

Venitian Church Bell Overture

Jordan Watson

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For Seven Pitched Instruments

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Instrumentation:

Any seven instruments that are capable of playing definite pitch. The seven pitches are as follows:
G#, A#, B, F#, C#, D, F

Duration:

Approximately 2' 30"

Notes:

This piece should have a conductor with a stopwatch cueing each of the players' entrances, exits, and other important time-points.

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Score

9" 7" 5" 4" 3" 2"

Player 1 (G#)

Player 2 (A#)

Player 3 (B)

Player 4 (F#)

Player 5 (C#)

Player 6 (D)

Player 7 (F)

(replace C pitch with assigned pitch)

p sub. *ff*

p sub. *ff*

p sub. *ff*

p sub. *ff*

p sub. *ff*

p sub. *ff*

p sub. *ff*

30" 40" 20"

0" 30" 70" 90"

Starting by playing the assigned pitch in the middle register of their instrument, each player will choose the duration, articulation, dynamic, and timbre for that note. This note should be repeated with a somewhat regular pulse that differs from any other player. Each player should avoid entering at the same time as another player's note attack.

At the 70" mark, each player will jump to the lowest octave of their assigned pitch while suddenly playing very quietly. Over the next 20", gradually begin adding the next octave while subtracting the previous one, repeating until the players are in their highest register at the 90" mark.

The score consists of six staves, each representing a different instrument: G#, A#, B, F#, C#, and D. Each staff begins with the instruction "randomly play your pitch in any octave, abandoning a pulse" followed by a dynamic marking of *ff*. A second instruction, "move back to middle of register", is accompanied by a dynamic marking of *mf* and a wedge-shaped graphic indicating a decrease in volume. The score is divided into time intervals of 2", 3", 4", 5", 6", 9", and 11". At the bottom, larger time intervals are marked: 20" (from 90" to 110"), 10" (from 110" to 120"), 40" (from 120" to 160"), and 90" (from 0" to 90").

Similarly to the beginning, each player will choose the duration, articulation, dynamic, and timbre for that note. This note should be repeated with a somewhat regular pulse that differs from any other player. Each player should stay in the middle register of their instrument. Each pitch/instrument will fade out one by one in approximately the amount of time given at the top of the score.