

Paul Clift

The great silence

for flute, saxophone, piano, percussion & electronics

duration ca. 11'

2019/20

Premiered by Ensemble Inverspace on 1 March, 2020

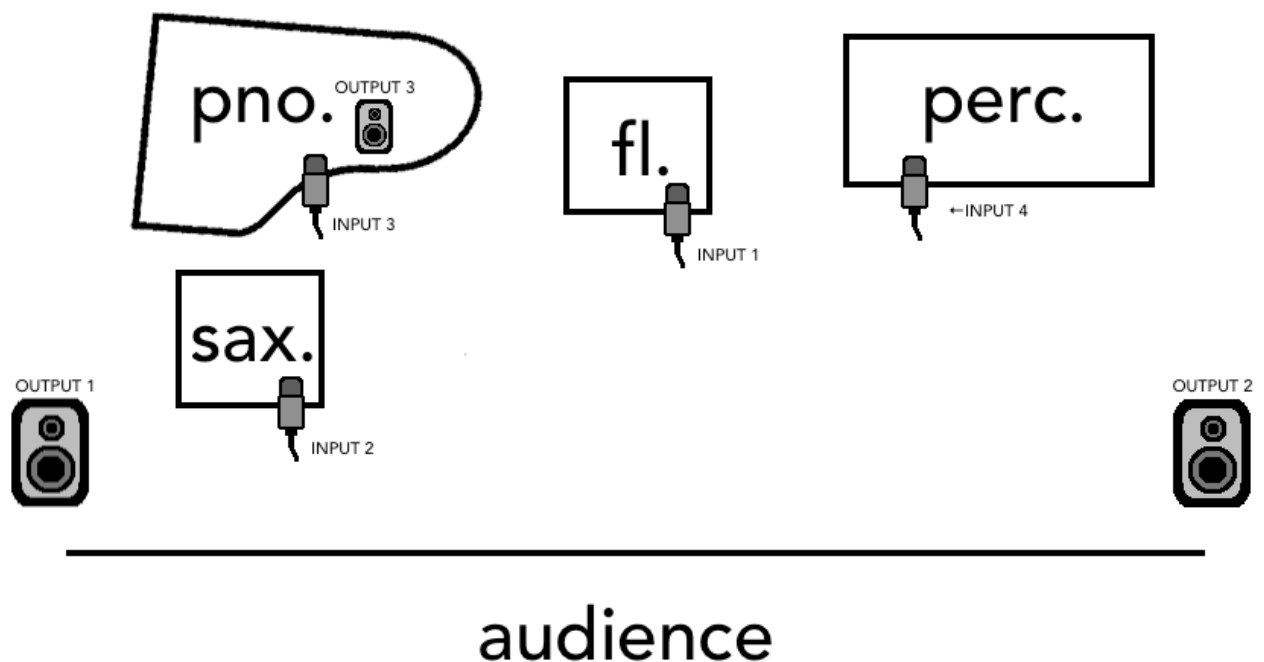
Commissioned by Ensemble Inverspace with the generous support of



Instrumentation:

- Flute (C)
- Saxophone (alto, soprano)
- Piano*
- Percussion
 - Vibraphone
 - Kick drum
 - FOUR temple blocks
 - TWO log drums
 - Large ride cymbal
 - ONE gong (D5)
 - ONE crotale (F5, sounding F7)
 - Ocean drum
- Electronics (details below)

Proposed stage layout:



NB. The sound technician should be offstage

Material required for electronics:

- Computer w/ Max/MSP v.8.x
- TWO loudspeakers, distributed in the performance space as shown above
- ONE contact transducer attached to the soundboard of the piano
- Digital interface with ≥ 4 inputs and ≥ 3 outputs
- Mixing desk for real-time monitoring

- ONE condenser microphone mounted onto a stand for flute (e.g. Neumann KM-184)
- TWO bell microphones for saxophones (one each for the alto and soprano saxophones) (e.g. DPA Core 4099)
- ONE or TWO condenser microphones for piano (e.g. Neumann KM-184; mixed to mono)
- ONE condenser microphones mounted on a stand for percussion (e.g. Neumann KM-184); N.B. The microphone should be placed as close as possible to the cymbal and to capture as little as possible of the other instruments. Additionally, the Ocean Drum should be played directly into the microphone.

