

Performance Notes

When a note is marked tenuto and staccato in the synth part, play the note portamento. The tone of the synth should be breathy, similar to a tribal wind instrument like the pan flute or ocarina. However, the notes should decay like a piano, so that after each note is played it gently fades away, unlike the sharper cutoff of a wind instrument. When a decrescendo is marked on a single note in the synth part, the decay of the tone should be increased for that note, and the note allowed to ring for the notated length before dying away. This may not be possible on all synthesizers, but if it can be done this is the desired effect.

Some of the vibraphone pedaling may seem unusual. The pedaling is so marked to create, in certain passages, a somewhat cacophonous blending of the pitches, where you can hear the individual notes when they are struck, but they morph together eventually, creating a sound of almost indefinite pitch. If the pedaling must be changed to better accommodate performance space, the player should keep these esthetic considerations in mind.

The koto part has been notated as if it were a concert harp. This has been done for accessibility purposes, as many musicians are unfamiliar with traditional Japanese koto notation.

This piece is a part of the soundtrack to the video game "No Hero," an RPG that is in development at this time. Within the game, the material enclosed in the repeat signs would loop continuously. If performed by live musicians, the markings for the loop can be ignored, but if the performers want to emulate how the piece would be heard in "No Hero," then they might play one or two repeats.

To Peer Through the Cracks

From the Video Game "No Hero"

Matthew Flynn

Andante

Synthesizer *mp*

Koto *mp*

A

6

Synth. *mf*

Koto *mf*

10

Synth.

Koto

13

Synth.

Koto

13

16

Synth.

Vib.

Koto

B

Ped.

16

19

Vib.

Koto

19

22

Vib.

Koto

22

25

Vib.

Koto

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of music, measures 25 to 27. The Vib. staff (top) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5. The Koto staff (bottom) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5. There are three measure rests in the Vib. staff and three measure rests in the Koto staff.

28

Synth.

Vib.

Koto

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of music, measures 28 to 30. The Synth. staff (top) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5. The Vib. staff (middle) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5. The Koto staff (bottom) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5. There are three measure rests in the Synth. staff and three measure rests in the Vib. staff.

C

31

Synth.

Koto

repeat forever

Detailed description: This block contains the third system of music, measures 31 to 32. The Synth. staff (top) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5. The Koto staff (bottom) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It contains a half note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, a half note C5, a quarter note D5, a quarter note E5, and a quarter note F#5. There are three measure rests in the Synth. staff and three measure rests in the Koto staff. A box labeled 'C' is placed above the Synth. staff. The text 'repeat forever' is written below the Synth. staff.

34

Synth.

Koto

Measures 34-36. The Synth. part (top staff) features a melody with eighth and quarter notes, including a half note with a fermata. The Koto part (bottom staff) features a continuous eighth-note pattern with circled 'X' marks above measures 34, 35, 36, and 37.

37

Synth.

Koto

Measures 37-38. The Synth. part (top staff) continues the melody. The Koto part (bottom staff) continues the eighth-note pattern with circled 'X' marks above measures 37 and 38.

39

Synth.

Koto

rit.

Measures 39-40. The Synth. part (top staff) includes a **rit.** (ritardando) marking with a dashed line. The Koto part (bottom staff) includes a **rit.** marking and ends with a double bar line and a wavy line.