

THE LAST PLACE

ON EARTH

double concerto for saxophone, percussion and string quartet

(2015)

matthew kennedy (ascap)

echo grove publishing

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FULL SCORE

Matthew Kennedy (ASCAP)

For Inquiries of Purchase for Full Score and Parts Contact
kennedycomposer@gmail.com • kennedycomposer.com

NOTES ON THE WORK

The Last Place on Earth takes its' title from the book of same name chronicling the expeditions of Roald Amundsen (Norway) and Robert Scott (England) in their quest to be the first-known humans to explore and chart Antarctica, specifically the South Pole from 1910-1912. These two explorers, certainly some of the last of their kind, could not have known how quickly their world would become interconnected over the century following their expedition. Globalization through ease of travel and communication (with the invention of the airplane and radio) would bring such disparate worlds as the one they so relentlessly pursued in the name of whatever they may have desired (vanity, nationalism, adventurism, or an infinite number of other reasons). Now all is claustrophobically close in sight. One can reach out to an ancient world and be transported in a moment less than a century later. This piece explores the notion of such a far journey than can move both at a glacial pace and a blink of an eye; a miniature concerto being the medium to explore such a journey.

I. SCHERZO ON A TWICE-BORROWED BALLADE

This movement features two competing voices vying for attention amidst a still, nearly inert, stream of strings. This work is based on a Norwegian folk tune, notably used in a theme and variations by Edvard Grieg (Ballade in the form of variations on a Norwegian melody, op. 24). The ballade is initial heard in an augmented rhythmic state, eight times its original length, slowing becoming less and less augmented; eight times, four times, three times, and finally two. This interplay further conveys the close proximity of the rest of the world as time moves forward.

II. SEA CONVERSATIONS

This brief movement is a fantasia based on two melodic fragments first presented in the vibraphone. As the title eludes, conversations amongst each individual musician brings great contrast to the two solo voices of the opening movement.

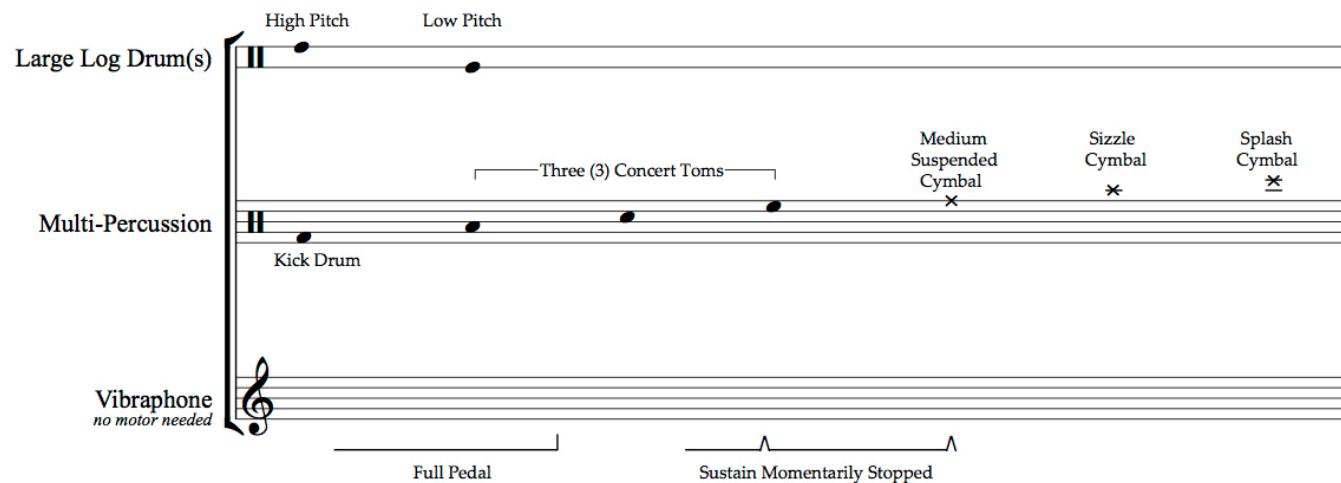
III. LAND FRACTURES/BEGINNINGS

The finale takes a tongue-in-cheek approach to the adventuresome spirit, seeking to produce a sardonic look at the original "Scherzo."

