

Jessica Rudman

Evensong

for Flute, Violin, and Piano

2014
ca. 14:00

Evensong

for Flute, Violin, and Piano

Performance Notes

At the beginning of the piece, all three musicians will be playing the inside of the piano using various accessories listed below. Each is placed in a different zone of the piano roughly corresponding to the high register (the violinist), the middle register (the flutist), and the low register (the pianist). The violinist and then the flutist will eventually leave the piano and pick up their instruments as notated in the score.

In m. 191, the violinist is instructed to play off-stage. The performer may choose to stand in the wings, behind the audience, or wherever allows for coordination with the other players and makes the most sense in the given performance space.

Accessories

Flute - one small glass bowl (one with a 3-4 inch diameter is recommended) or similar object
one plastic card (like an ID card or credit card)

Violin - one very small glass bowl (2-3 inch diameter recommended) or similar object

Piano - one sheet of tin foil
one small metal mallet (such as a glockenspiel mallet)
one pair of medium-soft yarn mallets
one wire brush
one superball mallet
a small table covered in cloth placed near the piano to allow easy access to these objects

Unless otherwise indicated, the bowls should be laid on the strings with the opening face down and slid on the strings. They may be left on the strings between motions.

Notation for Playing Inside the Piano

When playing inside the piano, any note value without one of the below indications simply refers to striking the strings with the indicated object. If no pitch is indicated, strike the strings wherever comfortable. If a notated pitch is indicated, try to strike only the string(s) for that pitch.



Use the indicated accessory to make circular motions on the piano strings. If shown over a quarter note, just make one circle. If shown over a longer note value, continue circling for the duration indicated. The size of the circle should be relative to the dynamic level (louder dynamics require larger motions and softer dynamics need smaller ones).



Move the indicated accessory in an S-curve on the piano strings; the graphic indicates both the horizontal and vertical direction of the motion.



Move the indicated accessory across and then along the piano strings; the graphic indicates both the horizontal and vertical direction of the motion.



Move the indicated accessory along and then across the piano strings; the graphic indicates both the horizontal and vertical direction of the motion.



Move the indicated accessory vertically up the strings.



Move the indicated accessory vertically down the strings.



Rapidly move the indicated accessory back and forth vertically along the strings to create a tremolo.



Move the indicated accessory horizontally across the strings from left to right.



Move the indicated accessory horizontally across the strings from right to left.



Rapidly move the indicated accessory back and forth horizontally across the strings to create a tremolo.

For all of the directed motions, the direction is given in relation to the performer's own orientation. Horizontal motions are thus indicated in relation to the player's own left and right. These should be followed strictly, as they effect the direction of the pitch glisses. The direction of vertical motions is given as a suggestion to help with choreography (i.e. getting to and from adjacent motions). As long as the motions remain vertical, the player may change the direction to fit their own preference.

Other Notation Symbols

→ indicates a gradual change from one playing technique to another (full tone to air tone, ord. to sul pont., normal bow pressure to scratch, etc.)



Full Tone



Half Tone



Air Tone



as high as possible on the given string



diagonal bowing: start behind the bridge and quickly slide bow across the bridge to indicated pitches

Program Notes

Evensong was written in the fall of 2014 for Bonnie McAlvin, Emily Vold, and Manon Hutton-DeWys. The work was a bit of a stretch for me in a number of ways. Bonnie's speciality is multiphonics, where two or more pitches are produced simultaneously on the flute. Not a flutist myself, I had very little knowledge about that technique, so it was a great opportunity to learn more. Eventually, I combined some sketches I had written for Bonnie with some for an earlier, abandoned work to create the melodic and harmonic material for the piece.

Early in the compositional process, though, an image appeared in my head of the three players surrounding the piano, dipping their hands to the strings in choreographed motions and producing mysterious and ethereal noises. This became the literal starting point of the piece, and the work as a whole represents a gradual move from that abstract sound world focused on timbre into the more familiar realms dominated by pitch and rhythm.

