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*Invisible Cities (i):*  
**ZAIRA**

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*for*  
Eight Players

*Composed by*  
JOSIAH WOLF OBERHOLTZER

2014

# PREFACE

## 1

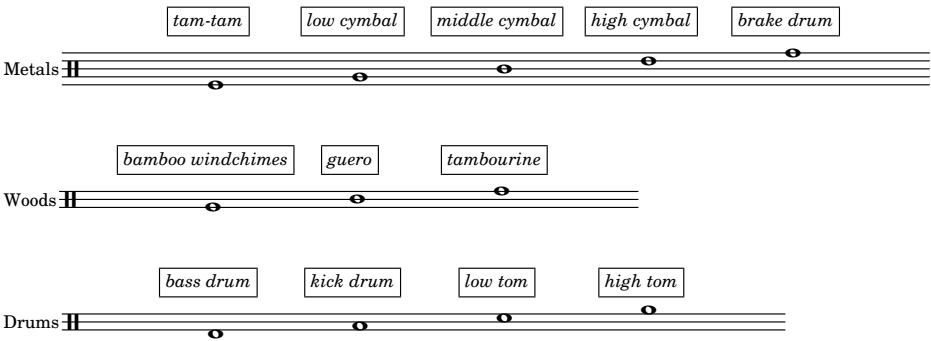
*In vain, great-hearted Kublai, shall I attempt to describe Zaira, city of high bastions. I could tell you how many steps make up the streets rising like stairways, and the degree of the arcades’ curves, and what kind of zinc scales cover the roofs; but I already know this would be the same as telling you nothing. The city does not consist of this, but of relationships between the measurements of its space and the events of its past: the height of a lamppost and the distance from the ground of a hanged usurper’s swaying feet; the line strung from the lamppost to the railing opposite and the festoons that decorate the course of the queen’s nuptial procession; the height of that railing and the leap of the adulterer who climbed over it at dawn; the tilt of a guttering and a cat’s progress along it as he slips into the same window; the firing range of a gunboat which has suddenly appeared beyond the cape and the bomb that destroys the guttering; the rips in the fish net and the three old men seated on the dock mending nets and telling each other for the hundredth time the story of the gunboat of the usurper, who some say was the queen’s illegitimate son, abandoned in his swaddling clothes there on the dock.*

*As this wave from memories flows in, the city soaks it up like a sponge and expands. A description of Zaira as it is today should contain all of Zaira’s past. The city, however, does not tell its past, but contains it like the lines of a hand, written in the corners of the streets, the gratings of the windows, the banisters of the steps, the antennae of the lightning rods, the poles of the flags, every segment marked in turn with scratches, indentations, scrolls.*

- Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*

## 2 Instrumentation

- **Flute**, with brazil nut shaker
- **Oboe**
- **Clarinet in b-flat**, with brazil nut shaker
- **Percussion**



Mallets: hard sticks or bare hands, wire brushes, superballs

- **Piano**

Prepare the lowest and highest octaves with any combination of felt, tape or rubber to dampen and distort the timbre of the strings.

Guero passages should be played with a piece of hard paper or plastic, on the keys. The register of the motions is left to the performer.


- **Violin**, with brazil nut shaker
- **Viola**, with brazil nut shaker
- **Cello**



*Invisible Cities (i):*


# ZAIRA

*for Ensemble Mosaik*

Josiah Wolf Oberholtzer (1984)

 = 72



Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Piano

Violin

Viola

Cello

♩ = 48

9

24 B

3

24

44

5  
16

This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Adams. It is a full orchestral score with the following instruments and parts:

- Fl. (Flute):** Features keyclicks and dynamic markings like *ppp* and *p*.
- Ob. (Oboe):** Includes keyclicks and dynamic markings like *ppp* and *p*.
- Cl. in B-flat (Clarinet in B-flat):** Features keyclicks and dynamic markings like *p* and *ppp*.
- Metals:** Includes a *brush* section and dynamic markings like *fff* and *mf*.
- Woods:** Includes a *brush* section and dynamic markings like *fff* and *mf*.
- Drums:** Includes a *brush* section and dynamic markings like *fff* and *mf*.
- Pf. (Piano):** Features *prepared* sections and dynamic markings like *fff*, *ppp*, and *f*.
- Vn. (Violin):** Includes a *flautando* section and dynamic markings like *ppp* and *p*.
- Va. (Viola):** Includes a *flautando* section and dynamic markings like *p* and *pp*.
- Vc. (Cello):** Includes a *flautando* section and dynamic markings like *pp* and *ppp*.

