

GEORGE BENJAMIN

AT FIRST LIGHT

FOR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

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ORCHESTRA

Flute (doubling Alto Flute and Piccolo)

Oboe

Clarinet in B $\flat$ (doubling Bass Clarinet)

Bassoon (doubling Double-Bassoon)

Horn in F

Trumpet with straight, harmon and plunger mutes
(doubling Piccolo Trumpet with straight, practice and harmon mutes)

Trombone (tenor – bass) with straight, harmon and plunger mutes

Percussion (1 player):

	Ordinary	Chinese Cymbals
4 Suspended Cymbals:	large medium	medium – small very small
2 Triangles:	large small	
2 Crotales:		
1 small Gong (exact pitch):		

Vibraphone (with variable motor)

Guiro

1 small Maraca

Whip

Large Temple-Block

Ping-pong ball with flat-bottomed drinking glass (70-100mm high)

Large newspaper

Very large and resonant Tam-tam

Small, high pitched Side-Drum

Piano/Celesta (1 player)

2 Violins

1 Viola

1 Cello

1 Doublebass (with fifth string tuned to C)

This score is notated in C

The Piccolo, Celesta and Crotales sound an octave higher than written.

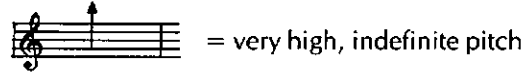
The Double Bassoon and Doublebass (normal notes *and* harmonics) sound an octave lower than written.

Duration: 20 minutes

NOTES ON PERFORMANCE

GENERAL

o = silence



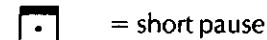
= very high, indefinite pitch

norm. —————> sul pont. = normal, gradually changing to sul pont.

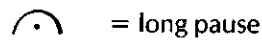
sul pont. —————> norm. = sul pont., gradually changing to normal

norm. —————> molto vib. = normal vibrato, gradually changing to molto vibrato

'Grace' notes – before the beat always



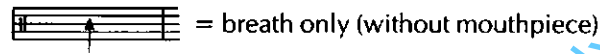
= short pause



= long pause

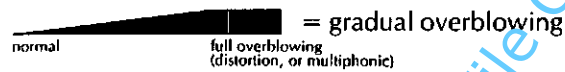
WOODWIND and BRASS

flz. = Flutter-tongue



= breath only (without mouthpiece)

WOODWIND



= gradual overblowing

BRASS

Muting: + = closed o = open

+ → o = gradually open

o → + = gradually closed

This applies to hand stopping (Horn)

and plunger and harmon mutes (Trumpet and Trombone)

(Harmon mutes – played with stem half out always)

PIANO

Sustaining Pedal: Ped *

ON

Gradually removed

OFF

I

**Faster, hushed
and delicate (♩=72)
EXTREMELY
QUIET!**

Molto rall.

VIBRAPHONE
With bow, motor $\frac{1}{2}$ on

pp f

3

A tempo ($\text{♩} = 72$)

Picc. *ppp* *p* *flz. embouchure gliss.* *Take Flute*

Ob. *pp* *ppp* *pppp*

P. Tpt. *Solo* *f noble*

Pno. *3 pp secco* *ff*

Perc. **VIBRAPHONE** *very soft sticks* *pppp* *pppp* **CROTALES** *(metal sticks)* *ff*

Vln.1 *dolce* *3 pp* *5 pp* *sul D* *jeté* *gliss.* *pizz.* *p* *arco, sul A at heel* *pp* *5* *pp* *5* *norm.*

Vln.2 *sul tasto* *pp* *gliss.* *L.H. pizz.* *1/2 col legno* *p* *3* *pp* *7* *ppp* *norm.*

Vla. *pp*

Vlc. *pp*

Db. *8*

3 3 2 3+3 4 4 16

8va *3 pp secco* *ff*

8va *ff*

8

Dark and turbulent
Slow (♩ = 56)

44

44

⦿ These groups of notes faster than tempo, if possible- and sempre sim.

