

CHARACTERS

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

JULY 2013

LEVAN IORDANISHVILI

Instrumentation

Piccolo/Flute/Alto Flute (1 player), Oboe, Bb Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon
Horn in F, Trumpet in C, Trombone
Percussion (1 player): Finger Cymbal, Tambourine, Wood Block, Suspended Cymbal, Snare Drum,
Tom-tom, Bass Drum
Piano
Strings

Duration: 5 minutes

Notes

Characters is a dialogue with Jean Dubuffet's *le ronde des images* (1977). The effect achieved by contrasting character portraits with seemingly unrelated textures was an important inspiration for the primary musical concept.

The music is built structurally and thematically as a collage. The themes, or characters, are short, playfully twisted ideas that are developed throughout the work into ever-changing textures.

The first four bars are a brief preview of the harmonic and structural building blocks. The piano executes a two-part chordal descent in Mode 2, as the bassoon, clarinet and trumpet introduce the first thematic character. In bar 4, the primary chordal structure of the piece is introduced, the E-flat and B-flat open fifth foundation is countered by an E major chord in the upper register.

The above construction can be heard in Debussy's *Pelléas et Melisande*, Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloe* and Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. The harmony of the piece is based on Messiaen's symmetrical modes of limited transposition. Modes 2 and 3 make especially frequent appearances.

There are moments in the piece where the various sections of the orchestra are 'playing different music.' The intended effect is a tribute to many of Messiaen's large ensemble works. At rehearsal M for example, the piano is playing a harmonic ostinato in Mode 3 while the bassoon's melody is in Mode 2. These dissonant and packed textures are often contrasted with more rhythmically and harmonically stable sections.

Characters incorporates a number of rhythms inspired by the incredible Hindu *deci-talas*. Messiaen used them extensively in his work and introduced them to students of composition in his *Treatise on Rhythm, Color and Ornithology*. *Characters* is a personal step towards rhythmic, harmonic and formal freedom.

CHARACTERS

LEVAN IORDANISHVILI

A ♩ = 88 (♩ = ♩ sempre)
FLUTE

B

Flute/Alto Flute/Piccolo
mp mf f mf

Oboe
mp mf f mf

Clarinet in B \flat
mf f mf

Bass Clarinet in B \flat
f mf

Bassoon
mf f f mf

Horn in F
mp

Trumpet in C
mp f

Trombone
f

Percussion

Piano
mp mf ff mf

A ♩ = 88 (♩ = ♩ sempre)
B

Violin I
ff mf

Violin II
ff mf

Viola
ff f

Violoncello
ff pizz. f

Double Bass
f f

6 C

Fl. *f* *mp* *ff*

Ob. *f* *mp* *ff*

Cl. *ff* *mp* *ff*

B. Cl. *ff* *mp* *ff*

Bsn. *ff* *mp* *ff*

Hn. *p* *mf*

C Tpt. *mf* *p* *mf*

Tbn. *f* *p* *mf*

Perc.

Pno. *ff* *fff* *mp* *fff* *mp sub.* *f*

Vln. I *ff* *mp* *ff*

Vln. II *ff* *mp* *ff*

Vla. arco *ff* *mp* *ff*

Vc. arco *ff* *mp* *ff* pizz. *mp sub.* *f*

Db. *ff* *mp* *ff* *mp sub.* *f*

12 **D**

Fl. *mf* *mf* *mp* rit.

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf* *mf* *mp*

B. Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. *mp*

C Tpt.

Tbn. *mp*

Perc. **FINGER CYMBAL** *p* *mf*

Pno. *f* *mf* *mp* *f* *f* *mp*

D

Vln. I *p* *f* *f* *mp* rit. pizz.

Vln. II *p* *f* *f* *mp* pizz.

Vla. *f* *mp* *f* *f* *mp* pizz.

Vc. *f* *mp* *f* *f* *f* pizz.

Db. *f*

E A tempo
To Alto Flute

ALTO FLUTE

F poco rit.

A. Fl. *p*

Ob.

Cl. *pp*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p* *mf*

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

UNMOUNTED
TAMBOURINE

WOOD BLOCK

Perc. *pp* *mp*

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

E A tempo

F poco rit.

