

xia leon sloane

and the leaves grow still

Not for performance

Not for performance
Sample

Text

my shyness rears, bolts, drenched
by the dazzle of a world wrung raw;

shyness surging through fissures in my flesh where she has grown green
like lichen. surfacing, her tendrils cluster,
heaving crystals of air by the handful to a bright churn,
as if to sift space

in the jaws of storms for hatching
buried desert flowers bursting

when the haze clears
into all that sudden light.

* * *

pelted with sky, the branches chime,
surfacing blotched and dazzled
to hear the low-hung twilight being gnawed
as darkness shakes its mane
over the ringing air.

windowpanes flush and murmur
against the inky gallop of rain,
and I think of the boy with his small accordion
busking barefoot as the sky unravels,
and I think of the whirling world
whose distance lies tethered
to these thin glass jaws.

I lean on the hinge and the glass jaws
widen, letting me leap
into the throat of the storm
to land and kneel
among the chiming trees.

and as the storm's heart stops tolling
and the leaves grow still,

only fleeting blossoms
of their clamour surge
from the cauldron of silence.

Performance Notes

This piece must be performed by an ensemble of at least 26 members (including one obbligato percussionist). The ensemble should be laid out as 2 concentric circles with the conductor and the percussionist in the centre (see **Layout Diagram**). Ideally, the audience would be positioned in a circle around the ensemble.

The outer circle should consist of instruments from the same family (ideally strings) and will be playing the four pitched parts. There should be at least 9 players in this group to accommodate the divisi in the parts.

The inner circle will be reciting the text as instructed in the score, as well as shaking small bells (eg. sleigh bells), and will consist of at least 16 players.

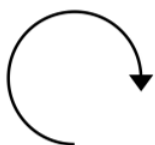
The text comprises two sections. Each of these has been divided into a number of fragments, listed below (see **Fragments**).

In advance of the performance, all members of the inner circle of players are given one fragment from each section. The same fragment can be assigned to more than one performer, though every fragment must be assigned at least once.

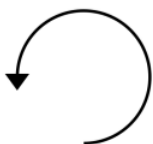
In addition to reading the fragment in its entirety at least once, performers may also choose a word or words from within their fragment to read repeatedly during the spoken sections of the piece.

At the moments where the fragments are recited, they can either be read from the page or from memory.

The following symbols indicate how the conductor should cue:



The conductor should cue clockwise around the inner circle

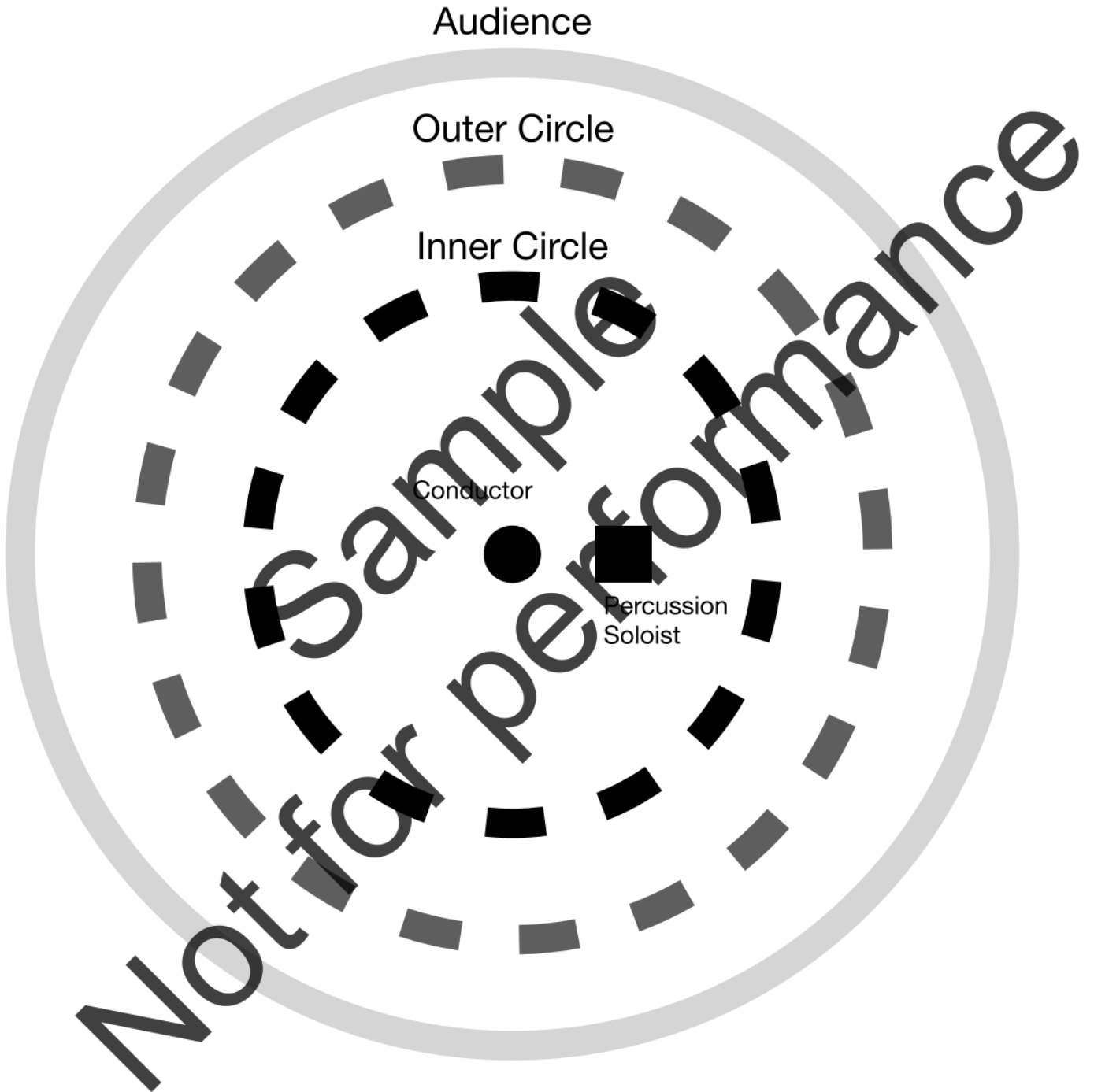


The conductor should cue anticlockwise around the inner circle



The conductor should cue simultaneously clockwise and anticlockwise

Layout Diagram



Fragments

The fragments from which performers may choose are as follows:

Section 1:

1. my shyness rears, bolts, drenched
2. by the dazzle of a world wrung raw;
3. shyness surging through fissures in my flesh
4. where she has grown green
like lichen.
5. Surfacing, her tendrils cluster,
6. heaving crystals of air by the handful to a bright churn
7. as if to sift space
in the jaws of storms
8. for hatching
buried desert flowers bursting
9. when the haze clears
10. into all that sudden light.

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Section 2:

1. pelted with sky the branches chime,
2. surfacing blotched and dazzled
3. to hear the low-hung twilight being gnawed
4. as darkness shakes its mane
over the ringing air.
5. windowpanes flush and murmur
6. against the inky gallop of rain,
7. and I think of the boy with his small accordion
8. busking barefoot as the sky unravels
9. and I think of the whirling world
whose distance lies tethered
10. to these thin glass jaws.
11. I lean on the hinge and the glass jaws
widen,
12. letting me leap
into the throat of the storm
13. to land and kneel
among the chiming trees.
14. and as the storm's heart stops tolling
and the leaves grow still,
15. only fleeting blossoms
of their clamour surge
16. from the cauldron of silence.

