

Alex Stephenson

THE COLD SONG

(2022)

for orchestra

First performed as part of the work *An Elemental Music*
by the La Jolla Symphony
Michael Gerdes, conductor
Mandeville Auditorium, La Jolla, California
March 18, 2023

DURATION: 7 minutes

INSTRUMENTATION

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in B-flat
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon

4 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in C
3 Trombones (TTB)
Tuba

Timpani
Percussion (2 players; see requirements below)

Piano
Harp

Strings

THE SCORE IS IN C

PERCUSSION REQUIREMENTS

Player 1: Vibraphone, Guiro, Tam-tam, Antique Cymbals  (i.e., two crotales with handles, clashed together, sounding two octaves higher than written)

Player 2: Glockenspiel, Sleigh Bells, Tambourine, Bass Drum

TO CONTACT THE COMPOSER
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PROGRAM NOTE

As I began working on this composition, I was inspired by the aria “What Power Art Thou”—also known as the “Cold Song”—from Henry Purcell’s *King Arthur*. In this scene from Purcell’s opera, the spirit of winter (the “Cold Genius”) is summoned to life. My composition freely transforms the shivering staccato motif and aspects of the harmonic progression from Purcell’s original, gradually building to an intense, chilling depiction of the Cold Genius. At the climax of my work, a quotation of Purcell’s original score momentarily appears, only to vanish again into the wintry landscape. Fittingly, I finished the piece on a late December night of subzero temperatures in central Illinois.

The Cold Song

Alex Stephenson (2022)

Desolate, icy (♩=52 / ♩=104)

Piccolo

Flute 1, 2

Oboe 1, 2

B♭ Clarinet 1

B♭ Clarinet 2

Bassoon 1, 2

Contrabassoon

F Horn 1, 3

F Horn 2, 4

Trumpet 1, 2

Trombone 1, 2

Trombone 3

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Piano

Harp

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

SOLO senza vib.

mf

(pass line to Cl. 2)

(take line from Cl. 1)

SOLO senza vib.

mf

(take line from Cl. 2)

(pass line to Cl. 1)

(sim.)

(sim.)

mf

Vibraphone motor off always

p

con  (change on each note)

Desolate, icy (♩=52 / ♩=104)

unis. (off the string)

sempre sim.

p sempre

A

11

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1, 2

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Perc. 1 (Vibes)

Perc. 2

Pno.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

senza vib.

senza vib.

mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

mf

mf

mf

Glockenspiel l.v.

damp G l.v.

damp F l.v.

sempre sim.

mf

con X (change on each note)

unis.

p sempre

unis.

p sempre

19

B

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1, 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

pp

senza vib.
mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

pp *mf* *pp*

1. senza vib.
p *con vib.*
espr. *f*

(Xeo)

(l.v.)
Sleigh Bells
p short and articulate

p

(Xeo)
con *Xeo* (change on each note)

div. a 3
(con vib.)
mf *espr.*
(con vib.)
p

28

C

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1, 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

senza vib.

senza vib.

(SOLO, senza vib.)

(as before)

(as before)

(SOLO, senza vib.)

(Vibes)

(Sleigh Bells)

Glockenspiel

l.v.

8-

(Xeo)

(Xeo)

as before

pp

pp

pp

pp

pp

37

Picc. *pp mf pp mf pp mf pp*

Fl. 1 *mf pp mf pp mf pp* senza vib.

Fl. 2 *mf pp mf pp mf pp mf pp*

Ob. 1, 2 *p* 1. senza vib. con vib. *espr.*

B♭ Cl. 1 *mf*

B♭ Cl. 2 *mf*

Bsn. 1, 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno. (8)

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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E
F

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1, 2

B♭ Cl. 1
mf (SOLO, senza vib.)

B♭ Cl. 2
mf (as before) (SOLO, senza vib.)

Bsn. 1, 2

Tpt. 1
 Tpt. 2

Perc. 1
p con Xyl (sim.)

Perc. 2

Pno.

Hp.
p

E
F

Vln. I
p

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

SOLO straight mute senza vib.
mf (match clarinets)

(pass line to Tpt. 2)
 (take line from Tpt. 1)
 SOLO straight mute senza vib.
mf (match clarinets)
 (take line from Tpt. 2)
mf
 (pass line to Tpt. 1)
 (sim.)
 (sim.)
mf
 Glockenspiel 1.v.
mf
 (l.v./damping as before)
mf
 con fz (change on each note)

G = 138

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is a 12-measure piece, divided into four 3-measure segments. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes parts for guitar, drums, and vocalists.

Instrumentation and Parts:

- Guitar:** The guitar part is the most prominent, featuring a series of chords and single notes. It starts with a soft *p* (piano) dynamic and gradually builds to a loud *f* (forte) dynamic by the end of the piece. The guitar part is marked with a *scraped* (scraped) effect, indicated by a box around the word.
- Drums:** The drum part is simple, consisting of a steady 4/4 beat. It is marked with a *scraped* (scraped) effect, indicated by a box around the word.
- Vocalists:** The vocal parts are written for two voices, Simon and Garfunkel. They enter in the 9th measure, singing the lyrics "Hello, hello, good-bye, good-bye." The vocal melody is simple and melodic, with a soft *p* (piano) dynamic.