A.F1. *norm.* *flz.* *pp* *ff*
molto vib.
 B.Cl. *mf* *p* *ff* *gliss.* *pp* *pppp*
 Bsn. *4/4* *3/4* *2/4* *4/4* *pp < mf* *pp*
 Hn. *mf* *p* *fff* *gliss.* *pp* *p* *molto* *ff*
 Tpt. *TRUMPET* *gliss.* *ff* *pp* *p* *molto* *ff*
 Tbn. *gliss.* *ff* *pp* *p* *molto* *ff*
 Pno. *8va* *f* *8va* *ff* *8va* *8va*
 Perc. (Cym.) *sfz* *fffz*
 Vln.1 *sul pont.* *fff* *ff* *pizz.* *arco* *sul pont.* *fff* *ff*
 Vln.2 *sul pont.* *fff* *ff* *pizz.* *arco* *sul pont.* *fff* *ff*
 Vla. *sul pont.* *fff* *cresc.* *gliss.* *f* *pizz.* *arco* *sul pont.* *fff* *cresc.* *gliss.* *f*
 Vlc. *sul pont.* *fff* *cresc.* *gliss.* *f* *norm.* *fff* *crushed* *sul pont.* *fff* *cresc.* *gliss.* *f*
 Db. *8* *mf* *p* *fff* *crushed: extreme bow pressure* *pp < f*

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◆ Vlns, Vla, Vlc: "scratching" noise on sul pont. *fff* (sempre sim.)

A

molto
rall.-----

Much faster

(♩ = 92)

B.CI. *pppp* *pppp* *molto* *gliss.* *norm.* *molto vib.* *fff* *pp*

Hn. *f* *molto* *gliss.* *fff* *pp*

Tbn. *pp* *molto* *gliss.* *fff* *pp*

Pno. *mf* *secco* *8va...*

Perc. (Cym.) *mf* *secco*

Vln.1 *norm.* *p dolce* *gliss.* *sul pont. (as before)* *fff*

Vln.2 *norm.* *p dolce* *gliss.* *sul pont. (as before)* *fff*

Vla. *norm.* *p dolce* *gliss.* *sul pont. (as before)* *fff*

Vlc. *norm.* *p* *gliss.* *sul pont. (as before)* *fff* *gliss. cresc.*

Db. *pppp* *pppp* *molto* *ff* *crushed* *pp non legato*

3/4 4/4 3/4

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rall. ----- A tempo

sempre molto vib.

3/4 4/4 3/4

B.Cl. *(pp)* *pp* *gliss.* *molto* *fff* *molto* *pp*

Hn. *(pp)* *fff* *molto* *pp*

Tbn. *(pp)* *pp* *gliss.* *molto* *fff* *molto* *pp*

Pno. *8va* *sfs* *8va* *mf* *8va* *mp* (before beat) *sempre sin.* *8va*

Perc. (Cym.) *sfs* *mp* *mf*

Vln.1 *ff* *sempre sul pont.* *fff*

Vln.2 *ff* *sempre sul pont.* *fff*

Vla. *cresc.* *(gliss.)* *mf* *sempre sul pont.* *fff* *cresc.* *f*

Vlc. *mf* *sempre sul pont.* *fff* *cresc.* *f*

Db. *5* *8* *(pp)* *pp* *molto* *fff* *molto* *pp* *(pesante)* *3*

rall. A tempo rall.

