

Four Forms (Horizon)

for Flute, Clarinet, Vibraphone,
Cello & Live Electronics

Alex Groves

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for Flute, Clarinet in Bb, Vibraphone,
Cello & Live Electronics

Instrumentation

Flute
Clarinet in Bb

Vibraphone

Violoncello

Live Electronics

Duration

15'

Notes

Four Forms (Horizon) is a sonic sculpture garden of interwoven lines and ever-changing vistas. Each performer acts as an independent entity - their music always slightly apart from one another, although sharing similar DNA.

Throughout the piece, these distinct elements are viewed in a number of ways as if the sight lines are constantly shifting and your focus is being drawn from one to the other. The material builds from the start, layering sounds in the electronics until the piece seems to breakdown under its own weight. As the piece comes apart, the electronics take centre stage creating an intricate, fractured sound world that slowly dissipates.

The live electronics part is controlled using a pre-prepared Ableton Live file which is available from the composer at music@alexgroves.co.uk. All performers will need to be mic'd and amplified to balance with the electronics. Performers will need to be synced with the file using the click track.

Four Forms (Horizon) was written as part of the LSO Soundhub scheme with mentoring from Toby Young and production support from Joyce Lam. It was premièred by Pasha Mansurov, Heather Roche, Colin Alexander and Angela Wai-Nok Hui as part of an LSO Soundhub Showcase at LSO St Luke's on Wednesday 15th June, 2022.

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Like a huge wave in slow motion, seeming to build forever
before gradually dissipating in a wash of noise (♩ = 60)

Flute

Clarinet in B \flat

Vibraphone

Violoncello

Electronics

air sound, blow directly into flute

pp mp

air sound, no pitch

soft mallets (Balter Red or sim.)
motor off

ppp p ppp

Red.

circular bowing with just the tip of the bow,
gradually speed up and slow down with dynamics

molto sul tasto

Click

click continues

7

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vc.

pp

pp mp

mp

ppp p ppp

Red.

ped. sim.

sim.

molto sul tasto nat. molto sul tasto.

ppp p ppp

13

Fl. *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Vib. *p* *ppp* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

hint of tone

move from just the tip of the bow to the whole bow and back with dynamics

molto sul tasto. ----- nat.

18

Fl. *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Vib. *p* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

breathy tone

circular bowing with whole bow, transitioning into tremolo and back

trem.

23

Fl. *pp < mp* *pp* *pp* *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Vib. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *pp*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

trem.

28 **A**

Fl. *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Vib. *mf* *pp* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pp*

III IV

33

Fl. *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Vib. *mf* *pp* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pp*

cross string trem. gliss. both notes simultaneously

38

Fl. *pp* *mp*

Vib. *mf* *pp* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pp*

cross string trem.

97

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vc.

f

sfz

p

f

f

101

D

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vc.

ff

f

sfz

f

change to hard mallets (Balter Green or sim.)

p

ff

p

p

105

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vc.

sfz

f

sfz

p

p

ff

ff

p

mf

109

Fl. Cl. Vib. Vc.

f *sfp* *p* *ff*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 109 to 111. The Flute (Fl.) part has rests in measures 109 and 110, with a short melodic phrase in measure 111. The Clarinet (Cl.) part features a long, sustained note in measure 109, followed by a melodic line in measure 110, and a final note in measure 111. The Vibraphone (Vib.) part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in measure 109, which continues into measure 110. The Violoncello (Vc.) part has a melodic line in measure 109 and a sustained note in measure 110. Dynamics include *f* for the Clarinet in measure 110, *sfp* for the Clarinet in measure 111, *p* for the Vibraphone in measure 109, and *ff* for the Violoncello in measure 111.

112

Fl. Cl. Vib. Vc.

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

Detailed description: This system covers measures 112 to 113. The Flute (Fl.) part has rests in measures 112 and 113, with a melodic phrase in measure 113. The Clarinet (Cl.) part has a sustained note in measure 112 and a melodic line in measure 113. The Vibraphone (Vib.) part plays a rhythmic pattern in measure 112, which continues into measure 113. The Violoncello (Vc.) part has a sustained note in measure 112 and a melodic line in measure 113. Dynamics include *fff* for the Flute in measure 113, *ff* for the Clarinet in measure 113, *p* for the Vibraphone in measure 112, *ff* for the Vibraphone in measure 113, *p* for the Violoncello in measure 112, and *f* for the Violoncello in measure 113. An *8va* marking is present above the Flute part in measure 113.

114

Fl. Cl. Vib. Vc.

ff *sfp* *fff* *p* *fff*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 114 to 115. The Flute (Fl.) part has rests in measures 114 and 115, with a melodic phrase in measure 115. The Clarinet (Cl.) part has a melodic line in measure 114 and a melodic line in measure 115. The Vibraphone (Vib.) part plays a rhythmic pattern in measure 114, which continues into measure 115. The Violoncello (Vc.) part has a melodic line in measure 114 and a melodic line in measure 115. Dynamics include *ff* for the Flute in measure 115, *sfp* for the Clarinet in measure 114, *fff* for the Clarinet in measure 115, *p* for the Vibraphone in measure 114, and *fff* for the Violoncello in measure 115.

193

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Vib. *pp* *mf*

Vc. cross string trem. *pp* *mp* 3

Detailed description: This system covers measures 193 to 197. The Flute part has notes in measures 193, 194, 196, and 197, with dynamics *pp*, *mp*, and *pp* respectively. The Clarinet part has notes in measures 193, 194, 196, and 197, with dynamics *mp* and *mp*. The Violin part has notes in measures 193, 194, 196, and 197, with dynamics *pp* and *mf*. The Viola part has notes in measures 193, 194, 196, and 197, with dynamics *pp* and *mp*, including a triplet of eighth notes in measure 196. A 'cross string trem.' marking is present in measures 193 and 194.

198

Fl. *mp* *pp* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Vib. *pp*

Vc. cross string trem. *pp* *mp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 198 to 202. The Flute part has notes in measures 198, 199, 201, and 202, with dynamics *mp*, *pp*, and *mp*. The Clarinet part has notes in measures 198, 199, 201, and 202, with dynamics *mp* and *mp*. The Violin part has notes in measures 198, 199, 201, and 202, with dynamics *pp*. The Viola part has notes in measures 198, 199, 201, and 202, with dynamics *pp* and *mp*, including a 'cross string trem.' marking in measures 198 and 199.

203 **H**

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Vib. *mp*

Vc. trem. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 203 to 207. The Flute part has notes in measures 203, 204, 206, and 207, with dynamics *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, and *mp*. The Clarinet part has notes in measures 203, 204, 206, and 207, with dynamics *mp*. The Violin part has notes in measures 203, 204, 206, and 207, with dynamics *mp*. The Viola part has notes in measures 203, 204, 206, and 207, with dynamics *ppp*, *p*, and *ppp*, including a 'trem.' marking in measures 203 and 204.

208

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Vib.

Vc. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

circular bowing, transitioning into tremolo and back

trem.

213

Fl. *mp* *pp* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Vib. *p*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

move from the whole bow to just the tip and back with dynamics, speed up and slow down a little as you go

nat. *molto sul tasto*

218

Fl. *pp* *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Vib.

Vc. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

circular bowing with just the tip of the bow

molto sul tasto *nat.* *molto sul tasto*

223

Fl.

Cl.

Vib.

Vc.

mp

pp

ppp *p* *ppp*

sim.
molto sul tasto