by playing the natural (untempered) 7th harmonic of a fundamental.

Other instruments may be asked to produce a microtonally altered pitch by tuning to another member of the ensemble already playing that same pitch. The notation “t:” is used to indicate from whom the pitch should be taken.

Keyboard and retuned E-flat clarinet

The keyboard, which should be touch sensitive and equipped with a sustain pedal, should produce a piano sound tuned 31 cents lower than normal. High-quality piano samples should be used, with the goal of producing a realistic piano sound that matches as closely as possible that of the acoustic piano used in the ensemble. The 31 cents detuning should be executed precisely with programming (please do not approximate it with a pitch wheel, etc.).

The E-flat clarinet is also tuned 31 cents lower than normal. Therefore, following the normal tuning of the ensemble, the first clarinetist should tune the E-flat clarinet to the pitch of the keyboard.

As mentioned above, both of these instruments sound 31 cents lower than written in the score. In the parts, these instruments are notated “as played” like any other instrument: thus, the E-flat clarinet sounds a minor third less 31 cents higher than written in the part, and the keyboard sounds 31 cents lower than written in the part.

TO CONTACT THE COMPOSER

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PROGRAM NOTE

Cantus is about singing of many kinds. The piece begins with a simple, tuneful melody—first presented by the viola and then in variation by two clarinets—that is then dilated and abstracted into a framework for other, more elaborate types of song: the chirping of alien, mechanical birds; human laments; horn calls, both placid and exuberant. A clarinet and sampled piano tuned approximately one-sixth of a tone below the rest of the ensemble, along with the use of several non-standard pitches on the horns, contribute a special harmonic color to the music. *Cantus* was written with gratitude and admiration for Rand Steiger, Steven Schick, and the musicians of Palimpsest.

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

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Cantus

Alex Stephenson (2019)

Con moto ♩=54

take Alto Flute

Flute

Oboe

Tune E♭ Clarinet 31 cents flat prior to start of piece
(take pitch from keyboard)

B♭ Clarinet 1

take Bass Clarinet

B♭ Clarinet 2

F Horn 1

F Horn 2

Trombone

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Piano

(mute string with fingertip)
+

p ma distinto

Keyboard
(piano sound,
31 cents flat)

Con moto ♩=54

Violin 1

con sord.

IV
sul tasto, senza vib.

Violin 2

ppp

sola

p

innocente, cantabile

Violola

mf

p

pp

mf

mf

pizz. arm. *)

II

Violoncello

p l.v. poss.

*) release LH immediately after plucking the string,
allowing sound to ring as long as possible (sempre sim.)

Double Bass

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

(B $\flat$ Clarinet) echotone

ppp

+ norm. + norm.

p

una corda tre corde una corda

con sord. senza vib. (ord.)

ppp

(tasto sempre)

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

I II

p

11

Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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A Quasi andante ♩=66

Alto Flute

A. Fl. *mf* somewhat breathy, espr.

Ob. (Oboe) *pp* *mp* *pp*

B♭ Cl. 1 solo (with Bass Clarinet) *p* *innocente, cantabile* *mf* *pp*

Bass Clarinet solo (with Clarinet 1) *p* *innocente, cantabile* *mf* *pp*

Hn. 1 con sord. *pp* like a distant fanfare

Hn. 2 con sord. *pp* like a distant fanfare

Tbn. straight mute *pp*

Vibraphone (motor off always) norm. (with mallets) arco *p* *mp*

Tubular Bells *p* l.v.

Pf. *p*

(una corda sempre)

Kbd.

A Quasi andante ♩=66

19

A. Fl.

Ob.

B♭ Cl. 1

Bs. Cl.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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espr. (suggested breathing place if needed)

mf > *p* *mf* *pp*

pp *pp* *mf*

norm. arco

p *mp*

Tubular Bells

p l.v. *p l.v.*

p *mp*

una corda tre corde

mp

36

take Flute

rit. -----

A. Fl.

Ob.

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

Bs. Cl.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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[illegible]

The image displays a musical score for the piece "Tales of the South Sea" by John Williams. The score is written for a large ensemble, including strings, woodwinds, brass, and percussion. The music is in 4/4 time and features a complex, rhythmic melody. The score is marked with a large, diagonal watermark that reads "FOR PERSAL ONLY". The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like *f* (forte) and *l.v.* (lento vivace). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, and the time signature changes from 4/4 to 2/4 in the final measure.