Vln. I *mp* *mp*

Vln. II *mp* *mp*

Vla. *mp* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp*

Db. *mp* *f* *p* *mf*

25 **A tempo** G To Flute

A. Fl. *mp* *mf* *p*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *pp* *p* *ppp* *p*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p* *mp* *p*

Hn. *ppp* *con sord.*

C Tpt. *pp*

Tbn. *ppp* *con sord.*

Perc. *pp* *mf* *pp*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Vln. I *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *pp* *arco sul tasto*

Vln. II *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Vc. *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf*

Db. *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mp*

30

H FLUTE

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f ff*

Cl. *f*

B. Cl. *mf ff*

Bsn. *mf ff*

Hn. *p f*

C Tpt. *f mf f*

Tbn. *p f*

Perc. *mf*

Pno. *f ff*

H ord. *mp ff*

Vln. I *mp ff*

Vln. II *f ff*

Vla. *f ff*

Vc. *f ff*

Db. *f ff*

arco

35

Fl. *mp* *p*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn.

Hn. *mf* *p* *mf* senza sord.

C Tpt. *mf* 3

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno. *mp* *f*

Vln. I *p* *f*

Vln. II *p* *f*

Vla. *mp* *f*

Vc. sul pont. *mp* *f*

Db.

39 **I** **J**

Fl. *mf* *ff* *f*

Ob. *mf* *ff* *mf*

Cl. *ff* *mp* *ff* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *mp* *ff* *f*

Bsn. *ff* *mp* *ff* *f*

Hn. *mp* *f* *mp*

C Tpt. *mf* *f* *mp*

Tbn. *mf* *f*

Perc. **SUSPENDED CYMBAL**
sec.
mp

Pno. *ff* *mf* *ff* *f* *mf*

Vln. I *ff* *mp* *ff* *f* *f*

Vln. II *ff* *mp* *ff* *f* *f*

Vla. *ff* *mp* *ff* *f*

Vc. *f* *ff* *f* *arco* *f*

Db. *f* *ff* *f* *pizz.* *f*

44 **K** ♩ = 63

To Alto Flute

ALTO FLUTE

molto rit.

Fl. *ff* *mp subito*

Ob. *ff* *mp subito* *mp*

Cl. *ff* *mp subito* *mp*

B. Cl. *ff* *mp*

Bsn. *ff*

Hn. *f*

C Tpt. *f*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. *f* **TOM**

Pno. *fff* *p*

Vln. I *fff*

Vln. II *fff*

Vla. *fff* *p*

Vc. *fff* *p*

Db. arco *fff* pizz. *p*

♩ = 73
To Flute

♩ = 73

L ♩ = 88

FLUTE

51

Fl. *mf* *mf* *ff*

Ob. *mf* *mf* *ff*

Cl. *mf* *mf* *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Hn. *f*

C Tpt. *f*

Tbn. *f* con sord.

Perc. *f* [BASS DRUM]

Pno. *pp* *mp* *mf* *fff*

Vln. I *f* *f* *fff* pizz. arco

Vln. II *f* *f* *fff* pizz. arco

Vla. *f* *f* *fff* pizz. arco

Vc. *f* *f* *fff* pizz. arco

Db. *ppp* *mf* *mf* *fff* pizz. arco

61 **M** To Alto Flute

Fl. *mp* *ff*

Ob. *mp* *ff*

Cl. *mp* *ff*

B. Cl. *mp* *ff*

Bsn. *mf* *ff*

Hn. *mp* *f*

C Tpt. *mp* *f*

Tbn. *mp* *f*

Perc. **FINGER CYMBAL**

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

Vln. I *mf* *ff*

Vln. II *mf* *ff*

Vla. *mf* *ff*

Ve. *mf* *ff*

Db. *pizz.* *mf* *ff*

66 ♩ = 62

ALTO FLUTE

A. Fl. *p espress.* *mp*

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p espress.* *mp* *mf* *p*

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

WOOD BLOCK

Perc. *pp* *mp*

Pno. *p* *mf*

♩ = 62

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.* *p*

Db. *pizz.* *pp* *mp*

N

poco rit.