NOTES ON THE COMPOSER

New England-based Matthew Kennedy is a rising composer of engaging solo, chamber, and orchestral music that has been performed across North America. His music has received numerous awards including honors from ASCAP, BMI, SCI, Hartford Opera Theater, Dynamic Music Festival at NYU, and the Greater Hartford Arts Council. Recent endeavors include residencies at the Institute for Sustainable Living, Art, and Natural Design's Hill House Residency, Horned Dorset Artist Colony, Mayapple Center for the Arts and Humanities, and commissions from the Hartford New Music Festival, Foot-in-the-Door Ensemble, saxophonist Alyssa Hoffert, and bassist Robert Black. Matthew holds a doctoral degree in Composition from The Hartt School where he currently teaches Composition and Theory as an Adjunct Faculty member of the Creative Studies Department. He and his wife, studio artist Erin Kennedy, currently reside in Newington, CT with their daughter two daughters, Ivy Pearl and Amelia Harper and cats: Butters and Coopurr.

PERCUSSION KEY



NOTE: All cymbals should be left ringing (l.v.) unless otherwise specified

*Commissioned by Performance 20/20 Ensemble
Premiered March 29th, Hartford Arts School – University of Hartford*

*Elyse Vest – alto saxophone
Jianpeng Feng – percussion*

*Kevin Seto, Fernando Vizcayno – violin
Kaitlin Springer – viola
Ignacy Grzelazka – cello*

FULL SCORE [TRANSPOSED]

commissioned by The Hartt School Performance 20/20 Ensemble. Premiered by soloists Elyse Vest and Jianpeng Feng

THE LAST PLACE ON EARTH

double concerto for alto saxophone, percussion
and string quartet

Matthew Kennedy (ASCAP)

I. Scherzo on a Twice-Borrowed Ballade

Allegro ($\text{♩} = 120$)

growl 3 ord.

Alto Saxophone

f *sfp* *ff* *=mf* *molto espress.* *poco* *più mf leggiero*

Large Log Drum

Med. Vibes Mallets

Percussion Toms/Cym

f 3

Vibraphone

mf 3 *f*

Allegro ($\text{♩} = 120$)