[illegible]

[59]

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Crotales

Guero

f l.v.

Perc. 2

p

f

p

Pf.

mf

{ f }

mf

Kbd.

f

Vln. 1

pizz.

arco

ffp

ff

Vln. 2

f

pizz.

arco

ff

Vla.

poco sul pont.

mf

f

ord.

ff

mf

Vc.

f

s

Db.

f

16
62

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

E♭ Cl. *f*

B♭ Cl. 2 *f*

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1 *f* *l.v.* *l.v.* *f*

Crotales

Guiro

Perc. 2 *f*

(Bongos/Congas)

Pf. *f*

Kbd. *f*

Vln. 1 *arco* *ffp* *ffp* *ff*

Vln. 2 *arco* *ffp* *ffp* *ffp* *ff*

Vla. *ord.* *f* *ffp* *ffp* *ff*

Vc.

Db. *f*

[illegible]

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[illegible]

20 (2 + 3) (2 + 2 + 3)

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1 (Glock.)

Perc. 2 (Almgl.)

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db. (pizz.) arco

79

(2 + 3)

(2 + 2 + 3)

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

79 (2 + 3) (2 + 2 + 3)

Fl. *mf* *f* *p*

Ob. *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p*

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. 2 *f* *p* *mf* *f* *p*

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn. *fp* *sim.* *f* *fp* *sim.* *f* *fp* *sim.* *f*

Perc. 1

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

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1 *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Vln. 2 *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Vla. *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Vc. *fp* *f* *fp* *f* *fp* *f*

Db. *pizz. arco* *f p* *f* *pizz. arco* *f p* *f* *pizz. arco* *f p* *f*

22

82

G

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f *mf* *f* *f*

f *mf* *ff* *f*

p (poss.) *f* *f*

f *mf* *ff* *f*

harmonics on concert "C#" *f* *sf* on "E" *sf*

senza sord. *f* harmonics on concert "A" *sf* on "C" *sf*

straight mute *f*

(Glock.) *f* l.v. *f* *ff*

Crotales Guiro

(Almgl.) *f* l.v. *f* *sf* (secco) *sf* (norm. whip)

smack whip against small suspended cymbal

sf *sf* *sf* *sf*

sf *sf* *sf* *sf*

G

fp *f* *ffp* *ff*

fp *f* *ff*

fp *f* *ff*

fp *f* *f*

pizz. *f* (pizz. norm.)

poco sul pont. *f*

poco sul pont. *f*

pizz. *f*

pizz. arco *fp* *f* *f*

85

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

E♭ Cl. 1 *f*

B♭ Cl. 2 *f*

Hn. 1 *f* on "E♭" *sf* on "F#" *sf*

Hn. 2 *f* on "B" *sf* on "D" *sf*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. 1 *f* *l.v.* *f* *ff*

Perc. 2 *f* (sim.) *sf* *sf*

Pf. *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Kbd. *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

Vln. 1 arco *ffp* ord. *ffp* *ff* pizz. *f*

Vln. 2 *ffp* *ff* *f* poco sul pont. 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

Vla. ord. *ffp* *ff* *f* poco sul pont.

Vc. *f*

Db. (pizz. norm.)

Musical score for "Sinfonia" by Carlos Chávez, featuring various percussion instruments and dynamic markings. The score is divided into measures, with time signatures of 5/16 and 3/4. The instruments and their parts include:

- Protales**: Marked with *l.v.* (lento).
- Guero**: Marked with *l.v.* (lento).
- Whip**: Marked with *l.v.* (lento).
- Other instruments**: Marked with *f* (forte) and *sf* (sforzando).

The score includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte), *sf* (sforzando), and *ff* (fortissimo). The tempo is marked *l.v.* (lento). The score is divided into measures, with time signatures of 5/16 and 3/4. The instruments and their parts include:

H

Fl.

f

Ob.

f

E♭ Cl. 1

f

B♭ Cl. 2

f

Hn. 1

+

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Crotales

f *l.v.*

Perc. 2

Guiro

f

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

arco

ffp

Vln. 2

ord.

ffp

Vla.

ord.

f

Vc.

Db.

(pizz. norm.)

