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**Title**

Metamorphose

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2020

# ARASH MAJD

Metamorphose  
for Pierrot ensemble and  
percussion

**Written** for Ensemble TM+

**Premiered** by Ensemble TM+  
on May 20, 2019 during  
Ensemble TM+ residency at the  
University of California, Los  
Angeles.

**Awarded** selected work for the  
10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Hear Now  
Festival* in Los Angeles, U.S.A.

**Program Notes:**

*Metamorphose* is about the process of transformation. This piece manifests the experience of metamorphosis of a thunderous, extremely dissonant, and violent block of noise into a soft, atmospheric, and dissonant yet beautiful composition. I primarily used set theory to justify my intuitive pitch plan for the piece, so while at times *Metamorphose* employs set theory to structure the overall pitch plan, at other times, it processes sound as color. The symbiotic relationship between pitch and timbre contributes to the form in *Metamorphose*. The thunderous block of noise acts as an indicator to clarify the overall form and to create a contrast with pitch-oriented materials.

### **Performance Notes for Flute:**

1) For ZA sound refer to 1':40'', for ZO sound refer to 2':05'', for KA sound refer to 02':25'' of the video below. These is the exact preferred sound.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp9mm1zApSs>

2) Tongue pizzicato: Refer to 00: 53'' of the video below. This is the exact preferred sound.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kp9mm1zApSs>

3) The goal of the whistle tone in flute is to emulate the pitches in Piano or vibraphone.

### **Performance Notes for Bb Bass Clarinet:**

To perform an “ee” air sound please refer to 2:05 of the video link below.

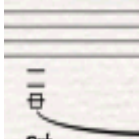
The “ee” air sound should be performed with open mouth at all times. Also, the “O” air sound should be performed with close mouth at all times. Therefore, performance of “ee” air sound that transforms to “O” sound starts with open mouth and ends with close mouth and vice versa.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fr9BJmF0-Lw>

## Performance Notes for Piano:



1) : Hit the lowest strings firmly with palm of hand, while the pedal is down. The goal is to get a nice and clear BOOM sound. Almost gong like sound.

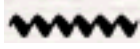



2) : Muffle the string and play the key on the piano. Pedal has to be down.

3) It is beneficial to have a device that would muffle all the strings from B2 to B4, rehearsal I & J.

## Performance Notes for Violin & Cello:

- 1) s.p.3: On the bridge
- 2) s.p.2: right before the bridge
- 3) s.p.1: right before s.p.2

 : Wide Vibrato

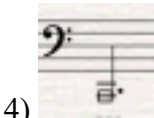
 : Vibrato

 : Snap pizzicato

2) **Pitchless Bow:** To see a video of this technique, watch the below video from 2:50 to the end.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2GPTY\\_MYkM&index=4&list=PL0\\_riGVa\\_iQgKQLb1yZ4xj4vnbHoabTeX](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y2GPTY_MYkM&index=4&list=PL0_riGVa_iQgKQLb1yZ4xj4vnbHoabTeX)

3) Bar 16: With the wooden part of the bow slide up to the nut from the bridge then slide down to the bridge.



4) **White Noise:** To see a video of this technique, please click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ky0d8AVBPgE>

# Metamorphose

ARASH MAJD  
2019

♩ = ca.100-110 *intensely*

1

Flute *fff* spectral [M]

Bass Clarinet in Bb *fff* motor on - slow, hard mallet, sempre pedal

Vibraphone *fff*

Piano *fff non diminuendo, senza pedale*

Violin *fff* non vib. sul G sul tasto *pp* s.p.3 *ppp*

Violoncello *fff* sul C sul tasto *pp* s.p.3 *ppp*

Detailed description: This is a musical score for the piece 'Metamorphose' by Arash Majd, 2019. The score is for a chamber ensemble consisting of Flute, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Vibraphone, Piano, Violin, and Violoncello. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a tempo marking of ca. 100-110 bpm, marked 'intensely'. The score is transposed. The Flute part starts with a first ending bracket over the first two measures. The Bass Clarinet part has a 'motor on - slow, hard mallet, sempre pedal' instruction. The Vibraphone part is marked 'fff' and features a series of chords. The Piano part is marked 'fff non diminuendo, senza pedale' and features a series of chords. The Violin part is marked 'fff' and includes 'non vib.' and 'sul G sul tasto' instructions, with a dynamic change to 'pp' and 's.p.3' later. The Violoncello part is marked 'fff' and includes 'sul C sul tasto' instructions, with a dynamic change to 'pp' and 's.p.3' later. The score ends with a 'ppp' dynamic marking for both the Violin and Violoncello parts.



9

Vib. *ppp* s.p.3 ord.

Vln. *pp* s.p.3 ord.

Vc. *pp* s.p.3 ord.



**A**

♩ = ca.100 *unwind*

whistle tone must always emulate the pitches in vibraphone.