Violin I

sul tasto

Violin II

sfp *ppp*

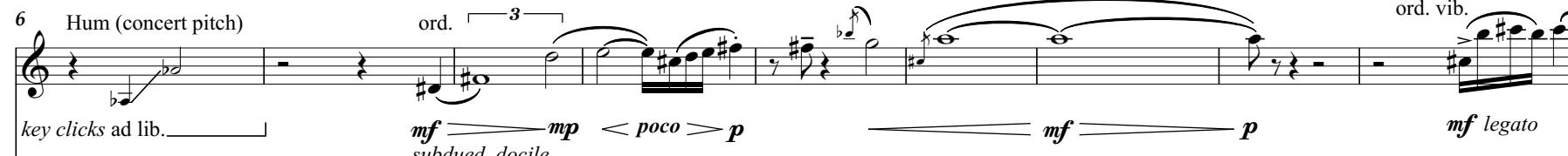
Viola

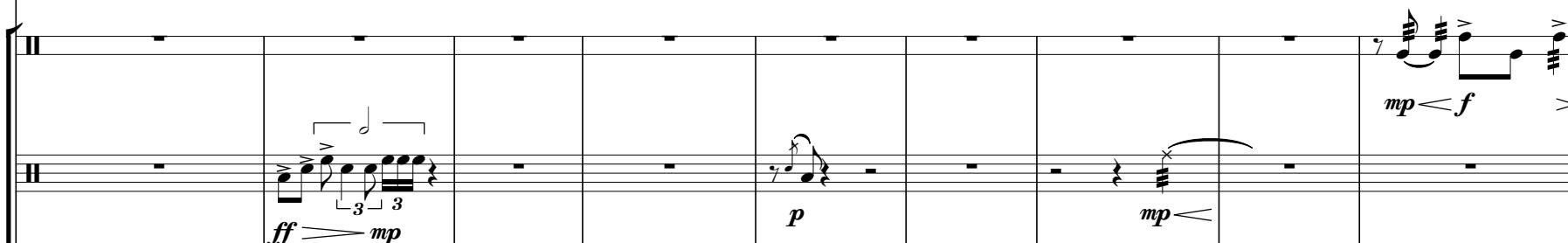
sul tasto

Violoncello

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2

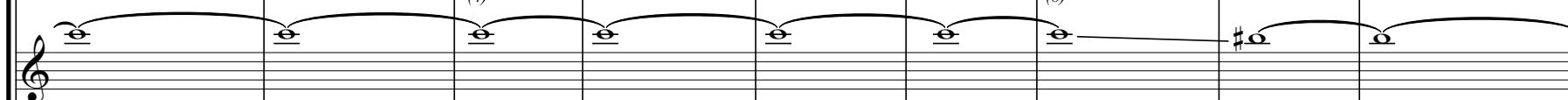
6 Hum (concert pitch) ord.  vibrato poco → → molto → → → poco ord. vib.

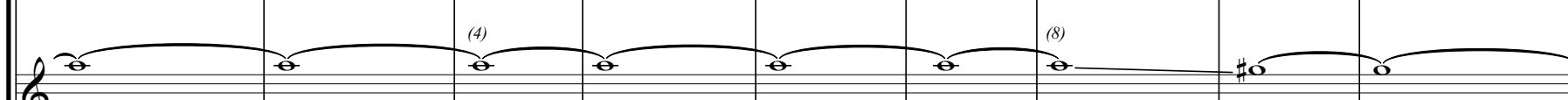
L.D. 

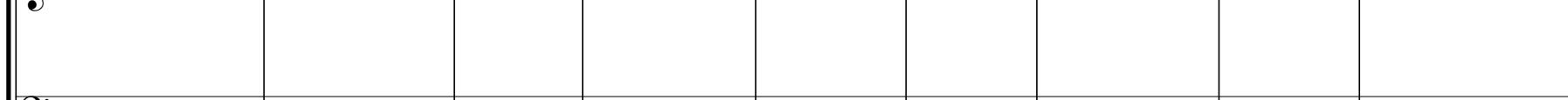
Perc. 

Vib. 

Vln. I 

Vln. II 

Vla. 

Vc. 

Kennedy - The Last Place on Earth - Full Score

3

Musical score page 3 featuring eight staves of music for various instruments. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

Alto Sax: Measure 15 starts with a dynamic of ***ff con forza!*** (molto). Measures 16-17 show a melodic line with grace notes and slurs, followed by a dynamic of ***f poco marcato***.

L.D. (Low Drum): Measures 15-16 are marked **[*mp*]**. Measures 17-18 show a rhythmic pattern with a dynamic of ***sub. ff***.

Perc. (Percussion): Measures 15-16 are marked **[*mp*]**. Measures 17-18 show a rhythmic pattern with a dynamic of ***f***.

Vib. (Vibraphone): Measures 15-16 are marked ***mp***. Measures 17-18 show a rhythmic pattern with a dynamic of ***mf***.

Vln. I (Violin I): Measures 15-18 are marked ***p***.

Vln. II (Violin II): Measures 15-16 show sustained notes with a dynamic of **(4)**. Measures 17-18 show sustained notes with a dynamic of **(8)**.

