

et absence -

for violin and percussion ensemble

Thomas DeLio

2016

Instrumentation

Violin

Percussion ensemble (six players)

percussion 1: cymbal (medium), triangle (high, thin beater),
snare drum (very high, piccolo), guiro, four
tom-toms (high, medium, low, very low), bass
drum (medium)

percussion 2: maracas (very high), cymbal (low), cabasa,
tom-toms (high, medium, low, very low)

percussion 3: maracas (very high), cymbal (very low), bongos
(high, low)

percussion 4: maracas (very high), chimes

percussion 5: maracas (very high), vibraphone

percussion 6: maracas (very high), glockenspiel (sounding two
octaves higher than written)

Duration = ca. 7 minutes

Spatial Positioning of Players

Percussion 1, 2 and violin may be onstage (percussion 1 left-rear of stage, percussion 2 center-right front); percussion 3, 4, 5, and 6 are all offstage, as close as possible to the positions indicated in the diagram below.

percussion 1

percussion 2

violin

percussion 3

percussion 4

percussion 5

percussion 6

Text

The 90th fragment from the North Point Press edition of *A Tomb for Anatole*
by Stéphane Mallarmé as translated by Paul Auster

pureté

purity

double

double

--- identité

--- identity

les yeux

the eyes

les deux points de

the two points of

vue égaux

equal sight

Notes

Violinist must occasionally speak and play.

x = speak unvoiced

♪ = speak voiced

et absence -

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A

♩ = 60

Violin

pp *ppp* *f* *f* *ppp* *ff* *ppp*

B sul tasto *ppp*



Violin

7

normale

mf *p* *mp* *ppp* *ff* *p* *mp* *subito ppp* *mf* *f* *ppp* *ppp* *ff*

normale

sul pont.

5

Wherever harmonics are indicated use natural harmonics whenever possible, sounding where written.



Violin

13

mf *p* *mp* *mf* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *p* *ff* *ppp* *ff* *ppp*

normale

sul ponticello entirely on bridge fundamental should disappear

normale

Violin

19 **C** speak unvoiced

les yeux

pu - re - té

sfz/p *fff* *mf* *f* *fff*

mp *f* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *fff* *fff* *subito ppp* *ppp* *f* *p*

sul pont. normale normale normale normale

Percussion 1

- Cymbal (m)
- Triangle (h)
- Snare Drum (vh, piccolo)
- Guiro
- Tom-toms (h) (m) (l) (vl)

Cymbal (m)

soft yarn mallets
bow → edge

ppp *p*

Percussion 2

- Maracas (vh)
- Cymbal (l)
- Cabasa
- Tom-toms (h) (m) (l) (vl)

Percussion 3

- Maracas (vh)
- Cymbal (vl)
- Bongos (h) (l)

Percussion 4

- Maracas (vh)
- Chimes

Percussion 5

- Maracas (vh)
- Vibraphone

Percussion 6

- Maracas (vh)
- Glockenspiel

D

23

Voice: les deux points de dou-ble i - den - ti - té

Violin: normale, sul pont., normale, normale, cut off violin with text, normale, sul pont. molto

Percussion 1: [Empty]

Percussion 2: Cymbal (I), soft yarn mallets, bow, edge, Maracas (vh)

Percussion 3: Maracas (vh), Cymbal (vl), soft yarn mallets, bow, edge

Percussion 4: Maracas (vh)

Percussion 5: Maracas (vh)

Percussion 6: Maracas (vh)

Dynamic markings: *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *ppp*, *fff*, *f*

Performance instructions: speak voiced, speak unvoiced, cut off violin with text, sul pont. molto

28

Voice

les. yeux

Violin

normale

sul pont. normale

ppp *mp* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *p*

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Percussion 3

Percussion 4

Percussion 5

Percussion 6

34

sfz p *fff*

les yeux

Violin

Violin

sul pont. normale *fff* *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *f* *fff* subito *ppp* normale *p* *mf* subito *p* *fff* sul pont.

Percussion 1

Snare Drum (piccolo) light sticks *ppp* *f*

Percussion 2

Maracas (vh) *ppp* *fff* *fff* *ppp*

Percussion 3

Cymbal (vl) soft yarn mallets bow edge *ppp* *p* Maracas (vh) *ppp* *fff*

Percussion 4

Maracas (vh) *ppp* *fff* *fff* *ppp* *ppp* *fff* *ppp*

Percussion 5

Maracas (vh) *ppp* *fff*

Percussion 6

Maracas (vh) *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff*

Violin

40 normale 5 *fff* subito *ppp* *f* *fff* pizz arco 5 *fff* subito *ppp* *fff* arco normale sul pont. normale pizz arco subito *fff* subito *ppp* *fff* sul pont. normale pizz arco subito *fff* subito *ppp* *fff* pizz

Percussion 1

Tom-tom (vl) Bass Drum (m) heavy sticks, butts *fff* Triangle (vh) very thin beater *ppp* *fff* Tom-toms (h,m,l,vl) *ppp*