To Flute

72

A. Fl. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf* *mp* *pp*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

Hn. *p* *pp*

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Perc. *pp*

Pno. *pp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 72 through 77. It includes staves for A. Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon, Horn, Trumpet, Trombone, Percussion, and Piano. The A. Flute part features a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings from *mf* to *pp*. The woodwinds provide harmonic support with various articulations. The piano part features a complex chordal texture. The percussion part has a rhythmic pattern. The tempo is marked 'poco rit.' and the key signature has one sharp (F#).

N

poco rit.

pizz.

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *pizz.* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *p*

Vc. *p*

Db. *p*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 72 through 77 for the string section. It includes staves for Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The strings play a rhythmic accompaniment with various articulations, including pizzicato for the violins and viola. The tempo is marked 'poco rit.' and the key signature has one sharp (F#).

O FLUTE

P

78 $\text{♩} = 88$

Fl. *p* *ff* *f*

Ob. *p* *ff* *f*

Cl. *p* *ff* *ff*

B. Cl. *p* *ff* *ff*

Bsn. *p* *ff* *ff*

Hn. *pp* *ff*

C Tpt. *p* *ff* *ff*

Tbn. senza sord. *pp* *ff*

Perc. MOUNTED TAMBOURINE *mp*

Pno. *ff* *p* *fff* *ff*

Vln. I $\text{♩} = 88$ *p* *fff* *ff*

Vln. II *p* *fff* *ff*

Vla. ord. *p* *fff* *ff*

Vc. *pp* *p* *fff* *ff*

Db. *pp* *p* *fff* *ff* pizz.

Q
To Piccolo

Musical score for measures 83-90. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Cor Anglais (C Tpt.), Trombone (Tbn.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Db.).

Measures 83-90 are marked with a **Q** dynamic. The woodwinds (Cl., B. Cl., Bsn., C Tpt., Tbn.) and strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Db.) play triplets of eighth notes. The Percussion part features a triplet of eighth notes on the TOM tom, marked with a **f** dynamic. The Piano part features a triplet of eighth notes on the left hand and a triplet of eighth notes on the right hand, marked with a **fff** dynamic. The Flute and Oboe parts feature a triplet of eighth notes, marked with a **fff** dynamic. The Horn part features a triplet of eighth notes, marked with a **ff** dynamic.

R PICCOLO

Picc. *pp subito* — *mp*

Ob. *fff*

Cl. *pp subito* — *p*

B. Cl.

Bsn. *pp subito* — *pp*

Hn. *pp subito* — *ppp*

C Tpt. *pp subito* — *ppp*

Tbn. *pp subito* — *ppp*

SNARE

Perc.

Pno. *p subito* — *mf*

R

Vln. I *pizz.* *mp subito* — *f* — *p* — *ff*

Vln. II *pizz.* *mp subito* — *f* — *p* — *ff*

Vla. *pizz.* *mp subito* — *f* — *p* — *ff*

Vc. *pizz.* *mp subito* — *f* — *p* — *ff*

Db. *mp subito* — *f* — *p* — *ff*

96 **S**

To Flute

Picc. *mf* *ff* *f*

Ob. *mf* *ff* *f* 3 *mf*

Cl. *mp* *ff* *f* 3 3 3

B. Cl. *mp* *ff*

Bsn. *mp* *ff* *mf*

Hn.

C Tpt. *mf* 3 3 3

Tbn. *mf*

Perc.

Pno. *mf* *ff* *ff*

Vln. I **S** arco *ff*

Vln. II arco *ff*

Vla. arco *ff* pizz. *f* 3 3 3

Vc. arco *ff* pizz. *f* 3 3 3

Db. arco *ff* pizz. *f* 3 3 3

101 **T** **FLUTE**

Fl. *mp* *ff* *fff*

Ob. *mp* *ff* *fff*

Cl. *mp* *ff* *fff*

B. Cl. *mp* *ff* *fff*

Bsn. *mp* *ff* *fff*

Hn. *p* *f* *ff*

C Tpt. *p* *f* *ff*

Tbn. *p* *f* *ff*

Perc.

Pno. *mp* *ff* *mp* *fff*

Vln. I *fff*

Vln. II *fff*

Vla. *mp* *f* *fff* *pizz.* *arco*

Vc. *mp* *mp* *ff* *mp* *f* *fff* *pizz.* *arco*

Db. *mp* *mp* *ff* *fff* *pizz.*

110 **U**

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

B. Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Hn.

