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Tardigrade Music

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Tardigrade Music

for Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trombone, Harp, Piano, Percussion, Viola and Violoncello

Sofia Scheps | 2015

About the Music

Tardigrades are very small animals (they are called “microanimals”). Despite being small, they are very strong (in fact, some Tardigrades have been to Space, and have successfully returned to Earth, alive). Some of them live in the waters, some of them in the moss, inside a drop of water. They are living among us quietly, at a different scale. They are breathing, walking slowly, searching for food and fighting for survival, with their tiny brains, their tiny stomachs and their tiny claws (eight claws).

When I first heard about them, I felt instant sympathy for this anonymous and powerful creatures, and decided to compose music for them. A music of textures that are inspired on their size and scale, and that finally constitute a fictional soundscape for Tardigrades.

About the Ensemble

The piece is written for Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trombone, Harp, Piano, Percussion (three Crotales, three Woodblocks), Viola and Violoncello. The name of the instruments are generic on purpose. It can be performed with any Flute, any Clarinet, any Saxophone and any Trombone (however, It is not allowed to change the instrument during the piece).

Percussion: Three Crotales of different pitch, at a distance of semitone or tone between each one of them.
Three Woodblocks with different noticeable different pitch ranges (low - mid - high).

About Time Measure

The piece is divided between “time windows” of 10 seconds. Inside this windows, some sounds have more flexibility than others. In some cases, the exact momento when a sound must begin is specified. In other cases, a spacial reference is given, without much specification. It is fundamental to respect simultaneities, and relations between events of different instruments (this is indicated with lines that cross the score, sometimes vertically indicating simultaneities, and sometimes inclined, indicating that the second instrument must play immediately after the first one).at previous pitch).

About Pitches

There are no pitches specified, only three lines that refer to pitch range (low - mid - high). Performers can read this indications freely. For Harp and Piano, there are six lines. One option is to divide both instruments ranges in half, and assign three lines for the lower register and three lines for the upper.

In some cases, $\flat$, $\natural$ or $\sharp$ is indicated. In those cases, performers can choose the pitch between the range indicated, but attending to this indication. When there is no such indication, performers can choose the pitch freely.

When a note is between brackets ($\bullet$), it means its pitch must be the exact same as its precedent (repeat previous pitch).

About Dynamics

The global dynamic of the ensemble must never exceed *pp* (or a soft *p*).
However, in some cases there is one dynamic indications:



In this case, it is intended that the performer explores the threshold between silence and sound, generating a “fragil” or delicate situation. Subtones are preferred for this indications (Clarinet, Saxophone).

Some clarifications on Notation



Sweep the nail through one string, up and down and at different speeds.
Use lower strings.

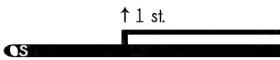


EXHALE

Exhale inside the instrument, covering the mouthpiece. No other sound is desired, but the sound of the air inside the tube.



Play and sing at the same time. The line that begins with an “S” indicates the range of the singing (in this case the lower); the other line indicates the range of the pitch played (in this case the upper).
In some cases, performers must stop singing but keep playing, and vice versa.



Play and sing at the same pitch (or its octave), and when indicated, change the played pitch up or down one semitone (as indicated by the arrow), but keep singing the original pitch.

Note: in order to tune the sung pitch, it is allowed to first play, and immediately sing.

XX Key Clicks



Flute: Toungue Ram
Cl., Sax., Trmb: Slap



Sweep gently tip of the fingers and palm of the hands through the stirngs



Brief Notes

Tardigrade Music | Sofía Scheps 2015

00"10"20"30"35"40"50"1'00"1'10"

Flute

Clarinet

Saxophone

Trombone

Harp

Piano

Crotales

Percussion

Wood Blocks

Viola

Violoncello

flz.

EXHALE

EXHALE

t - t - t

LV

LV

always *led.*

LV

1'10" 1'20" 1'30" 1'40" 1'50" 2'00" 2'10" 2'15"

1'15" 1'35" 2'05" 2'15"

Flute

Clarinet

Saxophone

Trombone

Harp

Piano

Cr.

Percussion

WB

Viola

Violoncello

ppp

ppp

pizz

pizz

LV

LV

LV

pizz

pizz

* Dynamic oscillation between "niente" and *ppp*. For this oscillation choose a slow tempo (the graphic representation is just one possible realization, feel free to try others).

[illegible]

3'30" 3'40" 3'50" 4'00" 4'10" 4'20" 4'30" 4'33"

Flute

Clarinet

Saxophone

Trombone

Harp

Piano

Ct.

Percussion

WB

Viola

Violoncello

* Until out of breath.

** Choose an artificial harmonic (4th.), and do a small glissando up and down. This movement can be free (doesn't have to be periodic).

*** Always a major second

**** Two actions must take place simultaneously: in the right hand, do a glissando (the pressure of the hand must be the same as for playing a natural harmonic, a light touch). In the left hand, whenever the piano plays, cello must change its articulation to a brief tremolo, and then go back to ordinary bowing.

4'40" 4'50" 5'00" 5'10" 5'20" 5'30" 5'40"

Flute

Clarinet

Saxophone

Trombone

Harp

Piano

Cr.

Percussion

WB

Viola

Violoncello

The musical score is written for a 10-minute piece, with time markers at 4'40", 4'50", 5'00", 5'10", 5'20", 5'30", and 5'40". The instruments are Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trombone, Harp, Piano, Cr., Percussion, WB, Viola, and Violoncello. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and performance instructions like 'pizz', 'arco sul pont.', 'sul pont.', 'sul tasto', and 'LV'.

* Harp leads; Piano must follow, as close as possible. The rest of the performers must follow Harp and Piano leads.

* Flute: Breathe whenever necessary, making sure that the re-attacks are extremely subtle.

Trombone: very slow glissando (range: no more than a minor 3rd). Breathe whenever necessary, making sure that the re-attacks are extremely subtle.

5'50" 6'00" 6'00" 6'10" 6'20" 6'30" 6'40"

Flute flz. **EXHALE** *

Clarinet *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Saxophone *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp* *ppp*

Trombone flz. **EXHALE** *

Harp 8 9 10 11 fast and light, through various strings (with palm of the hand)

Piano

Cr. LV

Percussion WB

Viola pizz

Violoncello pizz

* Until out of breath

* Until out of breath