Fl. *air noise* *O sound* *air noise ee sound*

B. Cl. *p* *mf*

Vib. *arco l.v.* *arco sim.*

Vln. *pitchless bow* *s.p.3* *s.p.2* *s.p.3* *col legno tratto* *s.p.3* *nut* *s.p.3* *col legno tratto* *nut* *s.p.3*

Vc. *white noise* *f* *mp* *col legno tratto* *s.p.3* *nut* *s.p.3* *col legno tratto* *s.p.3* *nut*

*pppp* *p* *p* *mf* *mf* *mf*

**B**

Fl. 21

B. Cl. air noise *p*

Vib. arco

Pno. pluck strings *mf* gently sempre pedal

Vln. s.p.2 s.p.3 *p* pitchless bow *pppp* s.p.3 s.p.2 s.p.3 s.p.1 *p* *f ppp* ord.

Vc. s.p.3 s.p.2 s.p.3 white noise *f* s.p.1 *f*

29

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

air noise O sound

arco

*f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

s.p.3

pitchless bow

*pppp*

s.p.3 → s.p.2 → s.p.3

seagull effect

*p* *f* *f*

35

Fl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

white noise

pppp

white noise

mf

f

p

s.p.3

pp

s.p.3

pppp

**C** atmosphere

43

Fl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

ord. soft mallet

bend as much as possible.

sf

f

pp

ppp

\*boom sound

sf

f

f

s.p.1

s.p.1

49

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*mp*

*p*

*pp*

s.p.1

s.p.3

s.p.2

*pp*

\*boom sound: strike the lowest strings with the palm of hand

# D vertical interruptions

The musical score consists of six staves: Flute (Fl.), B. Clarinet (B. Cl.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.).

- Flute (Fl.):** Features three notes corresponding to the 'ko sound' in each measure. The first measure is marked *fff* and 'enunciate forcefully'. The second measure is marked 'zo sound'. The third measure is marked 'ko sound'.
- B. Clarinet (B. Cl.):** Features three notes corresponding to the 'slap tongue' in each measure. The first measure is marked *f*. The second measure is marked 'slap tongue'. The third measure is marked 'slap tongue'.
- Vibraphone (Vib.):** Features sustained chords. The first measure is marked *p*. The third measure is marked *p*.
- Piano (Pno.):** Features 'string hit' marks. The first measure is marked *sff*. The second measure is marked *sff*. The third measure is marked *sff* and *pp*. A triplet of notes is shown in the third measure.
- Violin (Vln.):** Features notes with performance instructions: 'ord.', 's.p.1', 's.p.3', and 'ord.'. The first measure is marked *ppp*. The second measure is marked *ppp*. The third measure is marked *pp*.
- Viola (Vc.):** Features notes with performance instructions: 'snap pizz.' and 'arco. s.p.3'. The first measure is marked *f*. The second measure is marked 'snap pizz.'. The third measure is marked *pp*.

\*string hit: hold the string from inside and strike the key on the piano  
 \*note: Flute must always forcefully accent all first letters. Like the K of the Ko and so on.

65

ko sound      key click and air sound      zo sound

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

air sound O sound

key click and air sound

slap tongue

col legno battuto

col legno battuto

snap pizz. ord.

snap pizz.

arco

*p*      *ff*      *ff*      *ff*      *mf*

*f*      *p*      *ff*      *p*      *ff*      *pp*      *mf*

*sffp*      *sff*

72 **E** sae sound ko sae si saa zuu whistle tone

B. Cl. slap tongue slap tongue

Vib.

Pno. boom sound 3 string hit

Vln. snap pizz.

Vc. arco sul G snap pizz.

*mf* *p* *mp* *p* *sf* *sf* *fff* *pp* *mf* *fff* *ff*



key click and air sound

**F**

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

air sound "ee"    air sound "o"    key click and air sound

scrape strings with credit card and let vibrate.

ord. col legno tratto sul A\*<sub>LH</sub>    s.p.3 → nutt

ord. col legno tratto sul C\*<sub>LH</sub>    s.p.3 → nutt

ord. col legno tratto sul G

*sfp*    *p*    *mf*    *mf*    *mf*

*f*    *f*    *p*    *f*

*sfp*    *p*    *mf*    *mf*    *mf*

arco s.p.3    arco s.p.2    s.p.1    s.p.3

(15).....

8<sup>vb</sup> *f*

\*LH= lower half

key click and air sound

Fl. *f* *fff* ko sae si saa zuu

B. Cl. *sim.* air soun. "ee" *f* *f* slap tongue *ff*

Vib.

Pno. string hit *pp* *ff* string hit on the lowest A & Bb

Vln. *ff* snap pizz. arco s.p.3 sul G *mp* *ff* ord.

Vc. *ff* snap pizz. arco s.p.3 *mp* *ff* ord.

95

Fl. key click and blow air *mf* saa sound *fff*

B. Cl. key click and blow air *mf* slap tongue *f*

Vib.