B.Cl. *gliss. pp molto fff p* *mf gliss.*

Bsn. *fff p*

Hn. *fff p*

Tbn. *gliss. pp molto fff p* *mf gliss.*

Pno. *8va sfz mf* *8va mf cresc.* *sub.sffz*

Perc. (Cym.) *sfz mf* *mf* *mf* *sub.sffz sub.*

Vln.1 *ff* *fff p molto ff*

Vln.2 *ff* *fff p molto ff*

Vla. *fff p cresc. sfz*

Vlc. *fff p cresc. sfz*

Db. *pp molto fff mf* *(pesante) 3* *molto*

3/4 2/4 5/8

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A tempo | **molto accel.**

Take Bb Clarinet

B.Clar. *fff* *p* *fff* *mf*

Bsn. *p* *gliss.* *fff* *p* *mf* *fff*

Hn. *p* *gliss.* *fff* *p* *mf* *gliss.* *ff* *3*

Tpt. *ff* *3*

Tbn. *ff* *p* *gliss.* *ff* *mf* *ff* *3*

Pno. *8va sub. p (secco sempre)* *8va mf* *8va f* *8va ff* *8va cresc. poco a poco* *8va*

Perc. (Cym.) *molto secco* *poco a poco* *sub. p (but clear)* *mp* *mf* *f* *sub. p* *sub. p*

Vln.1 *fff* *p* *molto* *ff* *fff* *p* *molto* *ff* *fff* *p* *molto* *ff* *heel* *fff* *3*

Vln.2 *fff* *p* *molto* *ff* *fff* *p* *molto* *ff* *fff* *p* *molto* *ff* *heel* *fff* *3*

Vla. *fff* *p* *poss.* *fff* *p* *poss.* *fff* *p* *poss.* *fff* *p* *poss.* *heel* *fff* *secco* *fff* *fff*

Vlc. *fff* *p* *poss.* *fff* *p* *poss.* *fff* *p* *poss.* *fff* *p* *poss.* *heel* *fff* *secco* *fff* *fff*

Db. *fff* *rough* *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff* *heel* *fff* *3*

B

molto rall. ($\text{♩} = c. 120$) → **Swift and luminous** ($\text{♩} = 84$)
flz.(breathy)

A.Fl.
Ob.
Hn.
Tpt.
Tbn.
Pno.
Perc.
Vln.1
Vln.2
Via.
Vlc.
Db.

rubato (dramatic)
Solo
ff
f
mf
p
sfz
mf
pp
vibrato
mf

3/4 2/4

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Score for measures 18-21, featuring woodwinds, brass, strings, and piano.

Woodwinds:

- A.Fl.** (Alto Flute): *ppp* (measures 18-19), *pp* (measure 20), *flz.* (measure 21).
- Ob.** (Oboe): *gliss.* (measures 18-19), *Solo* (measure 19), *gliss.* (measure 20), *(rapido)* (measure 20), *pp* (measure 20), *molto* (measure 20), *f* (measure 21), *mf* (measure 21).
- Cl.** (Clarinet): *pp* (measure 21).
- Bsn.** (Bassoon): *pp* (measure 21).

Brass:

- Tpt.** (Trumpet): *Straight mute* (measure 21), *pp* (measure 21).

Strings:

- Vln.1** (Violin I): *pp* (measures 18-19), *(at the point)* (measures 18-19), *pizz.* (measure 20), *p* (measure 20), *3* (measure 20), *f* (measure 21).
- Vln.2** (Violin II): *pp* (measures 18-19), *(at the point)* (measures 18-19), *pizz.* (measure 20), *p* (measure 20), *3* (measure 20), *f* (measure 21).
- Vla.** (Viola): *pp* (measures 18-19), *f* (measure 21).
- Vlc.** (Violoncello): *pizz. ½ sul pont.* (measures 18-19), *p poco secco* (measures 18-19), *5* (measures 19-20), *5* (measures 20-21), *f* (measure 21).
- Db.** (Double Bass): *(pizz.)* (measures 18-19), *mp* (measure 18), *p* (measure 19), *5* (measures 19-20), *arco* (measure 20), *pp* (measure 20), *mf* (measure 21).

Piano (Pno.): *2/4* (measures 18-19), *4/4* (measures 20-21).