- MIDI interface and pedal to trigger events; operated by the percussionist or saxophonist

- Max/MSP patch (contact paul@paulclift.net) with the inputs organised as follows:
 - **INPUT 1: FLUTE**
 - **INPUT 2: SAXOPHONE (switches between alto and soprano should be handled via the mixing desk)**
 - **INPUT 3: PIANO (if two microphones are used, mix down to mono in the mixing desk)**
 - **INPUT 4: PERCUSSION**

 - **OUTPUT 1: MAIN LEFT**
 - **OUTPUT 2: MAIN RIGHT**
 - **OUTPUT 3: Piano transducer**

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(composed 2019)

A1 ♩=60

4
4

Musical score for measures 1-5. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of ♩=60. It features five staves: Elec., Fl., A. Sax., Perc., and Pno. Measure 1 is marked with a large '1' and a downward arrow. The Flute part starts with a *fff* dynamic and a *f* dynamic later. The A. Sax. part has a *max.* dynamic. The Percussion part includes Temple Blocks (T.B.) and Log drum (L.D.) with a *fff* dynamic and a '5' marking. The Piano part starts with a *fff* dynamic. A red line labeled 'Red.' spans across the bottom of the first five measures.

Musical score for measures 6-9. Measure 6 is marked with a large '6'. Measure 7 is marked with a large '2', measure 8 with a large '3', and measure 9 with a large '4'. The Flute part has a *mf* dynamic. The A. Sax. part has a *sim.* dynamic. The Percussion part has a *mp* dynamic. The Vibraphone part has a *pp* dynamic. The Piano part has a *pp* dynamic. A red line labeled 'Red.' spans across the bottom of measures 6-9. There are two diagrams for saxophone fingering: one for '2734 or II' and another for 'OR'. A note above the saxophone staff in measure 8 says 'accumulation of saxophone multiphonics'. A note below the saxophone staff in measure 8 says 'no louder than sax.'. A note below the piano staff in measure 9 says 'l.v.'. A note below the piano staff in measure 9 says 'pp'.

12 $\frac{4}{4}$

5

fffz

f

mp

max.

fff

mp

fff

p *fff*

fff

8va *Red.*

8va *Red.*

8

mp *fffz*

mp *max.*

fff *5*

fff

p l.v. *Gongs* *mp*

p l.v.

fff

8va *Red.*

9

max. *f* *mp* *cresc.*

mp *mf* *mp* *cresc.*

fff *mf*

mp *l.v.* *mp*

fff

Gongs **9**

8^{va} *Ped.*

A2 ♩=72

26 **10**

f *cresc.*

f (match flute) *cresc.*

l.v. *f* *f* *mf* *cresc.*

fff

8^{va}

flutter pedal occasionally, but maintain a very thick, 'blurry' texture →

31 $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{3}{8}$ $\frac{7}{8}$ accel.

Musical score for measures 31-34. The score includes a piano and vibraphone. The piano part features complex textures with triplets and slurs. The vibraphone part has a steady triplet rhythm. The time signature changes from 3/8 to 3/4, back to 3/8, and finally to 7/8. An 'accel.' marking is present at the end of the section.

35 $\frac{3}{4}$ 11

Musical score for measures 35-38. A measure rest of 11 measures is indicated above measure 35. The piano part continues with complex textures and triplets. The vibraphone part has a triplet rhythm. The time signature is 3/4.

(multiphonic trill on RH4)

fff *max.* *ff*

(multiphonic trill on Bb key)

fff *about as loud as flute multiphonic*

ff *fff sempre*

sim. *tr.* *max.* *ff*

sim. *tr.* *fff sempre*

12

Musical score for page 50, measures 12-15. The score consists of four staves. The top two staves are treble clef, and the bottom two are bass clef. The music is highly technical, featuring sixteenth and thirty-second notes, slurs, and fingerings (6 and 3). A box labeled '12' is positioned above the first measure of the first staff.