Contact Information

774-239-5878 | jessica_rudman@yahoo.com | www.jessicarudman.com

Evensong

Jessica Rudman (b. 1982)

Cold and Dark ♩ = 56

inside piano, middle register
with small glass bowl

Flute

ff *n* *ff*

inside piano, high register
with very small glass bowl

Violin

ff *mp* *f*

Cold and Dark ♩ = 56

inside piano, low register

inside piano, very low register
with tin foil placed on the strings,
hit strings with palm

Piano

f possible *ff*

Red. (use pen to keep down until m. 164)

5

Fl.

mf *n* *p* *f*

8

Vn.

mp *mp* *ff*

8

Pno.

remove tin foil,
pick up yarn mallet

yarn mallet

ff

9

Fl. $\frac{5}{4}$ f p n

Vn. $\frac{5}{4}$ n f ff n

Pno. $\frac{5}{4}$ ff mf n f pick up tin foil

13

Fl. $\frac{3}{4}$ f p n f ff

Vn. $\frac{3}{4}$ f mf n f

Pno. $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{5}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ hit strings with palm, then drop tin foil on strings remove tin foil from strings, pick up metal mallet f possible

17

Fl.

ff *n* *ff*

Vn.

fff

17

Pno.

metal mallet

p

yarn mallet

hit strings with palm

fff *f* *n* *f* *ff*

(yarn mallet)

21

Fl.

n

Vln.

yarn mallet
(like an echo)

Pno.

pp *p*

metal mallet

25

Fl. mf n f p f

Vln.

Pno. 25

yarn mallet

metal mallet

mf f n pp

29

31

Fl. n ff mf p

Vln. ff fff ff n

scr.

31

yarn mallet (like an echo)

yarn mallet

mp n f mp

accel.

33

Fl. $\frac{4}{4}$ f n f mf

Vln. ff *pizz.* fff *arco, sul pont.* n

Pno. $\frac{4}{4}$ p *cresc. poco a poco*

39 Fluidly ♩ = 88

37

Fl. mp p n mf

Vln. $scr.$ $ff > n$ *ord.* ff f

Pno. f pp *rub with superball*

39 Fluidly ♩ = 88

41

Fl. *n* *f* *mf* *mp*

Vln. *n* *ff*

Pno. *f* *n* *p* metal mallet

45

Fl. *mp* *n* *pp* hit with fingers

Vln. *p* *pp* *ppp* sul tasto

Pno. *mf* yarn mallet

48

48

49

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

f

p *n*

n *p* *n*

yarn mallet

8^{vb}

5/4 4/4 5/4

53

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

sul tasto

pp *mp*

53

pp *f* *n*

rub with superball

5/4 3/4 4/4 4/4 5/4

61

57

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

pp *n*

n (yarn mallet) *mp* *n*

8^{vb}

sul pont., ad lib mictronal glisses from and to fingered pitch

sul D and G

61

62

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

pp *p* *n*

pp delicate

p *n*

n *p* *pp*

roll with both yarn mallets

(strike)

8^{vb}

67 **68**

Fl.

pp

Vln.

sul pont., ad lib glisses up to a semitone above or below indicated pitch

n

68

Pno.

(yarn mallet)

f

n

8vb

72 **75**

Fl.

p *n* *pp*

Vln.

sul pont, ad lib glisses up to a whole tone above or below indicated pitch

p *n* *n*

75

Pno.

p *f* *n*

roll on strings

8vb

77

Fl.

mp *n*

Vln.

p *mp* *n*

Pno.

p *mp* *n*

(8)

82

83

Fl.

mf

Vln.

sul pont., ad lib glisses up to a minor third above or below indicated pitch

n

83

Pno.

f *n*

8^{vb}

rit.

87

Fl.

p *n*

Vln.

mf *p*

Pno.

mf *n* *p*

(8)

93 ♩ = 72

92

Fl.

flz.
pp *n*

Vln.

pizz.
n *mp*

Pno.

93 ♩ = 72

pp

97

Fl.

pp

n

n $\rightarrow$ *p*

100

Vln.

Pno.

100

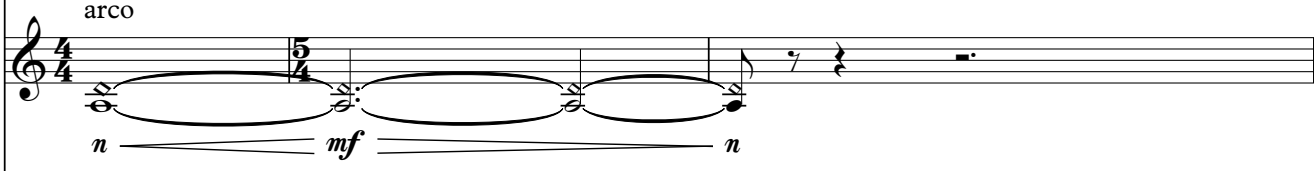
Detailed description: This is a musical score for three instruments: Flute (Fl.), Violin (Vln.), and Piano (Pno.). The score is written for measures 97 to 100. The Flute part begins in 4/4 time, marked *pp* (pianissimo). It features a melodic line with a slur over measures 97-99, a crescendo hairpin leading to a *n* (normal) dynamic, and a final measure in 5/4 time with a decrescendo hairpin from *n* to *p* (piano). The Violin part also starts in 4/4, playing a few notes before measure 99, then rests. The Piano part is in the bass clef, with the right hand resting and the left hand playing a sustained, descending bass line across the measures. Measure numbers 97, 100, and 100 are indicated in boxes above the Flute and Piano staves respectively.

