

Wendy Reid

**Tree Piece #21
bird music
for
violin
percussion
&
tape**



© Copyright MCMLXXXVI by Sound Image Unlimited
48 Shattuck Square Suite 164, Berkeley, CA 94704

Tree Piece No. 21 "bird music" is dedicated to violinist Mary Oliver, who commissioned the work and who gave its premiere performance, together with percussionist William Winant, on September 18, 1985 at the New Performance Gallery, San Francisco.

Instrumentation

Violin

Percussion

Sandpaper, with thin wood sticks

Glass bowl of water, with small stones

Tuned glasses—G⁵, F⁶, E⁷, F^{♯7}*— with bow

Crotales—C⁷—C⁸— with hard rubber mallets

Finger cymbals (f. cym.)— 1 large and 1 small

Small bells, 4 with high indefinite pitches

Bird whistle, wood with metal turner

Xylophone, with wood mallets

Tape of bird improvisation, preferably unedited, 14—20 minutes in duration.

Tape of running water sounds, single or multi-tracked, with a duration corresponding to that of the bird improvisation.†

*C⁴ is middle C according to the American Acoustical Society.

†A single stereo tape may be used with bird and water sounds on separate channels.

Symbols

- ↑ —Begin reading each page at the bottom; read the system from left to right, and proceed upward.
- —Continue reading upward without a pause. If an arrow does not appear at the end of a system, a pause of 2–4 seconds may be taken before proceeding upward.
- 
 —Play an indefinitely-pitched sound. A specific instrument or timbre should be indicated in the score.
- 
 —Slight accelerando. At the end of the arrow return to the original tempo.
- 
 —Play note(s) or sound(s) in relation to the other player's note(s) or sound(s).
- —Play a short note or sound.
- —Play a sustained note or sound.
- 
 —Repeat section by improvising on the given sounds between the special repeat signs. The duration of the improvised repeat may vary greatly from the original section. Note that some improvised repeats may be omitted if the duration of the bird improvisation does not require them.
- 
 + —Diminuendo into silence.

for Violin only:

- S.P. —Play on the bridge (*sul ponticello*).
- B.B. —Play behind the bridge.
- D.B. —Drop the bow onto the string and continue to let it **bounce while drawing it** (*sautillé, spiccato*).
- Press —Press the string with the bow at the beginning of the note to create a squeak.
- 
 —Pizzicato behind the bridge on the indicated open strings.
- 
 C.L. —Lightly rest fingers on the D and G strings to create indefinite pitches; then tap the strings with the wood of the bow (*col legno*).

for Percussion only:

- 1., 2. —Play the sounds previously indicated by the numbers.
- 
 —Make a short squeak with the bird whistle (B.W.).
- L.V. —Let sound continue to ring.
- wood —Tap wood of bird whistle with thin wood sticks or wood mallet; or tap mounted wood sticks with thin wood sticks or wood mallet.

Spatial Setting (open to variation and experimentation)

water sounds

percussion

bird improvisation

violin

—stage front—

Performance Instructions (open to variation and experimentation)

The performance begins with running water sounds which play alone at a low dynamic level for approximately one minute.

Next the bird improvisation begins, joining the water sounds for approximately one minute.

At this point the live performers begin playing the written score (♩=104+) as the bird and water sounds continue. Dynamic levels should remain fairly low and work in such a way that the various parameters of timbre and pitch coalesce.

After page 8 of the written score the live performers improvise rhythmically on the given sound and pitch motives. Occasionally a rhythm or relationship between the two parts is indicated in order to retain the character of the original motive.

On page 12 of the written score the bird and water sounds play alone for approximately 40 seconds.

After the bird and water “duet” a series of improvised repeated sections begin for the live performers in which there is greater freedom. The durations of these sections should be worked out so that the playing of the written score does not outlast the bird improvisation.

The performance ends when the bird and water sounds conclude, or else when the live performers conclude, if they overrun the former slightly. It is preferable for the “exit” of sound sources to occur as follows: the live performers first, followed shortly by the water sounds, leaving the bird alone for a moment to finish the performance.

(5)

5

15

Bowed glass

2. stone

ppp

L.V.

C.L. 3

(3)

4

C.L. 3

(2)

3

mp

2. Drop stone in water

(1)

2

1.

Violin

(1)

Percussion

1

15

1. rub sandpaper with wood sticks

Tree Piece No. 21

(34)

19

Press

D.B.