The score is written in 4/4 time and features a variety of musical notations, including keyclicks, brushes, and flautando markings. The dynamics range from *ppp* (pianississimo) to *fff* (fortississimo).

$\frac{3}{4}$  $\frac{2}{4}$  $\frac{3}{8}$  $\frac{2}{4}$  $\frac{3}{8}$  $\frac{2}{4}$ 

Fl. *keyclick* *ppp* *5:4* *3:2* *p* *keyclick* *p* *5:4* *pp* *keyclick* *3:2* *pp* *ppp*

Ob. *p* *f* *keyclick* *3:2* *f* *p* *keyclick* *5:3* *ppp* *keyclick* *p* *pp*

Cl. in B-flat *keyclick* *3:2* *ppp* *keyclick* *p* *keyclick* *pp*

Metals (L.V.) *pp* *brush* *mf* (L.V.) *pp* (L.V.) *ppp* (L.V.) *p*

Woods

Drums (L.V.) *pp* (L.V.) *ppp* *brush* *mf* (L.V.) *p* (L.V.) *pp*

Pf. *prepared* *p* *pp* *ppp* *5:3* *p* *5:4* *mf* *7:6* *f* *p* *ff*

Vn. *flautando* *5:4* *pp* *flautando* *ppp* *flautando* *p* *flautando* *pp* *7:6* *flautando* *pp*

Va. *ppp* *flautando* *p* *flautando* *pp*

Vc. *ppp* *flautando* *p* *flautando* *pp*

4

♩ = 72

$\frac{2}{4}$  C

$\frac{3}{8}$

$\frac{4}{4}$

$\frac{2}{4}$

$\frac{5}{16}$

Fl. *ppp* *5:4* *p* *pp* *shaker* *ppp* *ram / slap* *mf* *ppp* *ram / slap* *pp* *ram / slap* *mp* *shaker* *ppp* *p*

Ob. *p* *pp* *mf* *ram / slap* *p* *pp* *ram / slap* *5:4* *pp* *ram / slap* *5:4* *mp* *shaker* *ppp* *7:5* *p*

Cl. in B-flat *ppp* *mf* *ram / slap* *pp* *5:4* *ppp* *mp* *5:4* *ppp* *7:5* *p*

Metals *(L.V.)* *pp* *fff*

Woods *p < f* *mf* *f* *mp*

Drums *fff* *(L.V.)* *ppp* *fff* *3:2* *f* *5:4* *p* *(L.V.)* *pp* *(L.V.)* *ppp* *brush* *mf*

Pf. *pp* *prepared* *p* *fff* *slow* *guero* *mf* *p* *f* *ppp* *slow* *guero* *mp* *fast* *guero* *mf*

Vn. *flautando* *ppp* *shaker* *p* *5:4* *ppp* *flautando*

Va. *shaker* *pp* *overpressure* *mp* *shaker* *ppp* *5:4* *p*

Vc. *flautando* *p* *flautando* *5:4* *pp* *overpressure* *5:4* *mf*

6



Fl. *ram / slap* 6:5 *mf* *ram / slap* *pp* *shaker* 4:3 *ppp* 4:3 *p* *ram / slap* 4:3 *mp* *ppp* *shaker* *p*

Ob. *mf* *ppp* *p* *ram / slap* *mf* *pp* *ram / slap* 6:5 *mp* *ppp*

Cl. in B-flat *shaker* *pp* *ram / slap* 5:4 *mp* *p* *ram / slap* *mf* *pp* *shaker* 7:6 *ppp* *p*

Metals

Woods *mp* *mf* *f* *p* *mf* 5:4 *ff* *mf*

Drums (L.V.) *pp* (L.V.) *ppp* (L.V.) *p* *brush* *mf* (L.V.) *ppp* (L.V.) *p* (L.V.) *p* *mf* 4:3 *pp* (L.V.)