Vla. (Cello): Measures 15-16 show sustained notes with a dynamic of **(4)**. Measures 17-18 show sustained notes with a dynamic of **(8)**.

Vc. (Bass): Measures 15-18 are marked ***p***.

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4

21

Alto Sax. *growl ord.* *sub-tone*

mp *fp < f* *pp*

L.D. *II*

Perc. *Tap with triangle beater* *Scrape with beater*

mp *p* *pp* *p*

Vib. *pp* *3*

Vln. I *sul tasto* *(4)* *drastic, violent - excessive pressure*

sfz ppp

Vln. II *(4)* *drastic, violent - excessive pressure*

Vla. *molto* *drastic, violent - excessive pressure*

Vc. *molto*

29

Alto Sax.

29 *growl* 3 ord. → → → overblown sub.*f* *sfp* < *ff* → *mf* *fp* — *fff* *sub-tone* *mp* — *poco* — *pp* *sfp*

L.D.

Perc.

Vib.

29

*sub.*f** 3 *mp* — *ff* — *mf* *mf* — *f* *sub.*p**

Vln. I

sfz ppp norm. (4)

Vln. II

sfz ppp norm. (4)

Vla.

sfz ppp norm. (4)

Vc.

snap pizz. *ff*

Kennedy - The Last Place on Earth - Full Score

6

35

Alto Sax.

L.D.

Perc.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

p *mf* *legatissimo, più pesante poco a poco*

p *<f*

p

ff

f

sub. f

(8)

(4)

(12)

Musical score for Kennedy's "The Last Place on Earth" featuring six staves of music. The instruments are Alto Saxophone, Large Drum (L.D.), Percussion (Perc.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Cello (Vc.), and Bassoon (Vla.). Measure 41 starts with a single note on the Alto Saxophone. Measures 42-44 are blank. Measure 45 begins with a dynamic *mf*. The Vibraphone has a sustained note with a dynamic *p*. The Large Drum and Percussion play eighth-note patterns. The Violins play sustained notes with dynamics *mp* and *mf*. The Bassoon and Cello play sustained notes. Measure 46 starts with a dynamic *ppp*. The Violins play sustained notes with dynamics *arco, sul pont.* and *mf*. The Bassoon and Cello play sustained notes with dynamics *ppp* and *mf*.

41

Alto Sax.

45

L.D.

Perc.

Vib.

45

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mf cantabile, contemplative

R.H.

L.H.

p

mp

arco, sul pont.

ppp

(8)

(16)

(8)

(4)

(4)

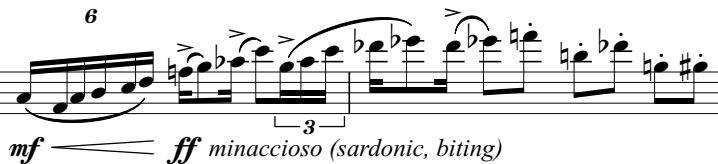
(4)

(4)

Kennedy - The Last Place on Earth - Full Score

8

Alto Sax.

49  6 

L.D.

Perc.

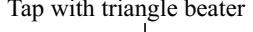
Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Tap with triangle beater 

mp p *pp* *su* *ff*

mp *f*

(8) *gradually slow trem.* → → → → → → → → *sul tasto*



Kennedy - The Last Place on Earth - Full Score

9

55

Alto Sax. *tr* *fp* *ff* *mp* *ff*

L.D.

Perc. *ff* *mf* < *ff*

Vib. *p* *ff*

Vln. I

Vln. II (4) (8)

Vla.

