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# Both sides now

for 2 piano players and 2 percussion players

Jan Martin Smørdal

2020

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Full score

Commissioned by nyMusikk Østfold, for the HøstRiss festival 2020



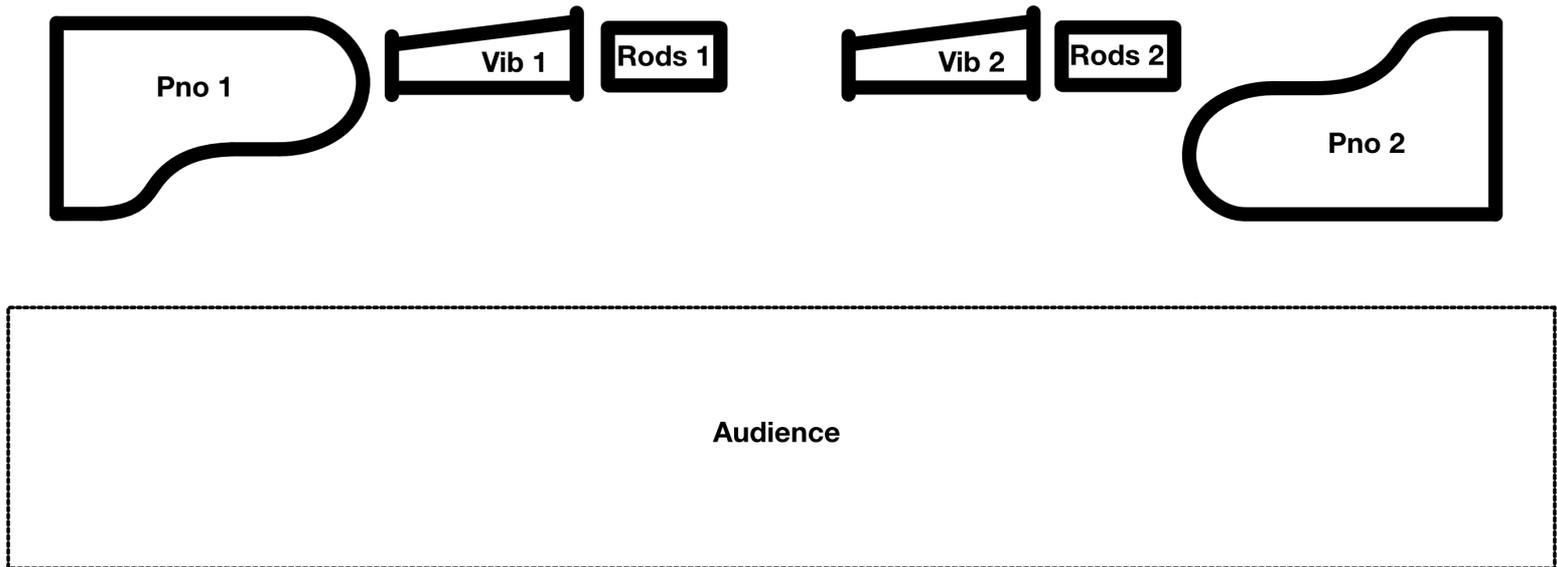
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This piece is possibly to be considered as a percussion piece, leaving the piano players mostly with bell-like rhythms and harmonies, and few idiomatic patterns. And also, the piano players, and the percussion players - each on their parts - perform almost exactly the same score, with only minor rhythmic and harmonic differences. The harmonic material is almost the same throughout the piece, changing only in the middle part, when microtonal colours are introduced from the percussionists.

Despite the minimal score, it is my intention for the piece to evoke (subjective clear) emotions, and furthermore loosing grip of time - both for the performers, but also (hopefully) for the listeners.

The performance should create a feeling of divide, that the performers are 2 groups - one on each side.