Bird whistle

wood

3

Detailed description: This system contains two staves. The upper staff begins at measure 19 with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with a 'Press' dynamic marking and a 'D.B.' (Distant Bell) marking. The lower staff starts at measure 15 with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It includes a 'Bird whistle' effect, a 'wood' effect, and a triplet of notes marked with '3'.

18

sfpp

sandpaper

Detailed description: This system shows measures 18 of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a melodic line and a 'sandpaper' effect. The lower staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a rhythmic accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *sfpp* is present.

(21)

15

distant

Bird whistle

sandpaper

crotale

wood (of bird whistle) 3

D.B.

Detailed description: This system contains two staves. The upper staff starts at measure 15 with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It includes a 'distant' effect, a 'Bird whistle' effect, and a 'sandpaper' effect. The lower staff also starts at measure 15 with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It features a 'crotale' effect and a 'wood (of bird whistle) 3' effect. A 'D.B.' marking is also present.

13

15

Detailed description: This system shows measures 13 and 15 of two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a melodic line. The lower staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a rhythmic accompaniment.

(13)

10

D.B.

S.P.

distant

crotale

pp

Detailed description: This system contains two staves. The upper staff starts at measure 10 with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It includes a 'D.B.' marking and an 'S.P.' (Soft Percussion) marking. The lower staff starts at measure 15 with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It features a 'distant' effect, a 'crotale' effect, and a *pp* dynamic marking.

(8)

15

distant

Bowed glass

Crotale - with rubber mallet (muffled)

ppp L.V.

Detailed description: This system contains two staves. The upper staff starts at measure 15 with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It includes a 'distant' effect and a 'Bowed glass' effect. The lower staff also starts at measure 15 with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It features a 'Crotale - with rubber mallet (muffled)' effect and a *ppp* dynamic marking. The initials 'L.V.' are at the end.



39 D.B. C.L. 3

35 D.B. pizz. (S.P.) (B.B.)

31 D.B.

28 Press D.B.

(55)

25

22 C.L. 3

55

D.B. ...

Xylo

3

This system contains two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It features a melodic line with various ornaments and a triplet of eighth notes. The lower staff has a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a xylophone part indicated by a 'Xylo' label and a triplet of eighth notes.

53

Press

15

crotale

distant

pp

10

This system contains two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a 'Press' instruction above it. The lower staff has a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a 'crotale' instruction above it and a 'distant' instruction below it. Dynamics include 'pp' and a decrescendo hairpin.

50

pizz. S.P. arco S.P. pizz. B.B. D.B.

15

f. cym. x

sfp

sand paper

Xylo

This system contains two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with various performance instructions like 'pizz. S.P. arco S.P. pizz. B.B. D.B.'. The lower staff has a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature, with 'f. cym. x' and 'sand paper' instructions. A xylophone part is also present.

47

D.B.

15

3

small bell

wood

This system contains two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a 'D.B.' instruction. The lower staff has a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature, with a triplet of eighth notes and 'small bell wood' instructions.

44

arco S.P. pizz. (B.B.) arco D.B. Press

15

Xylo

pp

sand paper

(Xylo)

This system contains two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with 'arco S.P. pizz. (B.B.) arco D.B. Press' instructions. The lower staff has a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature, with 'Xylo', 'pp', and 'sand paper (Xylo)' instructions.

(89)

41

D.B. pizz. (B.B.) (S.P.)

15

Xylo

small bell

f. cym.

This system contains two staves. The upper staff has a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature, with 'D.B. pizz. (B.B.) (S.P.)' instructions. The lower staff has a bass clef and a 3/4 time signature, with 'Xylo', 'small bell', and 'f. cym.' instructions.

Musical score system 1. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 3/4 time. Measure 15 starts with a xylophone triplet. The system includes staves for crotale, sand paper, bird whistle, and wood. Dynamics include *pp* and *pizz.*. A double bar line with a repeat sign is present. A *arco* instruction is written above the staff.

Musical score system 2. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 3/4 time. Measure 15 starts with a xylophone triplet. The system includes staves for big f. cym. and small f. cym. (Xylo). Dynamics include *pp* and *Press*. A *C.L. 3* instruction is written above the staff.

Musical score system 3. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 3/4 time. Measure 15 starts with a xylophone triplet. The system includes staves for small f. cym. (Xylo). Dynamics include *pp*. A *D.B.* instruction is written above the staff.