Vc. (4) (8)

This musical score page contains six staves of music. The top staff is for Alto Saxophone, featuring a melodic line with various dynamics and performance instructions like 'tr' (trill), 'fp' (fortissimo), 'ff' (fuerzamente), 'mp' (mezzo-forte), and 'mf' (mezzo-forte) preceded by '<'. The second staff is for Large Drum (L.D.). The third staff is for Percussion, which includes a bass drum and cymbals. The fourth staff is for Vibraphone, with a dynamic marking 'p' followed by 'ff'. The fifth staff is for Violin I, and the sixth staff is for Violin II. The seventh staff is for Cello (Vla.), and the eighth staff is for Bassoon (Vc.). Measure 55 begins with a melodic line on the Alto Saxophone, followed by sustained notes on the Percussion and Vibraphone. Measures 56 continue with the melodic line on the Alto Saxophone, sustained notes on the Vibraphone, and sustained notes on the Violins and Bassoon. Various dynamics and performance instructions are scattered throughout the measures, such as 'tr' on the Alto Saxophone in measure 55, 'ff' on the Percussion in measure 55, 'mp' on the Vibraphone in measure 55, 'mf' on the Percussion in measure 56, and '<' on the Vibraphone in measure 56. Measure 56 also features dynamic markings '(4)' and '(8)' above the Violin II and Bassoon staves respectively.

61

Alto Sax. *ff maestoso un poco marcato* 5 *mf fading away (poco a poco)*

L.D.

Perc. *ff minaccioso*

Vib. *ff* 5 *mf fading away (poco a poco)*

61

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Kennedy - The Last Place on Earth - Full Score

11

66

Alto Sax.

L.D.

Perc.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp

mp misterioso

mf

mp > p

mp *f*

f

mp

mp misterioso

(8)

pp

(8)

pp

(8)

pp

(8)

pp

Kennedy - The Last Place on Earth - Full Score

12

74

bend

Alto Sax. *mf* molto express. - sensuous, yet naïve

L.D.

Perc.

Vib. *mf* molto express., cantabile

Vln. I *mp* *pp* *p*

Vln. II *mp* *p*

Vla. *mp* *p*

Vc. *mp* *p*

Kennedy - The Last Place on Earth - Full Score

13

85

Alto Sax. *mf* *mp* *ff*

L.D.

Perc. *sub. ff*

Vib. *molto* *dim.* *poco* *a* *poco*

85

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

growl *ord.*

sub. mp *fff*

Kennedy - The Last Place on Earth - Full Score

14

Musical score page 14, featuring six staves of music for Alto Saxophone, Low Density Percussion, Vibraphone, Violin I, Violin II, Cello, and Bass.

Alto Sax. Part 88. Dynamics: ***ff* molto pesante**, ***ff***. Articulations: **5**, **3**, **lip**, **5**, **mp**, ***ff***.

L.D. Perc. Dynamics: ***f***, **<*ff***, ***mp*** *as if holding back an avalanche*.

Vib. Dynamics: ***ff***.

Vln. I, **Vln. II**, **Vla.**, **Vc.** Dynamics: **#o**, **#o**, **#o**, **#o**.

$\text{d} = \text{d}$

92

Alto Sax.

molto rit.

L.D.

Perc.

Vib.

fff

ff wild!

sub. *mf* - subsiding

$\text{d} = \text{d}$

molto rit.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

92

Alto Sax. $\text{d} = \text{d}$

L.D. $\text{d} = \text{d}$

Perc. $\text{d} = \text{d}$

Vib. $\text{d} = \text{d}$

fff

ff wild!

sub. *mf* - subsiding

Vln. I $\text{d} = \text{d}$

Vln. II $\text{d} = \text{d}$

Vla. $\text{d} = \text{d}$

Vc. $\text{d} = \text{d}$

molto rit.

molto dim. poco a poco

Andante espressivo ($\text{♩} = 40$)

96

as if melting into the violin

Alto Sax.

L.D.

Perc.

Vib.

2d. al fine molto dim. poco a poco al fine

Andante espressivo ($\text{♩} = 40$)

102

Alto Sax.

L.D.

Perc.

Vib.

