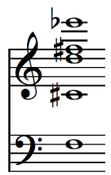
…almost like hail…

John MacCallum

…he had probably fallen there during the darkest hours of the night. The night of a great snowstorm, in which flakes as sharp as blades fell, almost like hail, driven by a furious south wind. Soaked by that snow, which had first melted and then frozen into shards of ice, the body had been discovered at the foot of a sheer drop, torn by the rocks it had struck on the way down.

—Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose*

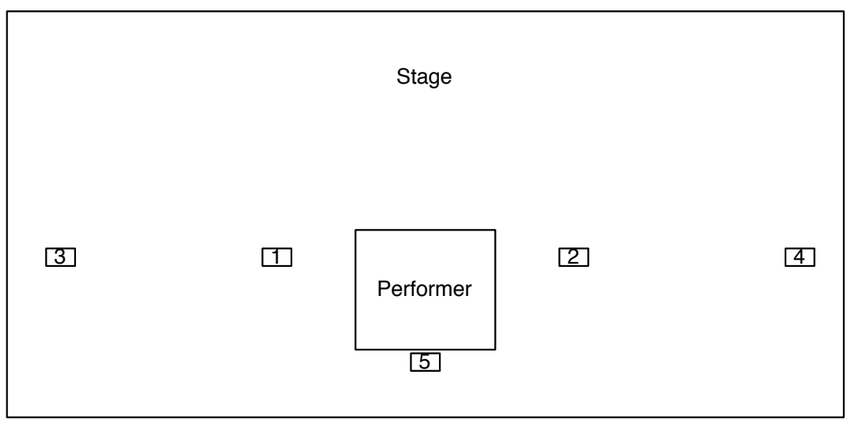
Instrumentation:
Bass drum
Kick drum
2 wooden boxes (about 12" cubes)
2 toms tuned all the way down
6 bending gongs (4 stacked in pairs of 2) placed on a foam table
2 cymbals on a foam table
Vibraphone with motor and rubber mutes placed on these pitches:

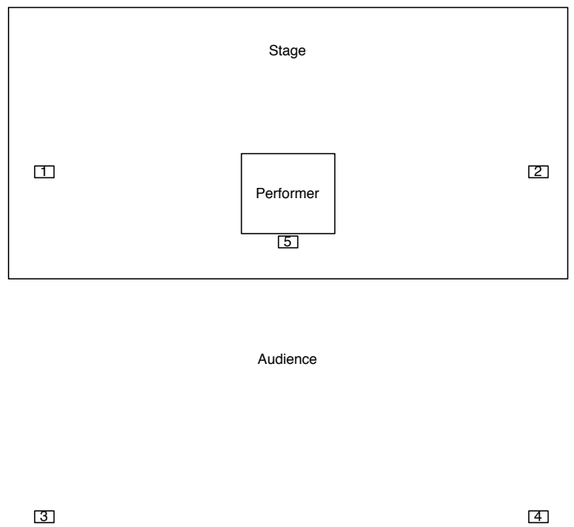


5 metal pipes (such as lengths of chain-link fence posts, or pipes used for plumbing. They should have a complex timbre similar to brake drums.)
5 hardwood planks
5 temple blocks

Technical Requirements:
1 MacBook Pro running Max/MSP 4.6.3 or higher.
1 Digital audio interface such as a MOTU 828.
1 Footswitch for the performer to trigger the cues in the score (more than one may be needed depending on how the instruments are setup).
1 MIDI fader device such as a Behringer BCF2000

Speaker Configuration:
This piece requires 5 or more speakers. Two possible configurations can be seen below:





…almost like hail…

for Chris Froh

John MacCallum

Cymbals
Opera gongs
Toms
Boxes

Wooden boxes Toms Stacked opera gongs Opera gongs Cymbals

Kick drum
Bass drum

Bass drum Kick drum

4/4 ♩ = 110

secco

fff *possible*

3

fff *sempre*

5

10

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

23

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

5

30

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

5 5 3 5 3 5 5 3 5 5 3 5 3

ca. 10" (wait for electronics to fade out completely)

35

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Ftsw

ffff

secco

fff possible

fff sempre

1

42

49

2

54

fff possible

fff sempre

66

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

77

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

82

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

87

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

96

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Ftsw

3

fff sempre

(toms only)

ppp

103

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

111

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Ftsw

4 5 6

Vib.

