
Invisible Cities:
ERSILIA

for
Chamber Orchestra

Composed by
JOSIAH WOLF OBERHOLTZER

2015

PREFACE

1

In Ersilia, to establish the relationships that sustain the city's life, the inhabitants stretch strings from the corners of the houses, white or black or gray or black-and-white according to whether they mark a relationship of blood, of trade, authority, agency. When the strings become so numerous that you can no longer pass among them, the inhabitants leave: the houses are dismantled; only the strings and their supports remain.

From a mountainside, camping with their household goods, Ersilia's refugees look at the labyrinth of taut strings and poles that rise in the plain. That is the city of Ersilia still, and they are nothing.

They rebuild Ersilia elsewhere. They weave a similar pattern of strings which they would like to be more complex and at the same time more regular than the other. Then they abandon it and take themselves and their houses still farther away:

Thus, when traveling in the territory of Ersilia, you come upon the ruins of abandoned cities, without the walls which do not last, without the bones of the dead which the wind rolls away: spiderwebs of intricate relationships seeking a form.

- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*

2

"Are we still in the South Reach?"

"Reach? No. The islands -- "The chief moved his slender black hand in an arc, no more than a quarter of the compass, north to east. "The islands are there," he said. "All the islands." Then showing all the evening sea before them, from north through west to south, he said, "The sea. "

"What land are you from, lord?"

"No land. We are the Children of the Open Sea. "

Arren looked at his keen face. He looked about him at the great raft with its temple and its tall idols, each carved from a single tree, great god-figures mixed of dolphin, fish, man, and seabird; at the people busy at their work, weaving, carving, fishing, cooking on raised platforms, tending babies; at the other rafts, seventy at least, scattered out over the water in a great circle perhaps a mile across. It was a town: smoke rising in thin wisps from distant houses, the voices of children high on the wind. It was a town, and under its floors was the abyss.

- Ursula LeGuin, *The Farthest Shore*

3 Instrumentation

- Flute
- Bass clarinet
- Oboe
- Baritone saxophone
- Acoustic guitar
- Piano
- Percussion
 - bamboo wind chimes
 - four toms
 - five wood blocks
 - snare drum
 - marimba
 - crotales, two octaves
 - tam-tam
 - bass drum
- Violin
- Viola
- Cello
- Contrabass

4 Performance notes

Six players -- flute, bass clarinet, oboe, violin, viola and cello -- receive a shaker -- caxixi, maraca or similar. Four players -- guitar, piano, percussion and contrabass -- receive a chromatic pitch pipe -- a circular harmonic-like instrument generally used for tuning vocal groups.

The shakers should be placed on or suspended from their respective performer's music stands, or wherever convenient.

The pitch-pipes should be played by inhaling or exhaling -- as indicated - - through fully half of the circumference of the instrument, creating a rich cluster.

For all winds, a +-symbol indicates slap tonguing.

For guitar, the coda symbol indicates a percussive damping of the strings.

Piano plays with pedal to their discretion throughout the first four sections of the piece. The sound should be generally dry, although some pedal should be used when appropriate for phrasing and blending, especially on tremolo passages. The sustain pedal should remain fully depressed for the entirety of section D. Inside-piano glissandi are notated proportional to the lower interior portion of the instrument -- from the lowest string up to the first cross-bar -- and should be played with the fingertip.

Percussion should use hard sticks on toms, woodblocks, snares and crotales, and softer mallets on marimba, bass drum and tam-tam (when ergonomic to do so).

All mordents and trills are a major 2nd, unless otherwise specified. All tremolos are unmeasured and should evoke an even, cloud-like texture.

(a botanical survey of the uninhabited northeastern isles)

for Ensemble Dal Niente

Josiah Wolf Oberholtzer (1984)

[illegible]

5

4

4

4

7

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Gt.

Pf.

Sua 1

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

A musical score for a piano. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The bottom staff is a bass clef. The music is in 3/4 time. The first staff has a 'pizz.' (pizzicato) marking. The melody in the treble staff consists of a half note B-flat, a quarter note A, and a quarter note G. The bass staff has a half note F, a quarter note E, and a quarter note D. A bracket under the bass staff indicates a 5:4 ratio. The piece ends with a 'ppp' (pianissimo) marking.

