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Title

32 Middle Tones

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32 Middle Tones

for string trio and 2 percussion

by JORDAN DYKSTRA
(2019)

*Commissioned by the Middletown Commission on the Arts for the event on
April 20, 2019 at MAC 650 Gallery in Middletown, CT:
"Alvin Lucier and Jordan Dykstra: Two World Premieres by Ordinary Affects"*

Composed for – and premiered by – Ordinary Affects

Morgan Evans-Weiler (violin)

Jordan Dykstra (viola)

Laura Cetilia (violoncello)

J. P. A. Falzone (percussion 1)

Luke Damrosch (percussion 2)

Spring 2019
Middletown, CT

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32 Middle Tones (2019)

by JORDAN DYKSTRA

INSTRUMENTATION

violin (1)

viola (1)

violoncello (1)

percussion (2)

Percussion list (1 item per player) – action

stone sheet with sandpaper or stone – rub slowly to create a noisy drone

bass drum (or any low-pitched drum) with soft mallets – soft low roll

bowl of leaves – softly rustle with hands

aluminum foil – softly rustle with hands

cymbal with soft mallets – soft low roll

pair of smooth stones – rub slowly other to create a noisy drone

singing bowl with bow – bow slowly to add a subtle tone to the chord

harmonica or pitch pipe (in unison, or close) – blow with long alternating breaths

plastic bag – softly rustle with hands

PROGRAM NOTES

General description: While the rest of the ensemble creates a repeating intervallic/textural harmonic form, the cellist slides 32 times into the middle of their chord.

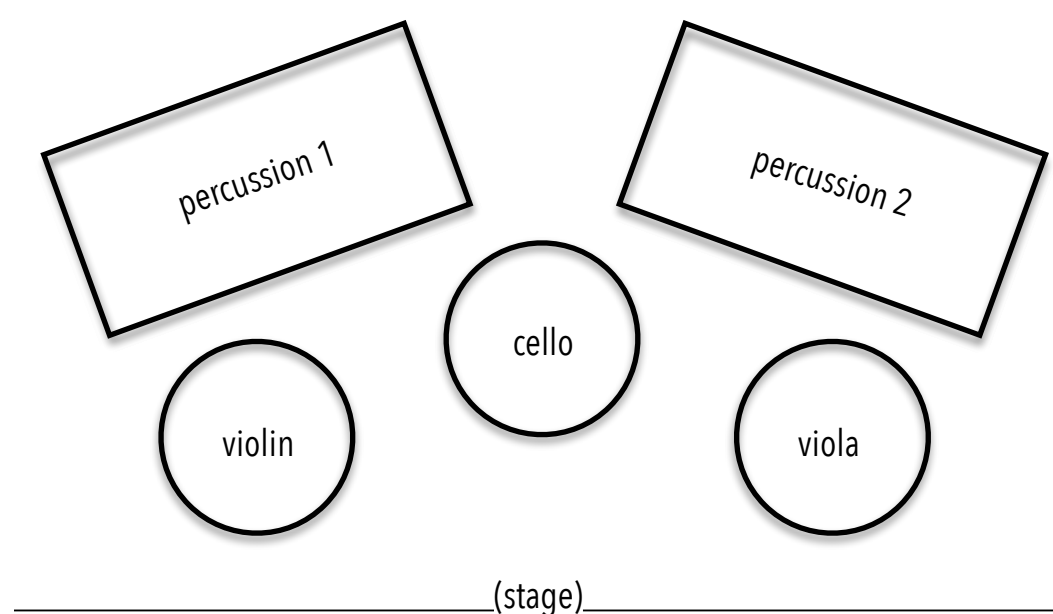
Dynamics: On the softer side, balanced throughout.

Percussion: Sustain your sonic material as much as possible. Players coordinate alternated breathing (harmonica) and bow changes (singing bowl) to avoid any break in the sustained sound texture.

Violin, viola, and 2 percussion: Both the entrances and exits of the 32 chords are played gently and coalesce as one sound.

Cello: At your discretion: enter *ad libitum* sometime during the 45" before each rehearsal mark and quietly use your voice to softly hum *slightly below or above* the sounding pitch of the cello, allowing microtonal beating patterns to shimmer. The voice should be added sparingly and very quietly (nearing non-perceptual, at times). These sections are notated with a "*".