Preferred performance setup, though others setups may create similar effects:



## Piano

Between M 135-153 piano player 2 uses 2 e-bows. These are for only f' + g'. To adjust dynamics (and filter overtones), place Tac-it at bridge/strings end (keyboard side). E-bows may be provided for by the composer.

- + = Fully dampen string(s). The effect is percussive, or as an reverb effect (w/pedal). No audible pitch. Execute near bridge.
- ⊕ = Half-dampen string(s). The effect is a muted, but pitched tone, with few overtones. Also executed at bridge, though with only one finger.
- = Normal, no muting.

Use of pedal is only suggested, and only in the first half of the piece. Use of pedal is left to the performers judgements.

## Percussion players

2 Standard 3 octave vibraphones ( F - f''')  
 Quartertone tuned steel rods  
 Quartertone tuned aluminium rods

The quartertone tuned steel and aluminum rods are provided for by the composer. When these are played, the rhythm is to be interpreted as precise as possible, meaning performers must mute rod(s) after notated duration.

Mallets:

Medium-hard: yarn wounded (e.g. *Dixon orange medium-hard*)  
 Hard: rubber (e.g. *Innovative Percussion IP902 James Ross*)

### Rods and tunings:



♩ = 90

# Both sides now

## Insisting, resigning, persisting

Piano 1

Percussion 1  
Vibraphone 1  
Steel Rods 1  
Aluminium Rods 1

Piano 2

Percussion 2  
Vibraphone 2  
Steel Rods 2  
Aluminium Rods 2

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

8

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

Musical score for measures 8-10. The score is divided into four systems: Pno 1, Vib. 1, Pno 2, and Vib. 2. Pno 1 and Pno 2 play chords in the right hand, with rests in the left hand. Vib. 1 and Vib. 2 play tremolos in the right hand, with rests in the left hand. Dynamics include *f* and *(Red.)*.



11

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

Musical score for measures 11-13. The score is divided into four systems: Pno 1, Vib. 1, Pno 2, and Vib. 2. Pno 1 and Pno 2 play chords in the right hand, with rests in the left hand. Vib. 1 and Vib. 2 play tremolos in the right hand, with rests in the left hand. Dynamics include *(Red.)* and *p*.

14

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

Musical score for measures 14-17. Pno 1 and Pno 2 are mostly silent, with Pno 1 playing a few notes at the end of measure 17. Vib. 1 and Vib. 2 play continuous tremolos. Dynamics include *f* and *mf*. The score includes a double bar line at the end of measure 17.

18

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

Musical score for measures 18-21. Pno 1 plays a melodic line with slurs and accents. Pno 2 plays chords. Vib. 1 and Vib. 2 play tremolos. Dynamics include *mf*.

22

ped. slow release

Pno 1

*pp*

Vib. 1

*p*

Pno 2

ped. slow release

*pp*

Vib. 2

*p*

26

Pno 1

*f*

sim. ped.

Vib. 1

*ff*

*Res.*

Pno 2

*f*

sim. ped.

Vib. 2

*ff*

*Res.*

28

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*pp*

*pp*

(Red.)

(Red.)



31

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*pp*

*pp*

(Red.)

(Red.)

35

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*pppp*

*ff*

*pppp*

*mp*

*pppp*

*mp*

(Red.)

(Red.)

(Red.)

(Red.)



39

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*f*

*pp*

*mp (compensating)*

*f*

*pp*

*mp (compensating)*

*mp (compensating)*

(Red.)

(Red.)

(Red.)

(Red.)

45

Pno 1

3rd partials

Vib. 1

(Red.)

Pno 2

3rd partials

Vib. 2

(Red.)

*f*

*ppp*

*f*

*ppp*

50

Pno 1

Vib. 1

*mp*

(Red.)

*f*

Pno 2

Vib. 2

(Red.)

*mp*

(Red.)

*f*

53

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*p*

*sub. mp* (compensating muting)

*p*

*sub. pp*

*p*

*sub. pp*

(Red.)

(Red.)

(Red.)

(Red.)