4

5

6

7

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Gt.

Pf.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

[illegible]

This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Williams. It is a full orchestral score, likely for a film score. The score is written for a variety of instruments, including woodwinds, brass, strings, and percussion. The notation is in standard musical notation, with treble and bass clefs, and includes dynamic markings such as *ppp*, *mf*, *f*, and *fp*. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple staves for different instruments. The overall style is characteristic of John Williams' film scores, with a focus on melody and rhythm. The score is written in a clear and legible font, with a professional layout. The instruments listed on the left include Fl. (Flute), Ob. (Oboe), Bass cl. (Bass Clarinet), Bar. sax. (Baritone Saxophone), Gt. (Guitar), Pf. (Piano), Perc. (Percussion), Vn. (Violin), Va. (Viola), Vc. (Violoncello), and Cb. (Contrabass). The score is a comprehensive musical score, providing a detailed and accurate representation of the piece.

8

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Gt.

Pf.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

shaker

ppp

fp

mf

ppp

5:4

7:6

5:4

ppp

f

mf

fp

pp

f

mp

fp

Sva

ppp

mf

mp

p

mf

fp

f

pp

4:3

f

mp

snare

fff

overpressure

fff

overpressure

fff

pizz.

ppp

overpressure

fff

pizz.

ppp

5:4

ppp

5:4

ppp

This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Williams. It is a 5-measure excerpt in 5/4 time, featuring a variety of instruments. The score is written for a full orchestral ensemble, including woodwinds, strings, and percussion.

Instrumentation and Key Features:

- Flute (Fl.):** Plays a melodic line with dynamic markings of *fp*, *ppp*, and *fp*. It includes a 5-measure rest in the second measure.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Enters in the second measure with a *ppp* dynamic and a 5-measure rest.
- Bass Clarinet (Bass cl.):** Enters in the third measure with a *ppp* dynamic and a 5-measure rest.
- Baritone Saxophone (Bar. sax.):** Enters in the fifth measure with a *fp* dynamic and a 5-measure rest.
- Guitar (Gt.):** Provides harmonic support with chords and single notes, marked with *f* and *p* dynamics.
- Piano (Pf.):** Features a complex rhythmic pattern in the right hand, marked with *mf*, *p*, and *mp* dynamics. The left hand plays a steady bass line with *fff* dynamics.
- Percussion (Perc.):** Includes a *f* dynamic in the first measure and a *fff* dynamic in the second measure. A *toms* section is marked in the fifth measure.
- Violin (Vn.):** Enters in the second measure with a *fff* dynamic and a 5-measure rest.
- Viola (Va.):** Enters in the second measure with a *fff* dynamic and a 5-measure rest.
- Cello/Double Bass (Vc.):** Enters in the first measure with a *ppp* dynamic and a 5-measure rest.

The score is written in 5/4 time and includes various dynamic markings such as *fp* (fortissimo piano), *ppp* (pianissimo), *f* (fortissimo), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), and *fff* (fortississimo). The piece is characterized by its complex rhythms and the interplay between the different instruments.

Invisible Cities (iii): Ersilia

12

[illegible]

48

4

Invisible Cities (iii): Ersilia

This page of a musical score is for a large ensemble, featuring staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (Bass cl.), Baritone Saxophone (Bar. sax.), Percussion (Perc.), Guitar (Gt.), Piano (Pf.), Violin (Vn.), Viola (Va.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Cb.).

The score is divided into three measures. The first measure contains complex rhythmic patterns for the Flute, Oboe, Bass Clarinet, Baritone Saxophone, and Percussion. The second measure continues these patterns, with the Baritone Saxophone and Percussion staves showing a 15:14 ratio. The third measure features a variety of dynamics and performance instructions, including 'exhale', 'inhale', and 'f'.

The instrumentation includes:

- Flute (Fl.)
- Oboe (Ob.)
- Bass Clarinet (Bass cl.)
- Baritone Saxophone (Bar. sax.)
- Percussion (Perc.)
- Guitar (Gt.)
- Piano (Pf.)
- Violin (Vn.)
- Viola (Va.)
- Violoncello (Vc.)
- Double Bass (Cb.)