Time Signatures: *2/4* (measures 18-19), *4/4* (measures 20-21).

Tempo/Character: *molto* (measure 20), *(rapido)* (measure 20).

Performance Notes: *gliss.* (measures 18-19), *Solo* (measure 19), *(at the point)* (measures 18-19), *pizz.* (measures 20-21), *arco* (measure 20), *5* (measures 19-20).

(breathy) *sim.*

A.Fl. *ff* *ppp* *pp* *ff* *pp* *p*

Ob. *ff* *p* *mf* *pp* *p* *ff* *mf*

Cl. *f* *pp* *f* *p*

Bsn. *f* *pp* *f* *p*

4 3 3
4 4 8

Tpt. *f non troppo* *pp* *f* *p*

Pno. *f* *ff* *mf* *p* *ff* *mf* *8va*

4 3 3
4 4 8

Vln.1 *arco* *f* *pp* *(sim.)* *pizz.* *f* *p* *mf* *ff* *5*

Vln.2 *arco* *f* *pp* *(sim.)* *p* *f* *f* *mf* *ff* *3*

Vla. *f* *p* *pp* *f* *p* *ff*

Vlc. *norm. arco* *f* *p* *pizz.* *1/2 sul pont.* *f* *mf* *ff*

Db. *pizz.* *f* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *f* *mf* *pp* *mf* *arco*

8

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rall.

Db.

8va -

arco

arco

 $\sigma =$ $\mathcal{D} =$ $\theta =$ 

A tempo

Take Flute

Score for A tempo section, measures 1 through 4. The score includes parts for A. Fl., Ob., Cl., Bsn., Hn., Tpt., Tbn., Pno., Perc., Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., and Db.

Measures 1-4 Time Signature Changes:

- Measure 1: 4/4
- Measure 2: 3/4
- Measure 3: 2/4
- Measure 4: 2/4

Instrument Parts and Dynamics:

- A. Fl.:** *ff* (measures 1-2), *pp* (measure 3), *ff* (measure 4). Includes a triplet in measure 1 and a 5-measure rest in measure 2.
- Ob.:** *ff* (measures 1-2), *mf* (measure 3), *pp* (measure 4). Includes a triplet in measure 1 and a 5-measure rest in measure 2.
- Cl.:** *ff* (measures 1-2), *mp* (measure 3), *molto* (measure 4).
- Bsn.:** *ff* (measures 1-2), *mp* (measure 3), *molto* (measure 4).
- Hn.:** (Straight mute) in measures 2 and 4.
- Tpt.:** *ff* (measures 1-2), *mp* (measure 3), *molto* (measure 4).
- Tbn.:** *ff* (measures 1-2), *mp* (measure 3), *molto* (measure 4).
- Pno.:** *ff* (measures 1-2), *mf* (measure 3), *p* (measure 4).
- Perc.:** (Cym.) in measures 2 and 4.
- Vln. 1:** *f* (measures 1-2), *pp* (measure 3), *mf* (measure 4). Includes a triplet in measure 1 and a 5-measure rest in measure 2.
- Vln. 2:** *f* (measures 1-2), *pp* (measure 3), *mf* (measure 4). Includes a triplet in measure 1 and a 5-measure rest in measure 2.
- Vla.:** *f* (measures 1-2), *pp* (measure 3), *mf* (measure 4). Includes a triplet in measure 1 and a 5-measure rest in measure 2.
- Vlc.:** *f* (measures 1-2), *p* (measure 3), *mf* (measure 4). Includes a triplet in measure 1 and a 5-measure rest in measure 2.
- Db.:** *f* (measures 1-2), *pp* (measure 3), *mf* (measure 4). Includes a triplet in measure 1 and a 5-measure rest in measure 2.