58

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*f*

*ppp*

*f*

*ppp*

A# enter unnoticable

(Red.)

(Red.)

(Red.)

(Red.)

(tuplets)

(tuplets)

64

Vib. 1

Vib. 2

*a'' = almost inaudible*

(Red.)

(Red.)

poco rit.....  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$  molto accel.

70

Pno 1

Vib. 1

give cue to pno 1+2

*pp sub.*

*pppp*

Pno 2

*f*

Vib. 2

*pppp pp sub.*

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 140$   $\text{♩} = 90$

76

Pno 1

*ppp*

*f*

Vib. 1

Pno 2

*ppp*

*f*

Vib. 2

82

Pno 1

*mp*

ped. as before;  
lift at subito

Vib. 1

*mf* *mp*

Pno 2

*mp*

ped. as before;  
lift at subito

Vib. 2

*mf* *mp*

86

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

90

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

sub. pp

94

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

99

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*f*

*f*

*f*

103

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

(h)

107

Pno 1

Pno 2

Vib. 1

Vib. 2

w/Pno. I:

w/Pno. II:

*ppp*

*ppp*

*ppp*

Placing eggs  
on concrete floor

111

Pno 1

Pno 2

Vib. 1

Vib. 2

*p poss.*

*Red.*

*p poss.*

*Red.*

116

Vib. 1

Vib. 2

121

Vib. 1

Vib. 2

126

Vib. 1

Vib. 2

131

Pno 1

Vib. 1

A. R. 1

Pno 2

E-bows

Vib. 2

Repeat until Pno. 2 has placed e-bows (g+f)

♩ = c. 45 (♩ = ♩)

A melody, humming, inwards

give cue to pno 1

5th partials

8va

G first

S. R.

137

Pno 1

S. R. 1

Pno 2

E-bows

5th partials

pp still soft

pp not too loud

149

Pno 1

S. R. 1

Pno 2

E-bows

S. R. 2

poco cre - - - - - scen - - - - -

S. R.

ppp

E-bows off

(Red.)

S. R.

ppp

156

Pno 1

S. R. 1

Pno 2

S. R. 2

*mp* *ppp*

*mp* *ppp*

do (until M175)

162

Pno 1

S. R. 1

Pno 2

S. R. 2

*mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

*mp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

170

Pno 1

6"-8"

marcato, but not too loud

*ff*

S. R. 1

still unmeasured

*mp* *ppp* very slow cresc. *f*

Pno 2

marcato, but not too loud

*ff*

S. R. 2

still unmeasured

*mp* *ppp* very slow cresc. *f*

177

Pno 1

S. R. 1

Pno 2

S. R. 2

185

Pno 1

*fff*

*pp sub.*

S. R. 1

(immediate mute)

*fff*

Pno 2

*fff*

*pp sub.*

S. R. 2

(immediate mute)

*fff*

192

Pno 1

Pno 2



208

Pno 1

S. R. 1

A. R. 1

Pno 2

S. R. 2

A. R. 2

*ppp* *ff* *f*

210

Pno 1

S. R. 1

A. R. 1

Pno 2

S. R. 2

A. R. 2

*mp* *ppp* *f* *ff*

212

Pno 1  
sub. mp

S. R. 1

A. R. 1  
mp ppp f mp ppp f mp

Pno 2  
sub. mp

S. R. 2  
(mp)

A. R. 2  
sub. mp ppp f mp

216

Pno 1  
p

S. R. 1  
dead strokes

A. R. 1  
p 8va

Pno 2  
p 3 3 3

S. R. 2  
dead strokes p 5 5

A. R. 2  
p

ppp

r.h. 8va

(l.h.)

