

Sextet

Written for Ensemble Musik Fabrik

Flute (dbl. piccolo)

Horn (F)

Tuba

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Duration c. 5'

A. Keegan-Bole

20.02.14

Programme Note:

This piece was written for Ensemble MusikFabrik as part of their commitment to Bristol New Music Festival 2014. Asked explicitly to write for an unusual ensemble and to exploit the incredible range of sounds the players of this ensemble can produce, this was a challenging and incredibly rewarding writing process, my thanks goes to Musik Fabrik whose patience and insight in the workshop environment changed this score dramatically.

The music relies on juxtaposed thematic gestures, which are constantly in a state of flux. The soundworld is constantly shifting focus; either from idiomatic instrumental sounds to unusual sounds born of extended techniques, or from a leading solo instrument that has its idiomatic sound manipulated by minor interventions of the other instruments or other evolving genuinely 'tutti' gestures. Paced over three sections (fast – slow – fast) the piece unfolds as a kind of breakdown and putting back together of the ensemble. Ensemble textures dominate at first – exploiting the unusual soundworld offered by both the instrumentation itself and an ensemble so adept at extending their instrumental sound. In the slower section more delicate gestures produced by fragments of the ensemble take over. The flute has a prominent role, playing lyrical lines that gently dissolve into the ensemble. Finally, through some steadily resolving tutti chords and textural interplay, the ensemble coalesces and quite violently forces a unification to middle C.

AKB

Sextet

A. Keegan-Bole

♩=84

Piccolo

Horn in F

Tuba

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

pp *mp* *f* *p* *p* *f* *f* *p* *mp* *mf*

Tongue Ram (sim. throughout)

III

scratch tone → nat.

ff *pp* *pp*

5

Picc.

Hn.

Tba.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f *mf* *pp* *mp* *p*

f *f > pp* *mp*

f *p* *mf* *f* *pp* *mp*

f *mp* *p* *f (pos)* *p*

nat. (very wide & fast) molto vib nat.

gliss. gliss. gliss.

mp

9

Picc. *mf* *mp* *p* *f* (*pos*) *p* *< mf* *< f*

Hn. *mp* *pp* *mp* *f* *mf* *express.*

Tba. *mp* *f* *p* *p* *mp* *mf* *ff*

Vln. *f p* *mp* *pizz* *p* *arco* *mp* *ff*

Vla. *mp* *f* *p*

Vc. *mf* *ff* *mp* *f* *pp*

flz. *pizz* *Flute* *gliss.* *breath sound*

(very fast & wide) *molto vib.* *nat* *molto vib. sul pont.* *ric...*

trill (s.t.) & gliss through the upper partials of the fingered pitches (hollow notes in brackets) vary which pitch is fingered, move through harmonics **slowly**, free time within the duration indicated, avoid consistent rhythm

13

Fl. *mf* *mp* *p*

Hn. *ff* *pp* *ff p* *p (pos)*

Vln. *> p* *nat.* *mp* *pp*

Vla. *pizz* *arco* *gliss.* *pizz* *arco*

Vc. *ff* *f* *fff* *p* *mf* *pp*

ad lib. *etc.*

16

Fl.

Hn.

Tba.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

p

mf

p *mf* *p*

ppp

ppp

f *pp* arco
pizz

f *f* *f*

f *p*

pizz

f

pp

ff

18

Fl.

Hn.

Tba.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f (*pos*)

mp

gliss.

mf

f

arco

pizz

mp

mp

mf

gliss.

gliss.

mp

ff

p

flutter tongue air sounds for bright sound blow across mouthpiece (not through instrument)
change vowel shape to follow pitch contour (O - E - O)

rapidly trill valves & blow (no definite pitch)
breath noise follows pitch contour (vowel O - E - O)

key clicks, ad lib pitches (follow contour)
use most effective fingerings

slow → fast flz. —

20

Fl. pizz *f* (pos) *p* soft

Hn. flz. *pp*

Tba. valve noise *p* *pp*

Vln. col legno battuto (with some hair) move striking position of bow toward and away from bridge to follow pitch curve *p* 5 II nat. bowing: alternate I & II

Vla. col legno battuto (with some hair); move striking position of bow toward and away from bridge to follow pitch curve *p* nat. II

Vc. pizz *p* arco *pp*

♩=42 half tempo

22

Fl. nat. breath tone *mp* breath tone nat. *mp* lip down slightly gliss. nat. breath only

Hn.

Tba.