A4

Musical score for page 53, measures 12-15. The score consists of four staves. The top two staves are treble clef, and the bottom two are bass clef. The music is highly technical, featuring sixteenth and thirty-second notes, slurs, and fingerings (6 and 3). Dynamic markings 'f' and 'dim.' are present. A box labeled 'A4' is positioned above the first measure of the first staff.

56 $\frac{4}{4}$ rit.

Musical score for measures 56-57. The score is in 4/4 time and includes five staves. The top two staves are for woodwinds, with the second staff marked "to Soprano Sax." and dynamics *p*. The third staff is for Flute (Fl.) with dynamics *mf dim.* and *p*. The bottom two staves are for piano accompaniment, featuring complex rhythmic patterns with triplets and sextuplets.

Musical score for measures 58-59. The score is in 4/4 time and includes two staves for piano accompaniment. The upper staff is marked "(sempre *fff*)" and features a melodic line with triplets. The lower staff features a bass line with sextuplets and triplets.

Musical score for measures 60-62. The score is in 4/4 time and includes two staves for piano accompaniment. Measure 60 has a 9/8 time signature. Measures 61 and 62 have a 4/4 time signature. The upper staff has rests, while the lower staff features a complex bass line with sextuplets and triplets.

Musical score for measures 63-66. The score is in 4/4 time and includes two staves for piano accompaniment. Measures 63 and 64 have a 7/8 time signature, measure 65 has a 9/8 time signature, and measure 66 has a 5/4 time signature. The upper staff has rests, while the lower staff features a complex bass line with sextuplets.

B1 $\text{♩} = 66$

67 $\frac{4}{4}$

13

14

Soprano Saxophone

sfff

mf

max.

fff

fff

Crotale

p

l.v.

mp

F 'freeze' diffused inside piano

fff

8^{va}...

Ped.

74 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$

15

16

max, stable

f

max.

fff

fff

p

l.v.

p

fff

8^{va}...

Ped.

B2

80 $\frac{4}{4}$ **17** -A \flat & F \sharp 'freeze' diffused inside piano - $\frac{7}{8}$

Musical score for system 17, 7/8 time signature. It consists of five staves: two treble clefs, a grand staff (piano), and two bass clefs. The first treble staff has a melodic line starting at measure 80. The second treble staff has a sustained chord with a *sim.* (sostenuto) marking. The grand staff has a piano accompaniment with a *mf* marking. The bass clef has a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The dynamic markings are *p*, *fff*, *p*, and *ppp*. A diagram of a piano action mechanism is shown between the two treble staves. The instruction '-A \flat & F \sharp 'freeze' diffused inside piano -' is written above the first treble staff and below the grand staff.



84 $\frac{2}{4}$ **18** $\frac{4}{4}$ **19** **20** $\frac{3}{8}$

Musical score for systems 18, 19, and 20. System 18 is in 2/4 time, system 19 in 4/4, and system 20 in 3/8. It consists of five staves: two treble clefs, a grand staff (piano), and two bass clefs. The first treble staff has a melodic line with a *f* marking. The second treble staff has a melodic line with a *f* marking. The grand staff has piano accompaniment with *fff* and *mf* markings. The bass clef has piano accompaniment with *fff* markings. A diagram of a piano action mechanism is shown between the two treble staves. The instruction '-A \flat & F \sharp 'freeze' diffused inside piano -' is written above the first treble staff and below the grand staff. The dynamic markings are *f*, *fff*, *mf*, and *mp*. The instruction 'Ped.' is written below the bass clef staves.

89 $\frac{4}{4}$ **21** $\frac{3}{8}$ **22** $\frac{4}{4}$ **23** $\frac{2}{4}$

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

sim.

A \sharp & F \sharp 'freeze' diffused inside piano

8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va}

Reo. Reo. Reo.

B3 95 $\frac{4}{4}$ **24** $\frac{2}{4}$ **25** $\frac{2}{4}$ **26** $\frac{7}{8}$ **27** **28**

f *mf* *fff* *fff* *fff*

l.v. *fff* *fff* *fff*

8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va} 8^{va}

Reo. Reo. Reo.