219

Pno 1

S. R. 1

A. R. 1

Pno 2

S. R. 2

A. R. 2



224 **Faster, steady** ♩ = 65

Pno 1

sub. *pp*

medium-hard mallets

S. R. 1

A. R. 1

Pno 2

sub. *pp*

medium-hard mallets

S. R. 2

A. R. 2



241

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

change r.h. to med. hard mallet

change r.h. to med. hard mallet

*ff*

*ff*

244

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*poco a poco*

*poco a poco*

249

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*(fff) sub. ppp*

*(fff)*



254

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*sub. ppp*

*sub. ppp*

258

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2



261

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

6"-8"

*f*

*pp*  
*Red.*

*f*

*pp*

To Q. S. R.

265

Pno 1 *ppp*

Vib. 1 Unmeasured, but not very fast  
(Ped.)

Pno 2 (*f*) *ppp*

S. R. 2 Unmeasured, but not very fast  
(*pp*)

271

Pno 1 *f*

Vib. 1 *f* Almost unintelligible soft, with pedal  
*ppp*

Pno 2 *f*

S. R. 2 *f* Vib. Almost unintelligible soft, with pedal  
*ppp*

**Whispering, mumbling**

273

Vib. 1

Vib. 2 (*ppp*)

Tuplets are somewhat louder

Tuplets are somewhat louder

278 **half-hearted interruptions**

Pno 1  
*mp* *pppp* *p* *pppp*  
(no ped.)

Vib. 1  
5 3 3 3 5

Pno 2  
**half-hearted interruptions**  
*mp* *pppp* *p*  
(no ped.)

Vib. 2  
3 3 5 5 3 3 5 5



283

Pno 1  
*ppp* *pppp* *f*

Vib. 1  
5 3 3 5

Pno 2  
*pppp* *ppp* *pppp* *f*

Vib. 2  
5 5 5

288

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*mp*

*pp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 288 to 292. Pno 1 and Pno 2 play intricate triplet patterns in the right hand, with some notes marked with accents and slurs. Vib. 1 and Vib. 2 provide a steady accompaniment with eighth-note patterns. The dynamic markings are *mp* for the vibraphone parts and *pp* for the piano parts.

293

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*v*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 293 to 297. Pno 1 and Pno 2 continue with complex triplet patterns, featuring accents and slurs. Vib. 1 and Vib. 2 maintain their accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *v* (accent) is present in the Pno 1 part. The overall texture is dense and rhythmic.

296

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2



300

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

3rd partials

*mp*

306

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*pp*

*poco*

311

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*(pp)*

Gentle

315

Pno 1

*mp* (calm)

Vib. 1

*f*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 315-317 for Pno 1 and Vib. 1. Pno 1 is in the upper staff, featuring a melodic line with slurs and a dynamic marking of *mp* (calm). Vib. 1 is in the lower staff, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with slurs and a dynamic marking of *f*. Both parts include sixteenth-note groupings.

Gentle

Pno 2

*mp* (calm)

Vib. 2

*f*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 315-317 for Pno 2 and Vib. 2. Pno 2 is in the upper staff, mirroring the melodic line of Pno 1 with a dynamic marking of *mp* (calm). Vib. 2 is in the lower staff, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with slurs and a dynamic marking of *f*. It includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 317.

318

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 318-320 for Pno 1, Vib. 1, Pno 2, and Vib. 2. Pno 1 is in the upper staff, continuing the melodic line. Vib. 1 is in the lower staff, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with slurs. Pno 2 is in the upper staff, mirroring the melodic line. Vib. 2 is in the lower staff, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with slurs. The dynamic marking *f* is present in the Vib. 1 part.

321

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*pp*

*f*

*pp*

*f*

324

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*pp*

*pp*

327

Pno 1 *ppp*

Vib. 1 *mp*

Pno 2 *ppp*

Vib. 2 *mp*



331

Pno 1 *pp*

Vib. 1 *f* *p (louder than pnos)*

Pno 2 *pp*

Vib. 2 *f* *p (louder than pnos)*

334

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2



338

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

341

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2



no decresc.  
no fermata

344

Pno 1

Vib. 1

Pno 2

Vib. 2

*ppp*

*ppp*