(niente)

lunga

Vln. I

f molto express. —————— sub. **p** holding back

Vln. II

f molto express. —————— sub. **p** holding back

Vla.

sul G

Vc.

f molto express. —————— sub. **p** holding back

lunga

pp

pp

pp

pp

II. Sea Conversations

Lento ma non troppo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$)

Alto Sax.

Vib. Med. Soft Mallets (Balter Blue or softer)

mp *Ped. ad lib.* *f più pesante*

Lento ma non troppo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$)

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

con sord.

mp *mf* *p*

con sord.

mp *mf* *non-dim.*

con sord.

pp *mp* *mf* *p*

con sord.

pp *mp* *mf* *p*

molto rall.

A tempo

breve

9
Alto Sax. *p* — *mf* *molto legato*

Vib. *at first holding back*

breve

pp

molto rall.

A tempo

molto vib.

breve

mf *espress. - angst à la Berg*

(vib. norm)

sub. *f* aggressivo

Vln. I

Vln. II *p*

sub. *f* aggressivo

Vla. *pizz.* *mp*

arco

sub. *f* aggressivo

Vc. *pizz.* *mp*

breve

p — *mf* — *pp*

arco

p — *mf* — *pp*

sub. *f* aggressivo

13**Subito più mosso (♩ = ca. 72)**

Alto Sax. 13

Vib.

13**Subito più mosso (♩ = ca. 72)**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Musical score for Alto Saxophone and Vibraphone. The Alto Saxophone part (measures 17-18) starts with a 'poco rall.' section with a 'bend' instruction, followed by a dynamic 'pp possibile'. The Vibraphone part (measures 17-18) consists of sustained notes with grace notes, grouped by a '3' bracket. The Alto Saxophone part continues with a dynamic 'pp cantabile' and a 'sub-tone' instruction. The Vibraphone part concludes with a dynamic 'p'.

poco rall. **A tempo**

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

niente

niente

niente

niente

ppp

—3—

ppp

—3—

ppp

ppp

23

Alto Sax.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

mp *pp*

Soft Mallets (Balter Reds or the like)

ppp barely audible - a blur

*nodal gliss., sul E
punta d'arco*

*nodal gliss., sul G
punta d'arco*

sul pont., punta d'arco

pp <mf> pp

sul pont., punta d'arco

pp <mf> pp

G.P.

G.P.

G.P.

G.P.

G.P.

G.P.

28

G.P.

subito attacca

Alto Sax.

N.B.

Vib.

G.P.

Repeat [To be performed at least 5 times]

subito attacca

dim. (?) and rit. al fine -----

Rit. al fine

nodal gliss., sul A

Vln. I

pp

G.P.

Repeat [To be performed at least 5 times]

subito attacca

Vln. II

pp

nodal gliss., sul C

Vla.

sul pont.

nodal gliss., sul A

pp

G.P.

G.P.

Vc.

pp

Repeat [To be performed at least 5 times]

subito attacca

III. Land Fractures/Beginnings

Allegro leggierissimo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 128$)

Alto Sax.

growl

ord.

pp — *f* *mp* *mf* *ff*
molto

Med. Hard (Balter Greens or Harder)

Perc.

Vib.

p *mp* *mf* *ff*

mf *ff*

Allegro leggierissimo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 128$)

sul pont.

Vln. I

pp < mp *sf* *mf* *molto* [ff]

p *mp*

ppp sonic residue *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *mp* *mf* *molto* [ff]

ppp sonic residue *mf* *pizz.* *arco* *mp* *mf* *molto* [ff]

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

wide vib.

ord. vib.

arco

punta d'arco

[ff]

[ff]

[ff]

[ff]

5

Alto Sax. *sub. p poss.* *mf* *p*

Perc. *mp* *f* *pp*

Vib. *sub. p* *mf* *mp*

Vln. I *pizz.* *sub. p* *mf* *mp*

Vln. II *pizz.* *sub. p* *mf* *mp*

Vla. *punta d'arco* *sub. p in a hushed tone* *mf* *mp* *fp* *[p]*

Vc. *punta d'arco* *sub. mp leggiero* *mf dolce* *p*

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26

9

Alto Sax. *mp* — *f* — *pp* fading away even more (poco a poco)

Perc.