99 $\frac{4}{4}$ **29** **30** $\frac{2}{4}$ **31** $\frac{4}{4}$

Measure 29: *f*

Measure 30: *f*

Measure 31: *p*, *mf*, *sim.*

Piano part: *fff*, *f*, *fff*, *fff*, *p*

Guitar part: *fff*, *fff*, *fff*

8^{va}, 8^{vb}, Ped.

B4

103 $\frac{5}{8}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ **32** **33** **34**

Measure 32: *mp*

Measure 33: *mp*, *f*

Measure 34: *f*, *fff*

Piano part: *fff*, *fff*, *fff*

Guitar part: *fff*, *fff*, *fff*

8^{va}, 8^{vb}, Ped.

35 36

mp *ff*

mp *ff*

fff

fff

8^{va}

8^{va}

8^{va}

8^{va}



37 38 39

mp *f*

mp *f* *mp*

fff *fff* *fff*

fff

8^{va}

8^{va}

8^{va}

8^{va}

B5

111 $\frac{4}{4}$ **40** **41** **42** $\frac{3}{4}$ **43**

114 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ **44** **45** **46**

B6

118

2/4 4/4 2/4 3/4

47

ff ff

ff ff

Ocean Drum *hold near microphone; roll gently to create stable white noise.*

p *mp*

fff *p sub.* *f* *fff*

Red.



123

2/4 4/4 2/4 5/8 3/4

dim.

dim.

p *f* *fff* *p*

128 $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$ $\frac{2}{4}$

f *fff* *p* *f* *fff* *p*

133 $\frac{7}{8}$ $\frac{2}{4}$ $\frac{3}{4}$

f *fff* *p*

B7

137 $\frac{4}{4}$

Musical score for section B7, measures 137-140. The score is in 4/4 time. It features a piano and a drum set. The piano part consists of a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has notes with slurs and accents, and triplets. The bass clef has notes with slurs and triplets. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, and *mf*. The drum part shows a snare drum with 'z' marks. The piano part has a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has notes with slurs and accents, and triplets. The bass clef has notes with slurs and triplets. Dynamics include *f*, *p*, and *mf*.

C1

140

$\frac{3}{4}$

$\frac{4}{4}$

48

Musical score for section C1, measures 140-148. The score is in 3/4 and 4/4 time. It features a piano and a drum set. The piano part consists of a treble and bass clef. The treble clef has notes with slurs and accents, and triplets. The bass clef has notes with slurs and triplets. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *ppp*. The drum part shows a snare drum with 'z' marks. A diagram of a piano keyboard is shown with notes circled and numbered 22. The text 'A: 'freeze' diffused inside piano ->' is present. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, and *ppp*.

C2

145

Musical score for measures 49 and 50. The score includes staves for a melodic instrument, a vibraphone, and a piano. Measure 49 features a melodic line with a wavy texture and a dynamic marking of *mp*. Measure 50 features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *max.* and a vibraphone part with a dynamic marking of *mp*. The piano part consists of triplet chords with a dynamic marking of *pppp*. A diagram of a vibraphone keyboard is shown in the upper right of the score.



151

Musical score for measure 51. The score includes staves for a melodic instrument, a vibraphone, and a piano. Measure 51 features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *pppp*. The vibraphone part has a dynamic marking of *mp*. The piano part consists of triplet chords with a dynamic marking of *pppp*. A diagram of a vibraphone keyboard is shown in the upper right of the score.

C3

156

Musical score for measures 52 and 53. The score is divided into two systems, each starting with a measure number in a black box (52 and 53). The first system (measures 52-53) features a violin part with a melodic line of sixteenth notes, a flute part with a melodic line of sixteenth notes, and a piano part with a melodic line of sixteenth notes. The second system (measures 54-55) features a violin part with a melodic line of sixteenth notes, a flute part with a melodic line of sixteenth notes, and a piano part with a melodic line of sixteenth notes. The score includes dynamic markings such as *max.* and *mf*, and articulation marks like *z* and *z*.