Percussion 2

Tom-tom (vl) light sticks *p* Cymbal (l) soft yarn mallets bow edge *ppp* *p*

Percussion 3

Maracas (vh) *ppp* *fff* *ppp* Bongos (h,l) light sticks *mf* Maracas (vh) *ppp* *fff*

Percussion 4

Chimes *fff* *ppp* *f*

Percussion 5

Vibraphone hard yarn mallets *f* *p*

Percussion 6

Glock. (sounding two octaves higher than written) *p*

Violin
47 arco **F**
fff *p < fff* *p* *fff*

Percussion 1
f *p* *subito* *fff*
fff *fff* *subito* *fff*

Percussion 2
Tom-toms (h,m,l,vl)
hard yarn mallets
fff *ppp* *mp* *ppp*
mf *ppp*

Percussion 3
Bongos (h,l)
light sticks
ppp *fff*
p < f *subito* *ppp*

Percussion 4

Percussion 5

Percussion 6
fff *fff* *fff* *fff*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 47 to 51. The Violin part (measures 47-51) features a melodic line starting with a fortissimo (fff) dynamic, moving to piano (p) and then fortissimo again, with a 'subito' dynamic change. Percussion 1 (measures 47-51) has a complex rhythmic pattern with dynamics ranging from fortissimo (fff) to piano (p) and fortissimo (fff). Percussion 2 (measures 47-51) uses hard yarn mallets on tom-toms, with dynamics including fortissimo (fff), pianissimo (ppp), mezzo-piano (mp), and fortissimo (fff). Percussion 3 (measures 47-51) uses light sticks on bongos, with dynamics including pianissimo (ppp), fortissimo (fff), piano (p), and fortissimo (fff). Percussion 4, 5, and 6 are mostly silent, with Percussion 6 playing a low-frequency, high-amplitude pulse (fff) in measures 47, 49, 50, and 51.

53

Violin

ppp

violin: cut off with first attack of maracas

ppp *p* *ppp*

Cymbal (m)

soft yarn mallets
bow → edge

ppp *p*

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Maracas (vh)

ppp *p*

Percussion 3

Maracas (vh)

fff

Percussion 4

Maracas (vh)

ppp *f*

Percussion 5

Maracas (vh)

ppp

Percussion 6

Maracas (vh)

ppp

Violin

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Percussion 3

Percussion 4

Percussion 5

Percussion 6

65

ppp *p* *ppp* *mp* *mp* *ppp*

Cymbal (I)

soft yarn mallets
bow → edge

ppp *p*

Maracas (vh)

ppp *fff* *mf* *ppp*

ppp *mp* *ppp*

fff *ppp* *ppp* *fff*

fff *ppp* *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for a violin and six percussion instruments. The violin part (top staff) begins at measure 65 with a long, sustained note. The dynamics are marked as *ppp*, *p*, *ppp*, *mp*, *mp*, and *ppp*. The note has a sharp sign (♯) above it in the second measure and a flat sign (♭) above it in the fifth measure. Percussion 1 is silent. Percussion 2 plays a cymbal (I) with soft yarn mallets, starting in measure 3 with a *ppp* dynamic and ending in measure 4 with a *p* dynamic. Percussion 3 plays maracas (vh), starting in measure 2 with a *ppp* to *fff* dynamic and continuing in measure 4 with a *mf* to *ppp* dynamic. Percussion 4 plays a cymbal (I) with soft yarn mallets, starting in measure 4 with a *ppp* dynamic and ending in measure 5 with a *ppp* dynamic. Percussion 5 plays a cymbal (I) with soft yarn mallets, starting in measure 2 with a *fff* dynamic and ending in measure 4 with a *ppp* to *fff* dynamic. Percussion 6 plays a cymbal (I) with soft yarn mallets, starting in measure 2 with a *fff* dynamic and ending in measure 5 with a *ppp* dynamic.

Violin

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Percussion 3

Percussion 4

Percussion 5

Percussion 6

75

f *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

ppp *f* *ppp* *ppp* *p*

ppp *mp* *ppp*

soft yarn mallets
bow edge

G

Violin

86 sul tasto gradual change to sul pont. *f* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff* normale *p* sul tasto *mf* sul ponticello *ppp* normale *mp* *ppp*

sul ponticello entirely on bridge, fundamental should disappear, some overtones will emerge randomly

Percussion 1

Percussion 2 Maracas (vh) *ppp* *f* *ppp*

Percussion 3

Percussion 4

Percussion 5

Percussion 6

95

Violin

sul tasto → normale

sul ponticello
entirely on bridge,
fundamental should
disappear, some overtones
will emerge randomly

H

col legno
battuto

normale

sul tasto

col legno
battuto

normale

Percussion 1

Guiro

H

Percussion 2

Cymbal (l)

soft yarn mallets
bow → edge

Cabasa

twist handle
once very fast

Percussion 3

Percussion 4

Percussion 5

Percussion 6

ppp *f* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *p* *fff* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

ppp *fff* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff*

ppp *p* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff*

ppp *fff* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff*

ppp *fff* *ppp* *fff* *ppp* *fff*