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I

Lento tranquillo subito ♩=48

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl. 1

echotone

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Suspended Cymbals
(medium)
scrape with triangle beater

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

I

Lento tranquillo subito ♩=48

con sord.
III sempre

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

*) notated jété duration is approximate; upon natural completion of jété, transition to tremolo as seamlessly as possible.
open string (i.e. extension set to E) (ord.)

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108

FL.

Ob.

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Vibraphone

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

senza vib.

(t. Horns, Keyboard)

(medium)

(ord.)

poco sul pont.

ord.

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(arco)

3

f

ped.

p

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Musical score for "The Rose Tree" featuring vocal parts and percussion. The score is written for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass voices, along with Tubular Bells and Suspended Cymbals. The music is in 2/4 time and consists of 12 measures. The vocal parts are written in treble and bass clefs. The percussion parts are written in treble clef. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, *pp*, *p*, and *mf*. The percussion parts include notes for Tubular Bells and Suspended Cymbals. The score is marked with a large "FOR PERSAL ONLY" watermark.

[illegible]

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136

Fl.

p *f* *p* *fp* *f*

Ob.

p *f* *p* *fp* *f*

E♭ Cl.

f

Cb. Cl.

poco f

Hn. 1

fmf *fmf* *p*

Hn. 2

fmf *p* *fmf* *fp*

Tbn.

mf

Perc. 1

f *fpp* *f*

Perc. 2

mf l.v. *mf* l.v. *mf* l.v.

Pf.

f

Kbd.

f

Vln. 1

pizz. *f* *arco* *mp* *(sim.)*

Vln. 2

pizz. *f* *arco* *mp* *(sim.)*

Vla.

mp *(sim.)*

Vc.

ff *mp* *(sim.)*

Db.

f

Tam-tam norm.

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142 (2 + 3)

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl.

Cb. Cl.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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N

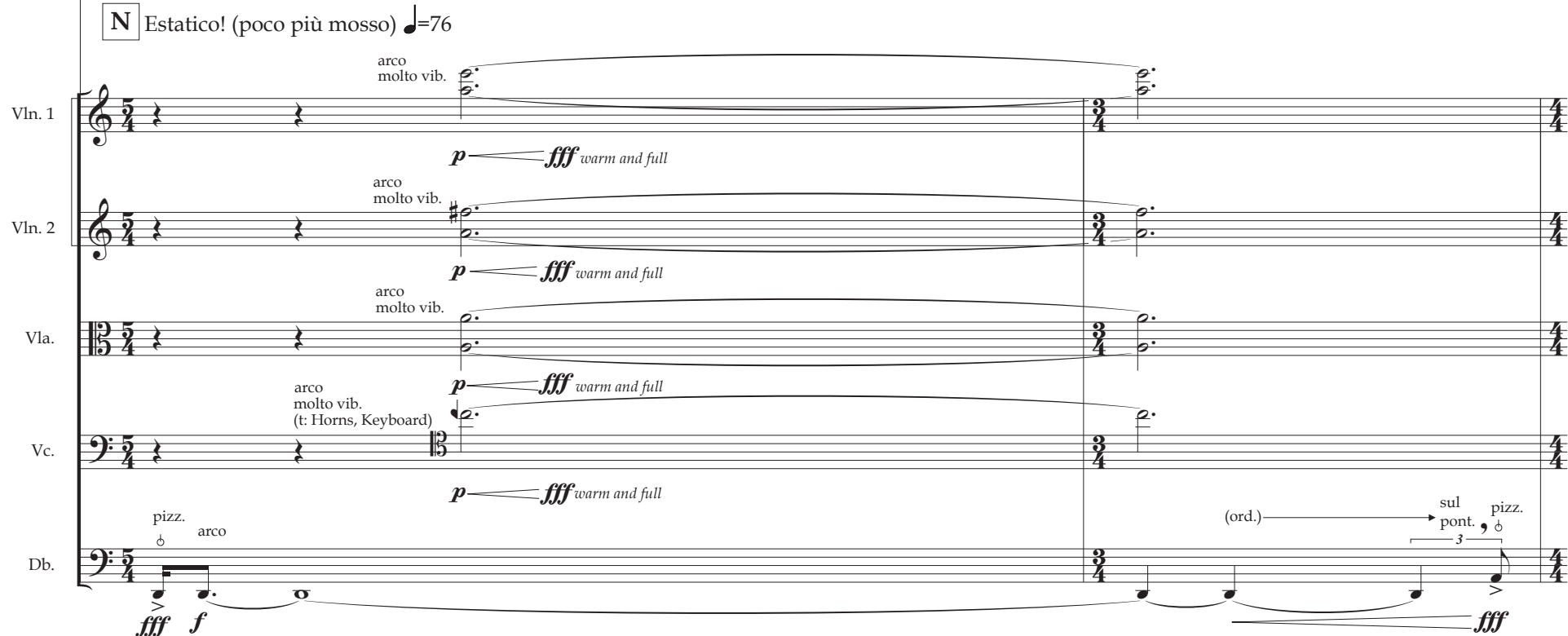
Estatico! (poco più mosso)