Musical score system 4. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 3/4 time. Measure 15 starts with a xylophone triplet. The system includes staves for crotale and distant (Xylo). Dynamics include *pp*. A *D.B.* instruction is written above the staff.

Musical score system 5. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 3/4 time. Measure 15 starts with a xylophone triplet. The system includes staves for crotale and distant (Xylo). Dynamics include *pp*. A *C.L. 3* instruction is written above the staff.

Musical score system 6. Treble clef, key signature of one flat, 3/4 time. Measure 15 starts with a xylophone triplet. The system includes staves for crotale and distant (Xylo). Dynamics include *ppp*. A *C.L. 3* instruction is written above the staff.



15 D.B. D.B. D.B. D.B.

Bowed crotale Xylo Bowed glass

15 Bowed glass pizz. arco C.L. D.B.

15 pizz. > arco C.L. D.B. D.B.

Bowed crotale Xylo

15 D.B. D.B. D.B. D.B.

Bowed crotale small bell Xylo small f. cym. Bowed glass

15 D.B. D.B. smooth D.B. D.B. pizz. arco

Xylo Bowed glass

15 C.L. D.B. D.B. D.B.

Xylo Bowed crotale

D.B. smooth

C.L. pizz. arco

pizz. arco C.L. pizz.

15 sand paper Xylo Bowed glass

C.L. D.B.

15 Bowed crotale

D.B. D.B.

15 small bell f. cym. Xylo

D.B. pizz. arco D.B.

C.L. pizz. arco D.B.

15 Xylo

pizz. arco D.B. D.B.

15 Xylo Bowed glass



D.B.

pizz.

arco C.L.

D.B.

sand paper

Xylo

small bell

ppp

p

pizz.

arco

sand paper

Xylo

accel. (B.B.)

sand paper

B.W.

wood

sand paper

B.W.

Xylo

Bird Improvisation
~ 40 seconds

Running Water Sounds

Bowed crotale

rub sand paper

ppp

Xylo

Bowed glass

f. cym.

Xylo

Bowed glass

f. cym.

Xylo

Bowed crotale

f. cym.

con sord.

Bowed crotale

small f. cym.

Bowed glass

f. cym.

(barely audible)

15

D.B.

(with mallet)
crotale

ppp

15

D.B.

f. cym. x

Xylo

15

3

3

D.B.

Xylo.

15

B.B.

pizz. arco

D.B.

D.B.

sand paper

f. cym. x

Xylo

15

D.B.

Xylo

3

pizz.

arco

C.L. 3

15

agitato

D.B.

arco

pizz. D.B. (B.B.)

f. cym. x

L.V.

sand paper

pp

Xylo

Musical score system 1, measures 15-20. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, marked with *D.B.* and *B.B.*. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests, marked with *B.B.*. Vertical lines with 'x' marks indicate specific performance points.

Musical score system 2, measures 15-20. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, marked with *C.L.*, *pizz.*, *arco*, and *D.B.*. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests, marked with *ppp*. Vertical lines with 'x' marks indicate performance points for *sand paper* and *wood*.

Musical score system 3, measures 15-20. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, marked with *D.B.* and *B.B.*. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests, marked with *Xylo*. Vertical lines with 'x' marks indicate performance points for *Xylo*.

Musical score system 4, measures 15-20. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, marked with *C.L.*, *B.B.*, and *B.B.*. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests, marked with *ppp*. Vertical lines with 'x' marks indicate performance points for *crotale (with mallet)*, *wood*, *sand paper*, and *Xylo*.

Musical score system 5, measures 15-20. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, marked with *pizz.*, *arco*, and *D.B.*. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests, marked with *pp*. Vertical lines with 'x' marks indicate performance points.

Musical score system 6, measures 15-20. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, marked with *pizz.*, *arco*, and *D.B.*. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests, marked with *Xylo*, *sand paper*, and *Xylo*. Vertical lines with 'x' marks indicate performance points. An upward-pointing arrow is located below the first measure of the lower staff.

15 Xylo Bowed crotale Bird whistle sand paper *ppp* small f. cym. Bird whistle

ppp Drop stone in water

15 Xylo Bowed glass wood Xylo Bowed glass (Xylo)

ppp

15 pizz. arco B.B. B.B. C.L.3

sand paper Xylo Bowed glass sand paper

ppp

slow

15 C.L. D.B. B.B. C.L. B.W. sand paper wood B.W.

15 sand paper Xylo

ppp

15 Xylo B.B. pizz. Xylo sand paper

ppp