Pno. *pp* string hit on the lowest A & Bb *p* *ff* string hit *sf*

Vln. s.p.3 col legno battuto *mf* snap pizz. ord. *p* s.p.3 *f*

Vc. s.p.3 col legno battuto *mf* snap pizz. s.p.3 *p* ord. *f* sea gull effect

103

Fl. *key click and blow air*

B. Cl. *key click and blow air*  
*mp*

Pno. *p* *string hit* *fff*

Vln. *ord.* *mf* *s.p.2* *s.p.3* *col legno battuto* *mp*

Vc. *s.p.3* *bowed trem.* *s.p.2* *molto s.t.* *s.p.3* *molto s.t.* *s.p.3* *mf*

# Arrival

110

Fl. *fff*

B. Cl. spectral [M] *fff* hard mallet

Vib. *ff*

Pno. boom sound *ff*

Vln. *sf*

Vc. sul G *f*

tr

spectral [M] *fff*

s.p.3 *pp*

s.p.3 *pp*

116

(tr)

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

rit.

senza pedal

ord. s.p.3

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

121

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*ppp*

*ppp*

*sfp ppp*

*sfp sfp sfp*

*sfp sfp*

beneath the bridge

beneath the bridge

*sfp* *sfp* *ppp*

*sfp* *sfp*

2/4

# I rebirth

ko ko si sae zu ko ko si sae zu sae sae

Fl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff* air sound  
o o ee ee ee o o ee ee o ee ee

Vib. *ff* hard mallet

Pno. *ff* mute strings pedal to the end  
boom sound *sf*

Vln. *f* snap pizz. normal pizz. snap pizz.

Vc. *f* *sim.*



**J** ♩. = ca. 110

Fl.

B. Cl.

ord.  
*f*

mute the strings

Pno.

*f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

Vln.

pizz.  
*f p f p f p f p f p*

Vc.

normal pizz.  
*f p f p f p*

145

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p*

*f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p*

153

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

163

Fl. ko sound. sae sae si ko saa si ko

B. Cl. o e ee o o o

Vib. hard mallet

Pno. *f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

Vln. pizz. *f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

Vc. pizz. *f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

*fff* *sim.* *fff* *f*

air noise



180 si si zu ko ko ko si zu

ee ee ee ee

*f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

*f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

*p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

188

Fl. sae sae si zu zu si si si sae si

B. Cl. ee ee ee o o

Vib.

Pno. *f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

Vln. *f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

Vc. *p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f*

197

Fl. si sae si sae sae sae sae si — zu zu

B. Cl. ee ee o o o o ee

Vib.

Pno. *f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

Vln. *f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

Vc. *p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*



zu si zu si ko ko si si ko

o ee o ee o ee o

*f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p f p*

*f p f p f p f p f p f p*

*p f p f p f p f p f p f*

The musical score is arranged in a system with six staves. From top to bottom, the staves are: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Vibraphone (Vib.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The Flute and Bass Clarinet parts feature vocal lines with lyrics. The Piano and Violin parts have dynamic markings of *f* and *p*. The Viola part has dynamic markings of *p* and *f*. The Vibraphone part has a few notes in the 4th measure. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

215

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p*

*f p* *f p* *f p* *f p* *f p*

M

Fl. *ko*

B. Cl. *o*

Pno. *f p f f*

Vln. *f p f*

Vc. *f pizz. f p*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for five instruments: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The score is written in treble clef for Flute and Bass Clarinet, and bass clef for Viola. The Piano part is written in two staves. The music is in 4/4 time. The Flute part starts with a *ko* marking and has a rest for the remainder of the page. The Bass Clarinet part starts with an *o* marking and has a rest for the remainder of the page. The Piano part has dynamics *f* and *p* in the first measure, *f* in the third measure, and *f* in the seventh measure. The Violin part has dynamics *f* and *p* in the second measure, and *f* in the third measure. The Viola part has dynamics *f* and *pizz.* in the second measure, and *f* and *p* in the third measure. There are various musical notations including notes, rests, and slurs throughout the score.

233

tongue pizz.  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$  **N**

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 233 to 239. The Flute part (Fl.) begins in measure 234 with a dynamic marking of *f* and the instruction 'tongue pizz.'. The tempo is marked as  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ . The Flute part consists of eighth notes with stems pointing down. The B. Clarinet (B. Cl.) and Vibraphone (Vib.) parts are silent throughout. The Piano (Pno.) part has a dynamic marking of *f* and plays a sequence of chords and single notes. The Violin (Vln.) part has a dynamic marking of *f* and plays eighth notes with stems pointing down. The Viola (Vc.) part has a dynamic marking of *f* and plays eighth notes with stems pointing down. A box containing the letter 'N' is located above the Flute staff in measure 235.

241

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

$\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 40$

*p*

*pp*

*pp*

*pp*



255 whistle tone. emulate the pitches in piano **P** ♩=ca. 40 decay

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

bend as much as possible.

air noise O sound ee

*mf* *p*

*p*

arco s.p.3 → s.p.2 → s.p.3

pitchless bow

*pppp*

arco white noise

*mp* *f*

262

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

col legno tratto  
s.p.3 → nut

*mf*

col legno tratto  
s.p.3 → nut

*mf*