41

N

Estatico! (poco più mosso)



42
151

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

bell down

bell up

(Crot.)

Tubular Bells

Tam-tam

arco ord.

(ord.)

sul pont. pizz.

ff

mf

fff

f

p

non troppo l.v.

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44

155

rit.

Fl.

Ob.

bell down

mf

ff

fff

bell up

bell down

take English Horn

E♭ Cl.

bell down

mf

ff

fff

bell up

bell down

B♭ Cl. 2

bell down

mf

ff

fff

bell up

bell down

(breathe before attacks as needed)

Hn. 1

bell up

ff

f

fff

f

(breathe before attacks as needed)

Hn. 2

bell up

ff

f

fff

f

(breathe before attacks as needed)

Tbn.

Perc. 1

(Crot.)

mf

ff

l.v.

Perc. 2

Tubular Bells

ff

l.v.

Tam-tam

p

f

non troppo

l.v.

Tubular Bells

ff

l.v.

Pf.

fff

ff

Kbd.

fff

ff

Vln. 1

lots of bow - change freely and rapidly

p

fff

(lots of bow)

ff

Vln. 2

lots of bow - change freely and rapidly

p

fff

(lots of bow)

ff

Vla.

lots of bow - change freely and rapidly

p

fff

(lots of bow)

ff

Vc.

pizz.

fff

pizz. arco

p

fff

(lots of bow)

norm. bowing (subito)

Db.

fff

f

(ord.)

sul pont.

fff

158

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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harmon mute (stem in)

(breathe before attacks as needed)
○+○+○+ etc.

norm. bowing (subito)

con sord.

ppp legato

III

[illegible]

48

169

P

Musical notation for measures 48-51. Measures 48-49 are in 5/4 time, measure 50 is in 3/4 time, and measure 51 is in 5/4 time. The score includes parts for Flute, Oboe, E♭ Clarinet, B♭ Clarinet 2, Horn 1, Horn 2, Trombone, Percussion 1 (Vibes), Percussion 2 (Suspended Cymbals, triangle beater), Piano (una corda), Keyboard, Violin 1 (senza vib. ord.), Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. Dynamics include ppp, mp, p, mf, and pp. Fingerings and articulations are indicated throughout.

P

Musical notation for measures 52-55. Measures 52-53 are in 5/4 time, measure 54 is in 3/4 time, and measure 55 is in 5/4 time. The score includes parts for Violin 1, Violin 2, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. Dynamics include ppp, mf, and pp. Fingerings and articulations are indicated throughout.

[illegible]

50

177

Q

Fl.

Ob.

E♭ Cl.

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

English Horn

3

ø

espr.

mf

3

ø

3

ø

3

ø

senza sord.

3

ø

mp

3

ø

(Vibes)

mp

Suspended Cymbals

scrape with triangle beater

mp l.v.

mp

mp

(III)

ppp

mfppp

ppp

ppp

mfppp

3

ø

ppp

3

ø

(non trem.)

3

ø

p

espr.

mf

3

ø

f

3

ø

p

ppp

mfppp

3

ø

(ord.)

poco sul pont.

ord.

3

ø

p

ppp

3

ø

180

Fl.

E. Hn.

E♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Tbn.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pf.

Kbd.

Vln. 1

Vln. 2

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

subito accel.

timbral trill

con sord.

Crotales

p l.v.

una corda

tre corde

senza sord.

arm. nat. sul IV

arm. nat. sul IV sin' al fine

Reo.

c.66