Vln. *p* pizz *ppp*

Vla. gliss. *pp* pizz *pp*

Vc. finger the pitches 3:2 3:2 *f* to match vla./vln.

(flute is prominent voice until bar 33)

25

Fl. *p* 7:8 *mf* *mf* *express.* *mp* solo

Hn. con sord. *pp* *pp* *mp* flutter air sound as before

Tba. valve noise *p* *pp*

Vln. I II finger the pitches *f* to match brass

Vla. sul pont. arpeggiation very fast → very slow *pp* *mp*

Vc. pizz *pp* finger the pitches *f* *pp* sul pont. to match ensemble

27

Fl. *p* *f* *mf* *mp*

Hn. *pp*

Tba. valves & breath (as before) *p* *pp*

Vln. arco *f p* *pp*

Vla. finger the pitches *pp* *mf* gliss. gliss.

Vc. finger the pitches pizz *p* arco II sul pont. gliss. *poco*

30

Fl. *p mp mf flz.*

Hn. senza sord.

Tba.

Vln. *p pp nat*

Vla. *p gliss. f mp*

Vc. *p mp*

33

Fl. *p f (pos) p f nat.*

Hn. *mp mf pp mf*

Tba. *mf mp*

Vln. *f pp molto vib pizz molto vib arco*

Vla. *mp f mf*

Vc. *f mp p*

37 pizz flz. lip down slightly

Fl. *f* *p* *mf* *gliss*

Hn. *p* *pp*

Tba. *f* *p* *mf* dirty tone *pp*

Vln. *p* *p* *p* *mp*

Vla. pizz IV III II I arco *pp* *p* *mp*

Vc. pizz arco *pp* *p* *pp* *f* *mp*

42

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

Hn. *p*

Tba. *p*

Vln. senza vib. *pp* molto vib.

Vla. senza vib. *pp* molto vib.

Vc. senza vib. *pp* molto vib.

48

Fl. *p* *f* (*pos*) *mf*

key clicks follow pitch curve

5

pizz

Hn. *mp* *p* *mf*

air flutter

hum: bend slightly flat (sound should 'beat')

Tba. *mp* *p*

valves & breath

Vln. nat.

Vla. *mp* *p* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf* express. *mp*

nat.

nat.

D

52

Fl. *f* *mf* *pp*

lip down slightly

flz.

Hn. *mf* *f* *p* (*pos*)

Tba. *pp* *mp* *f* *mf* *f*

Vln. *f* *ff* *mp*

Vla. *f* *ff* *mp*

Vc. *f* *ff* *mp* *sfz* *mf*

trill (s.t.) & gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

I II 0

♩=84

56

Fl. *f* *p* *ff* nat. breath tone

Hn. *f* *ff* (staccatissimo, not TR)

Tba. *f* *ff*

Vln. *f* *p* *ff* *ff* *mp* sul pont.

Vla. *f* *p* *ff* *pp* *ff* *pp* molto vib. gliss.

Vc. *f* *p* *ff* *pp* *ff* gliss.

61

Fl. *ff* *pp* *ff* slow, wide vib. warm

Hn. *pp* *ff* *pp* *ff* 3

Tba. *p* *ff* *pp* *ff* 8va

Vln. *ff* *mp* *pp* *ff* nat. molto vib. sul tasto

Vla. *ff* *pp* *ff* 8va

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

E

66

Fl.

Hn.

Tba.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

f

f

f

ric...

69

Fl.

Hn.

Tba.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

ff
bold, strident

f

f

c. 10'

Fl. ad. lib staccato lines, dense but rhythmically unstable, similar pitch content to previous material

Hn. ad. lib staccato lines, dense but rhythmically unstable, similar pitch content to previous material

Tba. ad. lib staccato lines, dense but rhythmically unstable, similar pitch content to previous material

Vln. ad. lib staccato lines, dense but rhythmically unstable, similar pitch content to previous material

Vla. ad. lib staccato lines, dense but rhythmically unstable, similar pitch content to previous material

Vc. ad. lib staccato lines, dense but rhythmically unstable, similar pitch content to previous material

F

a tempo
(♩=84)

c. 6'

move pitch toward middle C
change rhythms toward crotchets

move pitch toward middle C
change rhythms toward crotchets

move pitch toward middle C
change rhythms toward crotchets

move pitch toward middle C
change rhythms toward crotchets

move pitch toward middle C
change rhythms toward crotchets

move pitch toward middle C
change rhythms toward crotchets