C Tpt. *ff*

Tbn. *f*

Perc. **TOM** *f* **BASS DRUM** *ff*

Pno. *fff*

Vln. I **U** *fff pesante*

Vln. II *fff pesante*

Vla. *fff pesante*

Vc. *fff pesante*

Db. *fff pesante* arco

118

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

MOUNTED TAMBOURINE

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

f

fff

fff

fff

fff

fff

pizz.

arco

fff

W

125

Fl. *ff* *p*

Ob. *fff* *p*

Cl. *fff*

B. Cl. *fff*

Bsn. *fff*

Hn. *ff*

C Tpt. *ff* *p*

Tbn. *ff*

Perc. *ff* SNARE SNARE TOM BD TOM

Pno. *fff* *f*

Vln. I *W*

Vln. II

Vla. *3*

Vc. *3*

Db.

poco accel.

134

Fl. *f* *mf* *ff*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf* *ff*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. *p* *ff*

C Tpt. *ff* *f*

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno. *mf* *fff*

Vln. I *mf* *ff*

Vln. II *mf* *ff*

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

♩ = 100

141

Fl. *mf* *fff*

Ob. *mf* *fff*

Cl. *mf* *fff*

B. Cl. *fff*

Bsn. *fff*

Hn. *mf* *ff*

C Tpt. *mf* *ff*

Tbn. *ff*

Perc. $\text{H } \frac{2}{4}$

Pno. *mf* *fff*

Vln. I *mf* *fff*

Vln. II *mf* *fff*

Vla. *mf* *fff*

Vc. *mf* *fff*

Db. *fff*

♩ = 100

X

149

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

C Tpt.

Tbn.

Perc.

Pno.

fff *p*

X

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mp *f*

sul tasto

154 To Piccolo

Fl. *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *ff*

Cl. *mf* *p* *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *ff* *mf* *mp* *pp* *mp* *mf* *ff*

Bsn. *mp* *ff*

Hn. *mf* *ff*

C Tpt. *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *ff*

Tbn. *mp* *ff*

Perc.

Pno. *fff* *p*

Vln. I *fff* *p*

Vln. II *fff* *p*

Vla. *fff* *p*

Vc. *mp*

Db. *mp*

159

PICCOLO

Y flutter-tongue

Picc. *mp* *ff* *fff*

Ob. *ff* *fff*

Cl. *mp* *ff* *fff*

B. Cl. *ff* *fff*

Bsn. *ff* *fff*

Hn. *p* *ff* *ff*

C. Tpt. *p* *ff* *ff*

Tbn. *f* *p* *gliss.* *ff* *ff*

Perc. TOM *ff* BASS DRUM

Pno. *fff* *fff*

Vln. I *fff* *fff pesante*

Vln. II *fff* *fff pesante*

Vla. *fff* *fff pesante*

Vc. *fff* *fff pesante*

Db. *fff* *fff pesante*

162 ord.

Picc. *ff* flutter-tongue *fff* To Flute

Ob. *ff* *fff*

Cl. *ff* 3 flutter-tongue *fff*

B. Cl. *ff* 3 *fff*

Bsn. *ff* *fff*

Hn. *ff* *fff*

C. Tpt. *ff* *fff*

Tbn. *ff* *fff*

Perc.

Pno. *fff* 8va

Vln. I *fff* *fff*

Vln. II *fff* 3 *fff*

Vla. *fff* *fff*

Vc. *fff* *fff*

Db. *fff* *fff*

Z

FLUTE
ord.

167

Fl. *mf* *fff* *f*

Ob. *mf* *fff* *f*

Cl. *mf* *fff* *f*

B. Cl. *mf* *fff*

Bsn. *mf* *fff* *f*

Hn. *mf* *fff*

C. Tpt. *mf* *fff*

Tbn. *mf* *fff*

Perc.

Pno. *mf* *ff*

Z

Vln. I *f* *fff* pizz. *f*

Vln. II *f* *fff* pizz. *f*

Vla. *f* *fff* pizz. *f*

Vc. *f* *fff*

Db. *f* *fff*