Vib. *f* — *mf* — *[pp]*

Vln. I *pp* — *sub. mf* — *p* L.H. pizz. ord. pizz.

Vln. II *p* — *mf* — *p* — *mp*

Vla. *mf* — *p* — *pizz.* — *mp*

Vc. — *arco* — *mf* — *p* — *pizz.* — *mp*

17

Alto Sax. 14 *p* *growl* *ord.* *sub. f* *mf* *molto express. - romantic*

Perc. *3* *2* *4*

Vib. *3* *2* *4* *mp relaxed, breezy*

Vln. I *3* *2* *4* *sub. ff* *arco, talon* *17* *ord.* *mf* *molto express. - romantic*

Vln. II *3* *2* *4* *p* *arco, talon* *pizz.* *sub. ff* *mp* *arco, talon* *pizz.*

Vla. *3* *2* *4* *p* *sub. ff* *arco, talon* *pizz.*

Vc. *3* *2* *4* *p* *sub. ff*

19

Alto Sax.

Perc.

Vib.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Subito Meno Mosso

Alto Sax. 24 *ff* with great fury and anger

Perc.

Vib. Put Down Right Hand Mallets While Playing Toms with both Lefts

mf *mp*

Subito Meno Mosso

Vln. I ord. *ff* with great fury and anger *mp* legatissimo - durge

Vln. II *ff* with great fury and anger arco sul tasto
arco *mp* legatissimo - durge

Vla. *ff* with great fury and anger *mp* legatissimo - durge

Vc. arco sul tasto *mp* legatissimo - durge

ff with great fury and anger

poco rit.

29

Alto Sax.

Perc.

Vib.

poco rit.

A musical score for string instruments. The score consists of four staves: Vln. I (Violin I), Vln. II (Violin II), Vla. (Viola), and Vc. (Cello). The music is in common time (indicated by '4'). Measure 1: Vln. I starts with a dynamic 'f' (fortissimo) on a G4 note. Measure 2: Vln. II begins with a sustained note on a C4 note. Measures 3-4: The violins play eighth-note patterns on G4 and E4. The viola and cello provide harmonic support with sustained notes.

Freely

Tempo primo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$)

32

Alto Sax.

Perc.

Vib.

cued by saxophonist

growl

ord.

ff 3

sfp

ff

mp

Freely

Tempo primo ($\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$)

cued by saxophonist

ff

scratches

sf p

fff

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

> p

> p

> p

> p

Alto Sax. 36 *f* bright, full of spirit and energy

Perc.

Vib. *f* bright, full of spirit and energy

Vln. I *f* bright, full of spirit and energy

Vln. II *f* bright, full of spirit and energy

Vla. *f* bright, full of spirit and energy

Vc. *f* bright, full of spirit and energy

p

sub. mp

sub. mp

sub. mp

pizz.

mf

pizz.

mf

Alto Sax.

40 *f con brio (but still a little playful)*

Perc.

Vib.

Vln. I

jeté

sim.

f con brio (but still a little playful)

Vln. II

jeté

sim.

f con brio (but still a little playful)

Vla.

arco

f con brio (but still a little playful)

Vc.

arco

f con brio (but still a little playful)

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34

44

Alto Sax. *mp* sub. ***ff*** brillante!

Perc.

Vib. *mp* sub. ***ff*** brillante!

Vln. I pizz. *mf* *p* arco sub. ***f*** arco

Vln. II pizz. *mf* *p* sub. ***f***

Vla. pizz. *mf* *p* arco sub. ***f***

Vc. pizz. *mf* *mp* *p* arco 3 sub. ***f***

MK
Jan. 2015, Hartford