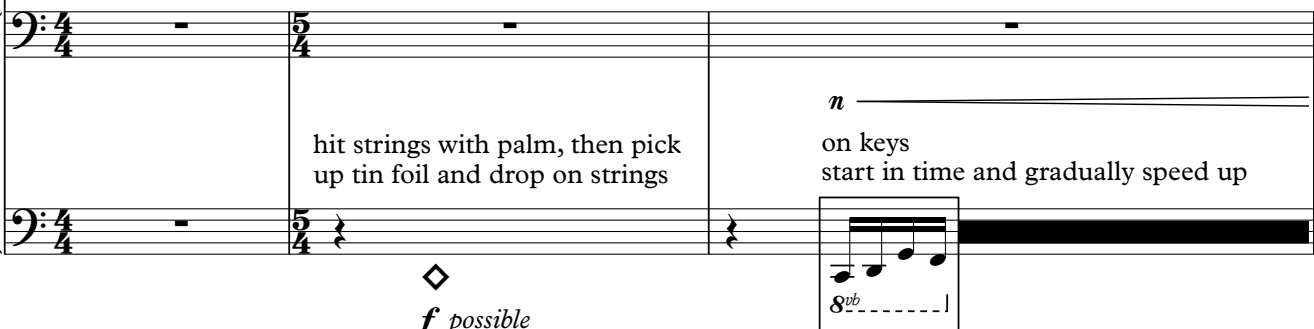
The musical score consists of three staves: Flute (Fl.), Violin (Vln.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute part begins at measure 102 and features a melodic line with dynamic markings *n*, *p*, *n*, *n*, and *mp*. The Violin part enters in measure 103 with a melodic line and a dynamic marking of *sfz*. The Piano part provides harmonic support with a bass line in the left hand and a treble line in the right hand, both featuring dynamic markings of *n* and *mp*.

108 Slightly Faster ca. ♩ = 88

107

Fl. 

Vln. 

Pno. 

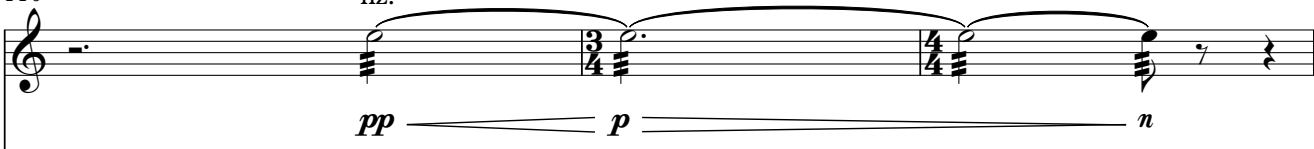
hit strings with palm, then pick up tin foil and drop on strings

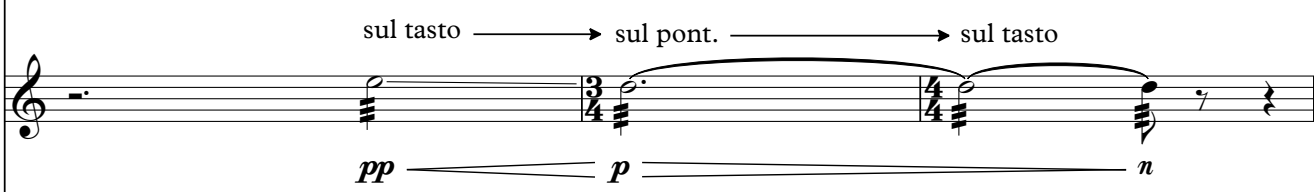
on keys start in time and gradually speed up

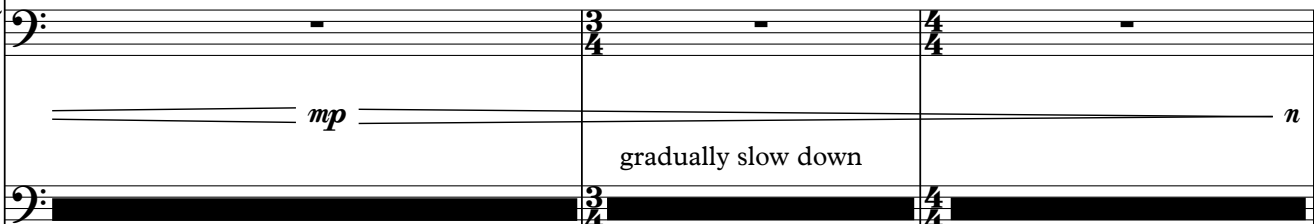
f possible

8vb

110

Fl. 