Stage layout:



32 Middle Tones

On the softer side, balanced throughtout

JORDAN DYKSTRA (2019)

①

0:00 0:15 1:00 1:25 1:30 1:55 2:00 2:25

Time

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Violin

Violoncello

Viola

Stone sheet

Bass drum

Leaves

Foil

Cymbal

2 stones

Enter ad lib

* with voice, sparingly

Enter ad lib

Detailed description: This section of the score covers the time range from 0:00 to 2:25. It features five staves: Percussion 1, Percussion 2, Violin, Violoncello, and Viola. Percussion 1 and 2 have specific instrument assignments: Stone sheet and Bass drum (0:00-0:15), Leaves and Foil (1:00-1:25), and Cymbal and 2 stones (1:55-2:00). The string parts (Violin, Violoncello, and Viola) play sustained notes. The Violoncello part includes a 'Enter ad lib' instruction at 0:15 and another at 2:25, with a note marked with an asterisk and the instruction '* with voice, sparingly'.

②

3:10 3:35 4:20 4:45 4:50 5:15 5:20 5:45

Time

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Stone sheet

Bass drum

Stone sheet

Bass drum

Leaves

Foil

Cymbal

2 stones

Enter ad lib

*

Detailed description: This section of the score covers the time range from 3:10 to 5:45. It features five staves: Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Vln., Vc., and Vla. Perc. 1 and 2 have specific instrument assignments: Stone sheet and Bass drum (3:10-3:35), Stone sheet and Bass drum (4:20-4:45), Leaves and Foil (4:50-5:15), and Cymbal and 2 stones (5:20-5:45). The string parts (Vln., Vc., and Vla.) play sustained notes. The Vc. part includes a 'Enter ad lib' instruction at 3:35 and a note marked with an asterisk.

5:50 6:15 6:20 6:45 6:50 7:15 7:20 7:45 7:50 8:15

Time

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Bass drum

Singing bowl

Cymbal

Leaves

Harmonica

Harmonica

Singing bowl

Singing bowl

Bass drum

Stone sheet

Enter ad lib

*

Detailed description: This section of the score covers the time range from 5:50 to 8:15. It features five staves: Perc. 1, Perc. 2, Vln., Vc., and Vla. Perc. 1 and 2 have specific instrument assignments: Bass drum and Singing bowl (5:50-6:15), Cymbal and Leaves (6:20-6:45), Harmonica and Harmonica (6:50-7:15), Singing bowl and Singing bowl (7:20-7:45), and Bass drum and Stone sheet (7:50-8:15). The string parts (Vln., Vc., and Vla.) play sustained notes. The Vc. part includes a 'Enter ad lib' instruction at 7:50 and a note marked with an asterisk.

④

9:00 9:25 9:30 9:55

Time

Perc. 1 Stone sheet Bass drum

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Leaves Foil

Stone sheet Bass drum

Leaves Foil

Cymbal 2 stones

Enter ad lib *

⑤

10:40 11:05 11:10 11:35 11:40 12:05

Time

Perc. 1 Bass drum Singing bowl

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Cymbal Leaves

Harmonica Harmonica

Singing bowl Singing bowl

Bass drum Stone sheet

Bass drum Cymbal

12:10 12:35 12:40 13:05 13:10 13:35 13:40 14:05 14:10 14:35 14:40 15:05

Time

Perc. 1 Bass drum Singing bowl

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Cymbal Leaves

Harmonica Harmonica

Singing bowl Singing bowl

Bass drum Stone sheet

Bass drum Cymbal

15:10 15:35 15:40 16:05 16:10 16:35 16:40 17:05

Time

Perc. 1 2 stones 2 stones

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Plastic bag Plastic bag

Stone sheet Bass drum

Foil Stone sheet

Enter ad lib *

⑥

17:50 18:15 18:20 18:45 18:50 19:15 19:20 19:45 19:50 20:15 (21:00)

Time

Perc. 1 Stone sheet Bass drum

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Leaves Foil

Cymbal 2 stones

Bass drum Singing bowl

Cymbal Leaves