Other markings: *espressivo* (Ob.), *molto* (Cl., Bsn., Tbn.), *8va* (Pno.), *pizz.* (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., Db.), *arco* (Vln. 1, Vln. 2, Vla., Vlc., Db.), *1/2 sul pont.* (Vlc.), *arco v* (Db.).

breathy →

FLUTE

Slightly slower (♩ = 76)

breathy → normal flz.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Pno.

Vln.1

Vln.2

Vla.

Vlc.

Db.

8

4/4

2/4

3/4

ppp

poco cresc.

pp

p

mp

pp cresc.

f

molto cresc.

dolce

gliss.

5

poco

p

pp

p

mf

5

p

f

molto

p

mf

molto

mp

poco a poco

open

pp

open

p

poco a poco

8va

pp

p

mf

ff

8va

ff

vib.

pp dolce

pp

mf

molto

vib.

pp dolce

pp

mf

molto

pp

p

mp

mf cresc.

molto

sul A & D

pizz.

3

mp cresc.

mf

f

ff

pizz.

ppp (poco cresc.)

pp

p

mp

f

ff

(pizz.)

glorioso

Fl. *ff* *mf* molto *ff* secco

Ob. *mf* *mf* sempre (ma dolce)

Cl. *ff* *mf* molto *ff* secco

Bsn. *(f)* *ff* sonore

Hn. *(mf)* *f* sonore

Tpt. *f* *ff* *p* molto *f* secco

Tbn. *(mf)* *f* sonore

Pno. *8va* *ff* *ff* *f* sub. *mf* dim.

Vln.1 *fff* wide vibrato *(f)* *(d)* *gliss.* *norm.* *gliss.* *sul pont.*

Vln.2 *fff* wide vibrato *(f)* *(d)* *gliss.* *norm.* *gliss.* *sul pont.*

Vla. *fff* wide vibrato *(f)* *(d)* *gliss.* *norm.* *gliss.* *sul pont.*

Vlc. *fff* *arco* *gliss.* *sul pont.*

Db. *arco* *p* *ff* vib.

2
4

2
4

(The Tempo must be very flexible, and must "breathe" with the crescendos and harmonic movement)

FLUTE

[illegible]

⊕ but always flexible

(accel.) ————— *molto rall.* ————— *accel.* →

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp (dolce)* *f* *f* *pp*

Ob. *pppp* *mf* *mf* *pp (dolce)* *f* (9)

Cl. *mp* *pppp* *mf* *mf* *pp* *f* *f* *pp* *gliss.*

Bsn. *mp* *pppp* *mf* *mf* *pp* *f* *f* *pp*

Hr. *p* *ppp* *pppp* *mf* *mf* *poco* *p* *f* *gliss.*

Tpt. *p* *ppp* *pppp* *mf* *mf* *poco* *p* *f* *gliss.*

Tbn. *p* *ppp* *pppp* *mf* *mf* *ppp poco* *pp* *p* *f* *gliss.*

3+4 4 4+3 4 3 4 4

vib. → n.v. vib.(sempre) vib.(sempre) vib.(sempre) vib.(sempre) vib. norm. → sul tasto

Vln.1 *mp* *pp* *mf* *poco* *p* *p* *mf* *f* *più* *ff*

Vln.2 *ppp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *poco* *p* *p* *mf* *f* *più* *ff*

Vla. *mp* *pp* *mf* *poco* *p* *poco* *mf* *f* *più* *ff*

Vlc. *ppp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *poco* *p* *poco* *mf* *f* *più* *ff*

Db. *ppp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *poco* *p* *poco* *mf* *f* *più* *ff* *molto*

8

molto
(accel.) - - - accel. - - - Fast (♩=84)

B

Fl. *gliss.* *pp* *mf* *molto ff* *dolce ff* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *pp*

Ob. *più f* *molto fff* *dolce ff* *ff* *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

Cl. *gliss.* *mf* *molto ff non troppo* *dolce ff* *ff* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *ppp*

Bsn. *gliss.* *pp* *mf* *molto ff* *dolce ff* *ff* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *pp*