Lyrics:

Hello, hello, good-bye, good-bye.

H

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

B♭ Cl. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbsn.

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1 (Guero)

Perc. 2 (Tamb.)

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. div. a 2

Db.

p

f

fp

a2

HARP: harmonics sound one octave higher than written always

♩=104 (♩=52)

Picc.

Fl. 1, 2

Ob. 1, 2

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbsn.

Hr. 1, 3

Hr. 2, 4

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Hp.

(as SOLO before) senza vib.

mf

(as before)

mf

mf

con vib.

mf

(Vibes)

(Tamb.)

damp B♭

l.v.

damp A

sempre sim.

I ♩=104 (♩=52)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

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M

(♩=138 sempre)

Henry Purcell, "What power art thou" from King Arthur

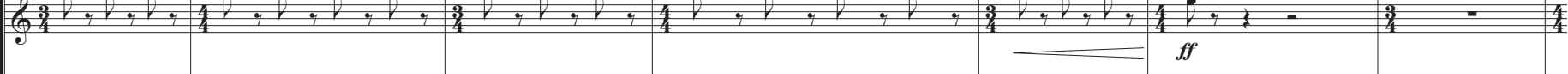
Picc.



Fl. 1, 2



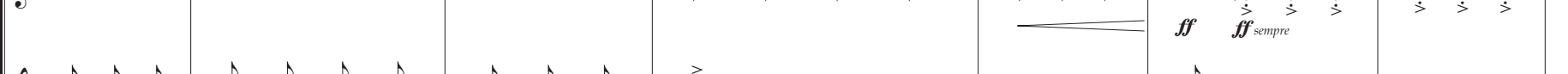
Ob. 1, 2



B♭ Cl. 1, 2



Bsn. 1, 2



Cbsn.



Hn. 1, 3



Hn. 2, 4



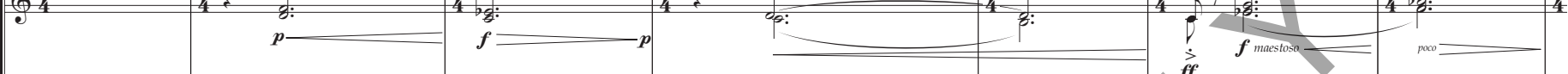
Tpt. 1, 2



Tbn. 1, 2



Tbn. 3



Tuba



Timp.



Perc. 1



Perc. 2



Pno.



Vln. I



Vln. II



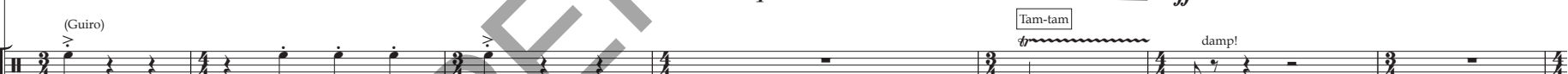
Vla.



Vc. div. a 2



Db.



148

Ob. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 3

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

THE ROSE TREE

Woodwind and Brass Ensemble

Ob. 1, 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbsn.

Hrn. 1, 3

Tbn. 1, 2

Tbn. 3

Tuba

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

FOR PERSAL

165

O ♩=104 (♩=52)

rit. O ♩=104 (♩=52)

174

P

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1, 2

B $\flat$ Cl. 1

B $\flat$ Cl. 2

Bsn. 1, 2

Cbsn.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Pno.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. div. a 3

Db.

senza vib.

mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf*

senza vib.

mf *pp* *mf* *pp*

SOLO straight mute senza vib.

mf (match clarinets)

(as before)

SOLO straight mute senza vib.

(as before)

mf (match clarinets)

p

Glockenspiel l.v.

(l.v./damping as before)

mf

p

pp *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

pp *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

pp *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

pp *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

This image shows a page of a musical score for the song "The Rose Tree". The score is written for voice and piano. The vocal parts are in the upper staves, and the piano accompaniment is in the lower staves. The music is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The score includes a large, diagonal watermark that reads "FOR PERSAL ONLY". The piano part features a prominent bass line with a melodic contour that includes a descending scale-like passage. The vocal parts are written in a simple, accessible style, with lyrics provided below the notes. The score is marked with dynamics such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *p* (piano). The overall layout is clean and professional, typical of a published musical score.

Q

Meno mosso (♩=c.44 / ♩=c.88)

Picc.

senza vib.

pp

Fl. 1

pp

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

pp

Ob. 2

B♭ Cl. 1

(SOLO, senza vib.)

mf

(as before)

con vib.

senza vib.

B♭ Cl. 2

(as before)

(SOLO, senza vib.)

mf

espr.

f

p

Bsn. 1, 2

Hn. 1, 3

a2

blow air through instrument

p

f poss.

Hn. 2, 4

a2

blow air through instrument

p

f poss.

Tbn. 1, 2

a2

blow air through instrument

p

f poss.

Tbn. 3

blow air through instrument

p

f poss.

Perc. 1

Antique Cymbals (see preface)

f

L

L.v.

damp

Perc. 2

f

L.v.

damp

Pno.

ff

Hp.

ff

D, C, E, mf

L.v.

damp F

L.v.

sempre sim.

(L.v.)

Vln. I

f

ppp

Vln. II

f

ppp

Vla.

f

ppp

Vc.

unis.

f

ppp

Db.

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