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♩ = 60

1

2

3

4

Voices

Enter on conductor's cue

Recite fragments from section 1
(and any words selected from
within them) in a low whisper

Sleigh Bells

bass drum or another low, unpitched percussion instrument
smooth resonant sound, like an approaching wave
soft sticks

Obligato Percussionist

ppp ————— *mp* ————— *pp*

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1 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

2 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

3 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

4 *ppp* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

V. *mp* *ppp*

S.B.

Perc.

7

7/4

5/4

div.

All voices have now entered.
Change from whisper to murmur
on conductor's cue.

All voices are now
murmuring

Change back
to a whisper on
conductor's cue

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12

1 *pp* *ppp*

2 *pp* *ppp*

3 *pp* *ppp*

4 *pp* *ppp*

V. All voices are now whispering

S.B.

Perc. *f* *pp*

Enter on conductor's cue
(The conductor will only cue approximately 1 fifth of the circle)

Recite fragments from section 2
(and any words selected from within them) in a low whisper

1/5

3/4 5/4 7/4

17

1 *senza vib.*
pp

2 *senza vib.*
div.
pp

3 *senza vib.*
div.
pp

4 *senza vib.*
div.
pp

V.
The conductor restarts the cue from the original position.
All who were whispering stop until cued again.
Recite fragments from section 2 and any words selected from ... (within them) in a low whisper

S.B.
Shake to produce a continuous, silvery haze.
All voices are now whispering
All bells are now shaking

Perc.
fff

21

1

2

3

4

V.

S.B.

Perc.

ppp

Stop when cued

All change to murmuring (at the same time)

Not for performance

Sample

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for five instruments. The instruments are numbered 1 through 4, and labeled V., S.B., and Perc. at the bottom. The score is in 4/4 time. Instrument 1 (Flute) has a melodic line with a slur over measures 21-22. Instrument 2 (Clarinet) has a melodic line with a slur over measures 21-22. Instrument 3 (Saxophone) has a melodic line with a slur over measures 21-22. Instrument 4 (Bassoon) has a melodic line with a slur over measures 21-22. Instrument V. (Violin) has a tremolo pattern. Instrument S.B. (Soprano Saxophone) has a tremolo pattern with a 'Stop when cued' instruction and a curved arrow pointing to the start of the tremolo. Instrument Perc. (Percussion) has a series of six eighth notes with a slur over them, starting with a dynamic marking of *ppp*. A large watermark 'Not for performance' is written diagonally across the page, and a smaller 'Sample' watermark is also present.

23

1

2

3

4

V.

S.B.

Perc.

Change back to a whisper on conductor's cue

All bells have now stopped

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25

1

2

3

4

V.

S.B.

Perc.

All voices are now whispering

Clockwise cue continues, anticlockwise cue returns to 12:00 and starts again. All who entered with anticlockwise cue must stop until cued again.

Start shaking when cued

The musical score consists of five staves. Staves 1-4 are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) with notes and rests. Staff 5 is a vocal line with a wavy line indicating a cue. Staff 6 is a Sub Bass line with rests. Staff 7 is a Percussion line with rhythmic notation. A large watermark 'Not for performance' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

28

1

2

3

4

Perc.

S.B.

Perc.

All bells are now shaking

Stop shaking

p

The musical score consists of several staves. Staves 1-4 are for strings, Perc. is for percussion, and S.B. is for sub-bass. The S.B. staff has a wavy line representing a tremolo effect, with the instruction 'All bells are now shaking' above it. The Perc. staff has a melodic line with a dynamic marking 'p' at the end. A large watermark 'Not for performance' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

32

1

2

3

4

Perc.

S.B.

Perc.

p *p* *p* *p*

The musical score consists of seven staves. Staves 1-4 are for strings (Violin 1, Violin 2, Violin 3, and Bass). Staves 5 and 6 are for Percussion and Sub-Bass. The time signature changes from 3/4 to 5/4, then 7/4, and back to 3/4 and 4/4. The Percussion staff has a melodic line with dynamics markings 'p'.

38

1

2

3

4

Perc.

S.B.

Perc.

p

p