Hn. *(+) gliss.* *pp* *poco p* *mf* *f*

Tpt. *gliss.* *pp* *poco p* *mf* *f* Take Piccolo Trumpet

Tbn. *gliss.* *ppp* *poco cresc.* *p* *più ff*

Cel. 8 CELESTA 8 *ff* *f*

Perc. **VIBRAPHONE**
(Motor off, bowed) *ff* *dim.* *...*

ALL STRINGS
lots of bow, vibrato

Vln.1 *ff sempre* *norm.* *sul pont. n.v.* *ff* *fff* *sonore* *(fff)* *f* *p cresc.* *mf*

Vln.2 *ff* *poco* *mf* *gliss.* *fff* *sonore* *(fff)* *f* *p cresc.* *mf*

Vla. *ff* *poco* *mf* *gliss.* *fff* *sonore* *(fff)* *f* *p cresc.* *mf*

Vlc. *ff* *norm.* *sul pont. n.v.* *gliss.* *fff* *sonore* *(fff)* *f* *p cresc.* *mf*

Db. *gliss.* *p* *pp* Tune E string up to F

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

rall. - - - - -

molto rall. -

Fl. *f* *p* *mf* *p* *ppp*

Ob. *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *f* *p* *mf* *ppp*

Bsn. *f* *p* *mf* Take Double Bassoon

Cel. *f* *mf*

(Vibra.) (bowed)

Perc. *f* *mf*

Vln.1 *ff* *p* *cresc. molto* *pp* *dolcissimo* *poco* *mp*

Vln.2 *ff* *p* *cresc. molto* *pp* *dolcissimo* *poco* *mp*

Vla. *ff* *p* *cresc. molto* *pp* *dolcissimo* *poco* *mp*

Vlc. *ff* *p* *cresc. molto* *pp* *dolcissimo* *poco* *mp*

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

⌘ An especially large rallentando on the last 2 beats of this bar

Slow and mysterious

(♩ = 76) (♩ = 50)

Take Alto Flute

Fl. *n.v.* *pppp* *poch.* *ppp* *Take Alto Flute*

Ob.

Cl. *n.v.* *pppp* *poch.* *ppp* *norm.*

P. Tpt. *2/4* *3/4* *4/4* *2/4* *4/4* *2/4*
PICCOLO TRUMPET *Harmon mute* *Solo* *espressivo, legato* *7 in 2* *mf*

Cel. *8* *To Piano* *pp*

Perc. *Vibra.* *(bowed)* *p* *(l.v.)* *bowed* *very soft stick* *mf*

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

Vln.1 *norm.* *p* *pp morendo* *5* *7 in 2* *pppp* *sul tasto*

Vln.2 *norm.* *p* *pp morendo* *3* *3* *pppp* *sul tasto*

Vla. *norm.* *p* *pp morendo* *3* *5* *pppp* *sul tasto*

Vlc. *norm.* *p* *pp morendo* *3* *3* *pppp* *sul tasto*

Majestic

VERY LONG (Faster; $\text{♩} = 66$)

Ob. Solo *ff* *ma dolcissimo* *mf* *mf*

P. Tpt. *p* *dolce* *pp*

Perc. (Vibra.) (bowed) (i.v.) *mf* *pppp* *poco* **CYMBALS** (soft sticks)

Vln.1 *norm.* *mf* *dim.* *p* *dim.* *pp* *dim.* *pppp* *poco cresc.* *3*

Vln.2 *sul pont.* *mf* *dim.* *pp* *dim.* *pppp* *poco cresc.* *5*

Vla. *sul tasto* *mf* *dim.* *pp* *dim.* *pppp* *poco cresc.* *3*

Vlc. *norm.* *f* *gliss.* *mf* *dim.* *pp* *dim.* *pp* *pppp* *mp* *gliss.*

Db. *pizz.* *mf*

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

8