

Cycles

for alto flute, bass clarinet,
violin, cello, and stopped piano

Andrew Byrne

Performance Notes:

Piano plays the same four-note stopped chord for the piece and should be seen as a percussive instrument. It emphasises the three repeating polyrhythmic cycles (4:5, 3:5, 3:4).

While the piano is a fixed element, the other four instruments are organised into two duos - violin/alto flute, and cello/bass clarinet - in polyrhythmic tension. Unlike the piano, the quartet move towards more dissonant material pushing the music into darker places over the course of the piece.

Strings play with chopsticks throughout.

Cycles

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♩ = 92

Alto Flute

Bass Clarinet

Violin

Cello

Piano

with chopsticks

stopped notes

p *f* *p* *f*

6

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

6

Vln.

Vc.

6

Pn

s.p.

ord.

p *ff* *p* *p* *ff* *p*

A

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

12

Vln.

Vc.

12

Pn

f *f*

15

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn

Musical score for measures 15-18. The score is for five instruments: A. Fl., B. Cl., Vln., Vc., and Pn. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or E-flat minor) and the time signature is 12/8. Measures 15 and 16 are mostly rests for the woodwinds. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* and *p*. Measure numbers 15, 18, and 19 are indicated at the beginning and end of the system.

19

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn

Musical score for measures 19-23. The score is for five instruments: A. Fl., B. Cl., Vln., Vc., and Pn. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or E-flat minor) and the time signature is 12/8. Measures 19 and 20 are mostly rests for the woodwinds. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff* and *p*. Measure numbers 19, 22, and 23 are indicated at the beginning and end of the system.

24

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn

Musical score for measures 24-27. The score is for five instruments: A. Fl., B. Cl., Vln., Vc., and Pn. The key signature is two sharps (D major or B minor) and the time signature is 12/8. Measures 24 and 25 are mostly rests for the woodwinds. The strings play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Dynamic markings include *ff*. Measure numbers 24, 26, and 27 are indicated at the beginning and end of the system.

27

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn.

ff

p

31

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn.

ff

p

36

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn.

p

ff

p

s.p.

ord.

B

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss *mf* gliss

B. Cl. *ff* gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss

Vln. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss

Vc. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss

Pn. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

Vln. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

Vc. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

Pn. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

Vln. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

Vc. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

Pn. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

54 *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn

57 *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn

61 *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn

66

A. Fl. *p* *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *ff* *mf*

Vln. *ff* *p* s.p.

Vc. *ff* *p* s.p.

Pn *ff* *p* s.p.

C

72

A. Fl. *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

B. Cl. *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vln. *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vc. *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Pn *f* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

75

A. Fl. *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

B. Cl. *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vln. *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vc. *ff* *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Pn *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

79

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vln. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss

Vc. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss

Pn *ff* *mf*

84

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

B. Cl. gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vln. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss

Vc. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss

Pn *ff*

87

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vln. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss

Vc. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

Pn *ff* *mf*

91

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

B. Cl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vln. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vc. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss

Pn 91

96

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln. 96 S.p. *ff* *p*

Vc. 96 S.p. *ff* *p*

Pn 96 S.p. *ff* *p*

D

A. Fl.

B. Cl. *ff*

Vln. 102

Vc. *fff*

Pn 102 *f*

104 gliss gliss gliss

A. Fl. *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf*

Vln. *ff* *fff*

Vc. *ff*

Pn *ff*

107 gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

A. Fl. *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf*

Vln. *ff* *fff*

Vc. *ff*

Pn *ff*

111 gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss gliss

A. Fl. *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf*

Vln. *ff* *fff*

Vc. *fff*

Pn *ff*

116

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss gliss

B. Cl. *ff* gliss gliss *mf* gliss

Vln. *ff* *fff*

Vc. *fff*

Pn. *ff*

119

A. Fl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss

B. Cl. *ff* gliss gliss gliss *mf* gliss gliss gliss gliss

Vln. *ff* *fff*

Vc. *fff*

Pn. *ff*

123

A. Fl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Vln. *ff* *fff*

Vc. *fff*

Pn. *ff*

128

A. Fl. *p* *ff* *p*

B. Cl. *p* *ff* *p*

Vln. *p* *ff* *p* s.p.

Vc. *ff* *p* s.p.

Pn *ff* *p* s.p.

134

A. Fl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Vln. *ff* *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Pn *ff*

139

A. Fl. *p* *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *ff* *mf*

Vln. *ff* *p* s.p.

Vc. *ff* *p* s.p.

Pn *ff* *p* s.p.

144

A. Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pn

The musical score consists of five staves. The first two staves are for A. Fl. and B. Cl., both of which are silent throughout the entire passage. The third staff is for Vln., the fourth for Vc., and the fifth for Pn. Measures 144 and 145 contain musical notation for the Vln., Vc., and Pn parts. In measure 144, the Vln. and Vc. parts play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, while the Pn part plays a similar pattern. In measure 145, the Vln. and Vc. parts play a similar pattern, while the Pn part plays a similar pattern. Measures 146 and 147 are mostly empty staves with rests, indicating that the instruments are silent during these measures. The piano part (Pn) has a final note in measure 147.