Pf. *slow* *guero* *mp* *fast* *guero* *mf* *slow* *guero* *mp* *fast* *guero* *p* *f*

Vn. *shaker* *overpressure* 5:4 *ppp* 7:5 *p* *shaker* *pp* *shaker* 4:3 *ppp*

Va. *mf* *ppp* *flautando* *col legno* *ppp* *ff* *p* *f*

Vc. *overpressure* 5:4 *mp*

8



10

11

4/4

3/8

4/4

2/4

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Pf.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

7:5

keyclick

5:4

ram / slap

3:2

keyclick

5:4

keyclick

5:4

keyclick

airtone

keyclick

5:4

ram / slap

4:3

keyclick

3:2

keyclick

6:5

4:3

keyclick

keyclick

ram / slap

3:2

keyclick

keyclick

ram / slap

7:6

keyclick

ram / slap

brush

7:5

7:6

brush

7:6

brush

3:2

brush

7:6

prepared

7:6

prepared

5:4

prepared

6:5

8:7

overpressure

overpressure

overpressure

ppp

p

ppp

mf

mp

p

mp

ppp

pp

ppp

p

ppp

pp

p

mf

ppp

p

mp

mf

pp

ppp

pp

pp

mp

pp

mf

ppp

pp

mf

ppp

pp

mp

mf

mf

fff

mp

fff

f

fff

f

fff

f

fff

ppp

pp

ppp

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ppp

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ppp

pp

ppp

pp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

12

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Pf.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

keyclick

ram / slap

5:4

airtone

6:5

5:4

airtone

ram / slap

4:3

airtone

3:2

ppp

p

mf

p

pp

pp

mp

pp

ppp

p

ppp

mf

mp

p

pp

f

pp

f

keyclick

4:3

airtone

ppp

p

p

p

f

keyclick

airtone

ppp

p

p

ram / slap

3:2

mp

mf

brush

mf

4:3

f

brush

mp

3:2

ff

brush

mf

5:3

ff

5:3

ff

slow

guero

mp

ppp

fast

guero

mf

overpressure

mp

5:4

overpressure

mf

p

pp

overpressure

ppp

5:4

overpressure

mf

ppp

5:4

overpressure

ppp

ppp

14



2  
43  
83  
43  
84  
4

Fl. *ram / slap* *mp* *ram / slap* *mf* *airtone* *ppp* *pp* *ram / slap* *5:4* *keyclick* *5:3* *pp* *5:4* *ppp* *mf* *ram / slap* *5:4* *mp* *keyclick* *ppp* *p*

Ob. *airtone* *ppp* *ram / slap* *mf* *3:2* *mp* *airtone* *ppp* *p* *keyclick* *5:3* *p* *pp* *keyclick* *ff* *pp* *keyclick*

Cl. in B-flat *ram / slap* *mf* *airtone* *ppp* *ram / slap* *mp* *keyclick* *ppp* *ram / slap* *mf* *ram / slap* *mp* *7:6* *keyclick* *p* *pp* *ppp*

Metals *9:7* *mf* *fff* *brush* *mf* *3:2* *f* *4:3* *fff* *3:2* *mf* *brush* *mp*

Woods

Drums *4:3* *f* *ff* *mf* *3:2* *mp* *brush* *ff* *5:3* *mf* *5:4* *brush* *mf*

Pf. *8:7* *f* *mf* *3:2* *ff* *6:5* *p* *f* *5:4* *p* *f* *5:4* *f > p* *mf* *slow guero* *mp*

Vn. *ppp* *p* *pp* *overpressure* *fff*

Va. *ppp* *p* *pp* *overpressure* *fff*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *pp* *overpressure* *fff*

16

4  
4

3  
8

3  
4

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Pf.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

keyclick

shaker

airtone

superball

brush

overpressure

mf

ppp

p

pp

7:6

4:3

3:2

7:5

5:4

This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Williams. It is a full orchestral score with the following instruments and parts:

- Fl.** (Flute)
- Ob.** (Oboe)
- Cl. in B-flat** (Clarinet in B-flat)
- Metals** (Metal percussion)
- Woods** (Wood percussion)
- Drums** (Drum)
- Pf.** (Piano)
- Vn.** (Violin)
- Va.** (Viola)
- Vc.** (Violoncello)

The score is written in 3/8 time and features a variety of musical notations, including dynamics (e.g., *pp*, *ppp*, *ff*, *f*, *mf*, *p*), articulation (e.g., *keyclick*, *shaker*, *brush*, *superball*, *airtone*), and complex rhythmic patterns (e.g., 7:6, 5:4, 4:3, 5:3, 3:2). The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing multiple staves for different instruments.