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (f, mf, p, mp, fff), and performance instructions like 'exhale' and 'inhale'.

[illegible]

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Pp.

Gt.

Pp.

Pf.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Pp.

Cb.

mp

3:2

p

f

mf

fp

inhale

mp

p

pp

mf

pp

inhale

fp

f

5:4

f

mf

7:6

f

mf

windchimes

pp

crotales

mf

fp

ff

fp

ff

ppp

p

fp

inhale

fp

mf

fp

ff

4

7

5

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Gt.

Pp.

Pf.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

91

This page of a musical score is for a large orchestra, featuring staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (Bass cl.), Baritone Saxophone (Bar. sax.), Percussion (Perc.), and Strings (Vn., Va., Vc., Pp., Cb.). The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mf', 'f', 'ppp', and 'ff'.

The Flute part begins with a rest, followed by a melodic line starting in the second measure. The Oboe part has a rest, followed by a melodic line starting in the second measure. The Bass Clarinet part has a rest, followed by a melodic line starting in the second measure. The Baritone Saxophone part has a rest, followed by a melodic line starting in the second measure. The Percussion part includes a 'blocks' section and a 'marimba' section. The String section includes Violins (Vn.), Violas (Va.), Cellos (Vc.), Double Basses (Pp.), and Contrabasses (Cb.).

The score is written in a single system, with measures 1 through 5 visible. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings like 'mf', 'f', 'ppp', and 'ff'.

The musical score for "The Great Wall" by John Adams is presented in a multi-staff format. The instruments included are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (Bass cl.), Baritone Saxophone (Bar. sax.), Guitar (Gt.), Piano (Pf.), Percussion (Perc.), Violin (Vn.), Viola (Va.), Cello/Double Bass (Vc.), and Cello/Double Bass (Cb.). The score is divided into measures, with time signatures of 4/8 and 4/4. Dynamic markings such as ppp, mp, mf, f, and sfz are used throughout. The score includes various musical notations, including notes, rests, and articulation marks. The title "The Great Wall" is prominently displayed at the top, along with the composer's name "John Adams".

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Pp.

Gt.

Pp.

Pf.

Pp.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Pp.

Cb.

3:2

mp

ppp

p

mf

ppp

f

5:4

mf

ppp

6:4

mf

ppp

8:6

mf

ppp

5:4

p

f

mf

ppp

ppp

mf

ppp

ppp

5:4

ppp

ppp

inhale

fp

6:5

mp

6:5

p

inhale

fp

fp

f

pp

fp

p

3:2

mf

fp

mf

fp

7:6

f

mf

pp

3:2

f

mf

5:4

f

pp

windchimes

blocks

p

windchimes

marimba

pp

f

mf

f

mf

pp

overpressure

fff

mf

fp

fff

overpressure

fff

6:5

fff

overpressure

fff

overpressure

fff

fp

mf

fff

overpressure

fff

exhale

fp

exhale

fp

mf

fp

The musical score for "The Great Wall" by John Williams is a symphonic work in 2/4 time. It features a full orchestra and solo instruments. The score is divided into two systems, each containing six staves. The instruments are: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (Bass cl.), Baritone Saxophone (Bar. sax.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pp.), Violin (Vn.), Viola (Va.), Cello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Cb.). The music is characterized by a dramatic, heroic theme with a mix of woodwinds, strings, and percussion. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (ppp, pp, mf, f, fp, mp, p), articulation (accents, slurs), and performance instructions (overpressure, L.V.). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major/D minor). The tempo is marked "Allegretto" (40-45 bpm). The score is for a full orchestra and solo instruments, with a total duration of approximately 10 minutes.

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Gt.

Pf.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

7:6 *mf*

3:2 8:6 *mp*

mp

ppp

f *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *ppp*

L.V. *p* *p* *pp* *pp* *mf* *ppp sfz* *mp* *p sfz*

f *mf* *fp* *p* *f* *mf* *fp* *fp* *f* *mf* *fp* *mp*

5:4

7:6

3:2

5:4

3:2

3:2

7:6

5:4

blocks marimba 3:2 3:2 *f* *p*

windchimes *pp* *f* *fp* *f*

6:5

overpressure *fff* *fp* *fff*

overpressure *fff* *fp* *fff*

overpressure *fp* *fff*

mf

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Pp.