Vln. 

Pno. 

mp

gradually slow down

113

Fl.

p *mp* *n*

Vln.

p *mp* *n*

pick up metal and yarn mallets

metal mallet

yarn mallet

Pno.

mp *p* *pp*

119

118

Fl.

n

Vln.

n

119

Pno.

put down metal mallet (keep yarn mallet in RH)

n *cresc. poco a poco*

on keys start in time and gradually speed up

8^{va}

121

Fl. *mf*

Vln. *mf*

Pno.

Measures 121-123. Flute and Violin parts feature sustained notes with fermatas. The Flute part starts at measure 121. The Violin part starts at measure 122. The Piano part has a thick black bar in the bass staff across all three measures.

124

Fl. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Pno.

125

inside piano, medium-low register
with butt of yarn mallet

as fast as possible

Measures 124-125. Flute and Violin parts feature notes with fermatas. The Piano part has a thick black bar in the bass staff across both measures. In measure 125, the Piano has a note in the treble staff with an upward bowing or malletting direction.

127

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

gradually slow down

The score for measures 127-130 shows the Flute and Violin playing long, sustained notes with slurs. The Piano part features a sustained bass line and a single note in the right hand. The tempo is marked 'gradually slow down'.

decresc. al niente, poco a poco

130

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

mf *mp*

mf *p*

n *rit.*

wire brush

n

The score for measures 130-133 shows the Flute and Violino playing long, sustained notes with slurs. The Piano part features a sustained bass line and a single note in the right hand. The tempo is marked 'rit.'.

134 ♩ = 72

Fl. *n* *p* flz. *n*

Vln. *n* pizz. *mp*

Piano

134 ♩ = 72

p *mf* *n* *mf*

138 ● → ○ flz. ●

Fl. *p* *n* *p*

Vln.

Piano

n *f* *mp*

146

142

Fl. *n* *n* *mp* *p sub.* *n*

Vln. *poco cresc.* *sfz* *arco* *n* *mp*

Pno. remove tin foil from strings,
put down wire brush, and
pick up superball mallet

146

147

Fl.

Vln.

Pno. *n* *mp* *n*
superball

154

152

Fl. *p* bright but gentle

Vln. *p*

Pno. *n* *mp* *n*
superball

154

157

Fl.

Vln.

Pno. *n* *mp* *n*
superball

rit. **166** Poignant ♩ = 56

162

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

n — *mp* — *n*

superball

on the keys

pp

remove pen from pedal

Ped. —

167

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

espressivo e con molto rubato

p — *pp* — *p*

15mb

172

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

pp

p

mp

15^{mb}

Detailed description: This system contains measures 172 through 176. The Flute (Fl.) and Violin (Vln.) parts are mostly rests. The Piano (Pno.) part has a treble and bass staff. In measure 172, the piano is *pp*. In measure 173, it becomes *p*. In measure 174, it becomes *mp*. A bracket at the bottom indicates a 15-measure bowing pattern.

177

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

p

mp

177

p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 177 through 180. The Flute (Fl.) part has a melodic line starting in 4/4, moving to 7/8, 5/4, and 7/8. Dynamics are *p* and *mp*. The Violin (Vln.) part has sustained notes. The Piano (Pno.) part has sustained chords and arpeggios. A bracket at the bottom indicates a 15-measure bowing pattern.

181

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

p *mp* *p sub.* *n*

186

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

p *mp* *pp*

off-stage *n*

191

Fl. *n*

Vln. *p* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

8^{vb}

196

Fl.

Vln. *pp* *n*

Pno. *f* *ff*

(8)

202

Fl.

Vln.

Pno.

fff

L.V. until sound completely fades away

(8)

The musical score for measures 202-206 features three staves: Flute (Fl.), Violin (Vln.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute and Violin parts consist of whole rests for all five measures. The Piano part begins in 5/4 time, playing a descending eighth-note scale (G4, F4, E4, D4, C4) with a forte (*fff*) dynamic. At measure 204, the time signature changes to 4/4, and the piano continues the descending scale (B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3). A crescendo hairpin is placed over the piano part from measure 204 to 206. The instruction "L.V. until sound completely fades away" is written above the piano part in measures 204-206. A repeat sign is located at the end of the piano part in measure 206. A bracket with the number (8) is positioned below the piano part, spanning measures 202-206.