$\frac{3}{4}$  $\frac{3}{8}$  $\frac{6}{8}$  $\frac{5}{16}$  $\frac{4}{4}$ 

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Pf.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

Fl. *keyclick* *shaker* *ppp* *4:3* *p* *5:4*

Ob. *airtone* *f* *pp* *f* *p* *keyclick* *5:4* *p*

Cl. in B-flat *shaker* *pp* *3:2* *keyclick* *p* *shaker* *ppp* *3:2*

Metals *brush* *ppp* *p* *p* *f* *p* *superball* *ppp* *brush* *pp*

Woods

Drums *p* *f* *pp* *brush* *f* *ppp* *brush* *superball* *ppp* *brush* *p*

Pf. *ppp* *mf* *7:6* *p* *pp* *5:4* *ff* *ppp*

Vn.

Va. *shaker* *ppp*

Vc. *col legno* *ff* *overpressure* *5:4* *mp*

This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Williams. It is a full orchestral score with the following instruments and parts:

- Fl.** (Flute): Features a keyclick and airtone effect.
- Ob.** (Oboe): Features a keyclick and airtone effect.
- Cl. in B-flat** (Clarinet in B-flat): Features a keyclick and airtone effect.
- Metals** (Metals): Features a superball effect.
- Woods** (Woods): Features a superball effect.
- Drums** (Drums): Features a superball effect.
- Pf.** (Piano): Features a superball effect.
- Vn.** (Violin): Features a shaker effect.
- Va.** (Viola): Features a shaker effect.
- Vc.** (Violoncello): Features a shaker effect.

The score is written in 2/4 time and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (p, pp, mf, ff). It also includes a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a tempo marking of 120.

5/8 3/4 5/16 3/8 6/8 2/4

Fl. *shaker* *pp* *keyclick* *pp* *ppp* *shaker* *ppp* *airtone* *ppp*

Ob. *keyclick* *p* *pp* *p* *f* *keyclick* *p* *ppp* *airtone* *ppp*

Cl. in B-flat *keyclick* *ppp* *p* *pp* *shaker* *ppp* *airtone* *ppp*

Metals *brush* *ff* *p* *p* *f* *superball* *ppp* *brush* *ppp*

Woods

Drums *brush* *ff* *pp* *p* *f* *superball* *ppp*

Pf. *pp* *ppp* *ppp*

Vn. *shaker* *p* *3:2* *overpressure* *mp* *overpressure* *5:4* *shaker* *pp* *4:3* *col legno* *pp* *f* *f* *p*

Va. *shaker* *pp* *3:2* *overpressure* *mf* *overpressure* *mf* *shaker* *pp* *4:3* *col legno* *pp* *f* *f* *p*

Vc. *overpressure* *mf* *col legno* *pp* *f* *f* *p*

5

16

4

4

3

8

4

4

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Pf.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

shaker

airtone

keyclick

shaker

airtone

keyclick

shaker

airtone

keyclick

superball

brush

superball

brush

superball

brush

brush

superball

brush

shaker

overpressure

shaker

overpressure

shaker

col legno

$p$

$p$

$ppp$

$p$

$f$

$p$

$pp$

$p$

$pp$

$p$

$pp$

$p$

$pp$

$pp$

$pp$

$pp$

$pp$

$pp$

$pp$

$mf$

$mp$

$mf$

$ff$

3:2

5:4



This musical score is for the piece "The Great Wall" by John Williams. It is a full orchestral score with the following instruments and parts:

- Fl.** (Flute): Features a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *pp*, and a shaker effect.
- Ob.** (Oboe): Features a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *pp*, and *ff*, and a keyclick effect.
- Cl. in B-flat** (Clarinet in B-flat): Features a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *pp*, and *ppp*, and a keyclick effect.
- Metals** (Metal Percussion): Features a melodic line with dynamics *ppp* and *fff*.
- Woods** (Wood Percussion): Features a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *fff*.
- Drums** (Drum): Features a melodic line with dynamics *pp* and *fff*.
- Pf.** (Piano): Features a melodic line with dynamics *ppp* and *fff*.
- Vn.** (Violin): Features a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *fff*.
- Va.** (Viola): Features a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *mf*.
- Vc.** (Violoncello): Features a melodic line with dynamics *p* and *f*.

The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. It also includes a list of effects and instruments used in the piece, such as "airtone", "shaker", "keyclick", "superball", and "overpressure".

[illegible]

149

4/4 2/4 4/4 3/4 2/4

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Pf.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

*pp* *ppp* *p* *pp* *ppp* *mf* *ff* *mf* *fff* *p* *f* *fff*

5:4 7:6 3:2 4:3 3:2 5:4

overpressure

col legno



[illegible]

28

176

4/4

5/16

4/4

2/4

3/8

5/16

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Pf.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

keyclick

airtone

keyclick

7:5

shaker

9:8

ram / slap

mf

ppp

ram / slap

6:5

airtone

pp

shaker

6:5

keyclick

4:3

airtone

5:4

ram / slap

mf

brush

7:6

4:3

brush

prepared

slow guero

ppp

mp

prepared

fast guero

mf

7:6

f

f > p

ppp

prepared

p

f

p

flautando

shaker

6:5

p

overpressure

fff

shaker

5:3

p

flautando

3:2

pp

shaker

pp

ppp

5:4

p

overpressure

fff

pp

♩ = 48

6 I

3 5 8 5 5 3

16 16

Fl. *mp* *ram / slap* 5:4 *ppp* *keyclick* *p* *shaker* 3:2 *ppp* *p* 5:4

Ob. *ppp* *p* *shaker* *ppp* 4:3

Cl. in B-flat *ppp* *ppp* *airtone* *ppp* *airtone* *ppp* *airtone* *ppp*

Metals *fff* *mp* *superball*

Woods *mf* *mf*

Drums *mf* *fff* *brush*

Pf. *mf* *fast* *guero* *mp* *slow* *guero* *mp* *fff* *ppp* *p*

Vn. *ppp* *flautando* *p* 5:4 *shaker* *p* *overpressure* *mf*

Va. *ppp* *flautando* *ppp* *shaker* *pp* 5:3 *ppp* *overpressure* *mp*

Vc. *ppp* *flautando* *ppp* 3:2 *col legno* *p* *f* *overpressure* 5:4 *mf* *mf*



[illegible]

32

[illegible]

34

2  
4

5  
16

3  
8 J

2  
4

3  
8

2  
4

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. in B-flat

Metals

Woods

Drums

Pf.

Vn.

Va.

Vc.

shaker

ppp

shaker

4:3  
ppp

shaker

p

superball

pp

superball

fff

ppp

superball

p

superball

fff

ppp

superball

p

prepared

fff

ppp

prepared

fff

ppp

prepared

p

prepared

p

shaker

4:3  
p

shaker

pp

shaker

ppp

overpressure

mf

5:4

36

A blank musical score template for a symphony orchestra. The score is organized into two systems of staves. The first system includes staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet in B-flat (Cl. in B-flat), Metals, Woods, and Drums. The second system includes staves for Piano (Pf.), Violin (Vn.), Viola (Va.), and Violoncello (Vc.). Each staff is a five-line musical staff with a clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The Metals staff is uniquely formatted with a double bar line and a series of vertical lines, suggesting a different notation style for percussion. The entire score is set against a light gray background with a white grid.

*Jamaica Plain, MA  
Fresh Meadows, NY  
June 2014 - September 2014*

2014-09-05

*Scores available from the composer at*  
[www.josiahwolfoberholtzer.com](http://www.josiahwolfoberholtzer.com)

€58 / \$75