Gt.

Pp.

Pf.

Pp.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Pp.

Cb.

musical score with staves and instruments

Invisible Cities (iii): Ersilia

Fl.

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Gt.

Pf.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

musical score with staves and instruments

This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Williams. It is a full orchestral score, likely for a film score. The score is written for a variety of instruments, including woodwinds, strings, and percussion. The notation is in standard musical notation, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a time signature of 7/8. The score is divided into measures, with a double bar line indicating a section change. The instruments are listed on the left side of the score, and their parts are written on staves. The score includes dynamic markings such as *ppp*, *f*, *mf*, and *fff*, as well as articulation marks like accents and slurs. The score is a complex and detailed work, reflecting the composer's skill and the grandeur of the subject matter.

Fl.
ppp
fp
fp *mf*

Ob.
ppp
fp

Bass cl.
f
f *mp*
fp

Bar. sax.
f
mf
f
fp

Gt.
f
f *mf*
f *mf*

Pf.
p
f *p*
fff

Perc.
p
ppp
f
bass drum

Vn.
f *p*
fp
mp

Va.
p
fp

Vc.
f
p
fp

Cb.
ppp
ppp

5/8 4/4 5/8

Fl. *shaker*

Ob.

Bass cl.

Bar. sax.

Pp.

Gt.

Pp.

Pf.

Perc.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Pp.

Cb.

mf *f* *mp* *p* *5:4* *f* *pp* *p* *pp* *f*

inside *tam* *shaker* *exhale* *L.V.* *exhale* *inside* *shaker* *inhale*

This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Williams. It is a full orchestral score, likely for a film score, featuring a variety of instruments. The score is divided into four measures, with the first and last measures marked with a "4" and the middle two with a "7".

The instruments and their parts include:

- Fl. (Flute):** Plays a melodic line in the first measure, then rests. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mp*.
- Ob. (Oboe):** Plays a short phrase in the fourth measure marked *fp* and *p*.
- Bass cl. (Bass Clarinet):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *p*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *p*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *f*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *p*.
- Bar. sax. (Baritone Saxophone):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *p*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *p* and *mp*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *p*.
- Pp. (Percussion):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *p*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*.
- Gt. (Guitar):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *p*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *ppp*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *p* and *fz*.
- Pf. (Piano):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *fp* and *mf*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*.
- Perc. (Percussion):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *fp* and *mf*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*.
- Vn. (Violin):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *fp* and *mf*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*.
- Va. (Viola):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *fp* and *mf*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*.
- Vc. (Violoncello):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *fp* and *mf*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*.
- Pp. (Percussion):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *fp* and *mf*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*.
- Cb. (Cello):** Plays a short phrase in the first measure marked *fp* and *mf*. In the second measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the third measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*. In the fourth measure, it plays a short phrase marked *fp* and *mf*.

The score is written in a standard musical notation, with notes, rests, and dynamic markings. The instruments are listed on the left, and the measures are numbered at the top. The score is a full orchestral score, likely for a film score, featuring a variety of instruments.

This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Williams. It is a full orchestral score, likely for a film score, featuring a variety of instruments. The score is written in 4/4 time and is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The instruments included are Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (Bass cl.), Baritone Saxophone (Bar. sax.), Guitar (Gt.), Piano (Pf.), Percussion (Perc.), Violin (Vn.), Viola (Va.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score includes dynamic markings such as *fp*, *mf*, *f*, *pp*, *mp*, and *ppp*, as well as articulation marks like accents and slurs. There are also performance instructions in boxes, such as "shaker", "inside", "bass drum", "tam", and "L.V.". The score is presented in a clean, professional layout with a white background and black notation.

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[illegible]

36 (2015-04-20) Invisible Cities (iii): Ersilia

Portland, OR
January 2015 - April 2015

2014-05-15

Scores available from the composer at
www.josiahwolfoberholtzer.com

€80 / \$90