Vibraphone with fast vibrato

l.v.

f

121

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Ftsw

7

fff

Take vibraphone and two medium mallets with one hand and a bow with the other.
Place mute on the low F of the vibraphone.

ca. 30"

ca. 15"

126

KD
BD

Ftsw

8

fff *possible*

2"

129 Fast vibrato

Vib. arco *mf* *mp* *mf*

133 Slow vibrato

Vib. *mp* (𝄢) *mp*

Ftsw. 9

Comp. A complex, pulsating, microtonal texture that serves as the background for this section begins here and continues through bar 308. (slightly sharp) *mp*

137 Fast vibrato Vibrato off

Vib. *mp* *mf*

141

Vib. *mf* *mf* *p*

145

Vib.

mf

Slow vibrato

mf

149

Vib.

Vibrato off

p

mf

153

Vib.

mf

mf subito

mf

mf

157

Vib.

mf

If using a 3.5 octave vibraphone, place a mute on the C# above middle C.

161

Vib.

mp

mp

165

Vib.

p

mp

mf

mp

p

169

Vib.

Ftsw.

Comp.

mp

mp

10

11

12

Complex timbre

173

Vib.

Ftsw.

Comp.

p

mp

mp

mp

mp

13

14

p

177

Vib.

Ftsw.

Comp.

mp

mp

mp

mp

mp

15

p

181

Vib.

mp

mp

Ftsw.

16

Complex timbre

Comp.

185

Vib.

mf

mf

Ftsw.

17

18

19

20

Comp.

mp

189

Vib.

mf

mp

Ftsw.

21

22

Comp.

(Starts the Bb and triggers an increase in the speed of the pulsations in the background texture.)

193

Vib.

Ftsw.

Comp.

mp (mp) poco f (mp) poco f (mp)

23 24

mp mp

197

Vib.

Ftsw.

Comp.

p mp p mp mp p mp ppp p

Place mute on the D# above middle C

25

201

Vib.

Ftsw.

Comp.

p mf p f mp

26 27 28 29 30

Complex timbre

205

Vib.

mf mp mf

209

Vib.

mp p mf mf p

Ftsw.

(Triggers an increase in the speed of the pulsations in the background texture.)

31

213

Vib.

mp mf mf p p mf mp

Accidental carries

217

Vib.

mp p mp

Ftsw.

32 33

Comp.

p mf p mp

221

Vib.

mp

mp

225

Vib.

Accidental carries

mp

mp *p* *mp* *p*

p *mp* *p* *mp*

Replace bow with one med. and one soft mallet

229

Vib.

mp

mp

233

Vib.

p *mp* *p*

pp *mf*

Ftsw.

(Triggers an increase in the speed of the pulsations in the background texture.)

34

237

Vib.

pp

mp

(soft mallet)

p

241

Vib.

Ftsw.

mp

mp

35

Complex timbre

245

Vib.

Ftsw.

Medium vibrato

(*all tremolo is unmeasured)

(soft mallet)

36

37

249

Vib.

Fast vibrato

mf

(Fast vibrato)

253

Vib.

Ftsw.

Vibrato off

mute with mallet

mute off

mp

remove mute from the D# three octaves above middle C
and replace soft mallet with med. mallet

p

(Triggers an increase in the speed of the pulsations in the background texture.)

31

257

Vib.

mp

mp

p

261

Vib.

p *mp* *p* *p*

mp *p* *p* *subito* *p*

265

Vib.

mp *pp*

269

Vib.

mp *pp*

mp *pp*

273

Vib.

mp *pp*

mp *pp*

277

Pipes

Vib.

Ftsw.

mp

mp

mf

p

39

281

Pipes

Vib.

Ftsw.

l.v.

p

mf

Take one hard and one med. mallet in one hand.

mf

(Triggers a decrease in the speed of the pulsations in the background texture.)

40

285 Take one hard and one med. mallet in the other hand.

(medium mallets)

Pipes

Vib.

(med.)

p *sempre*

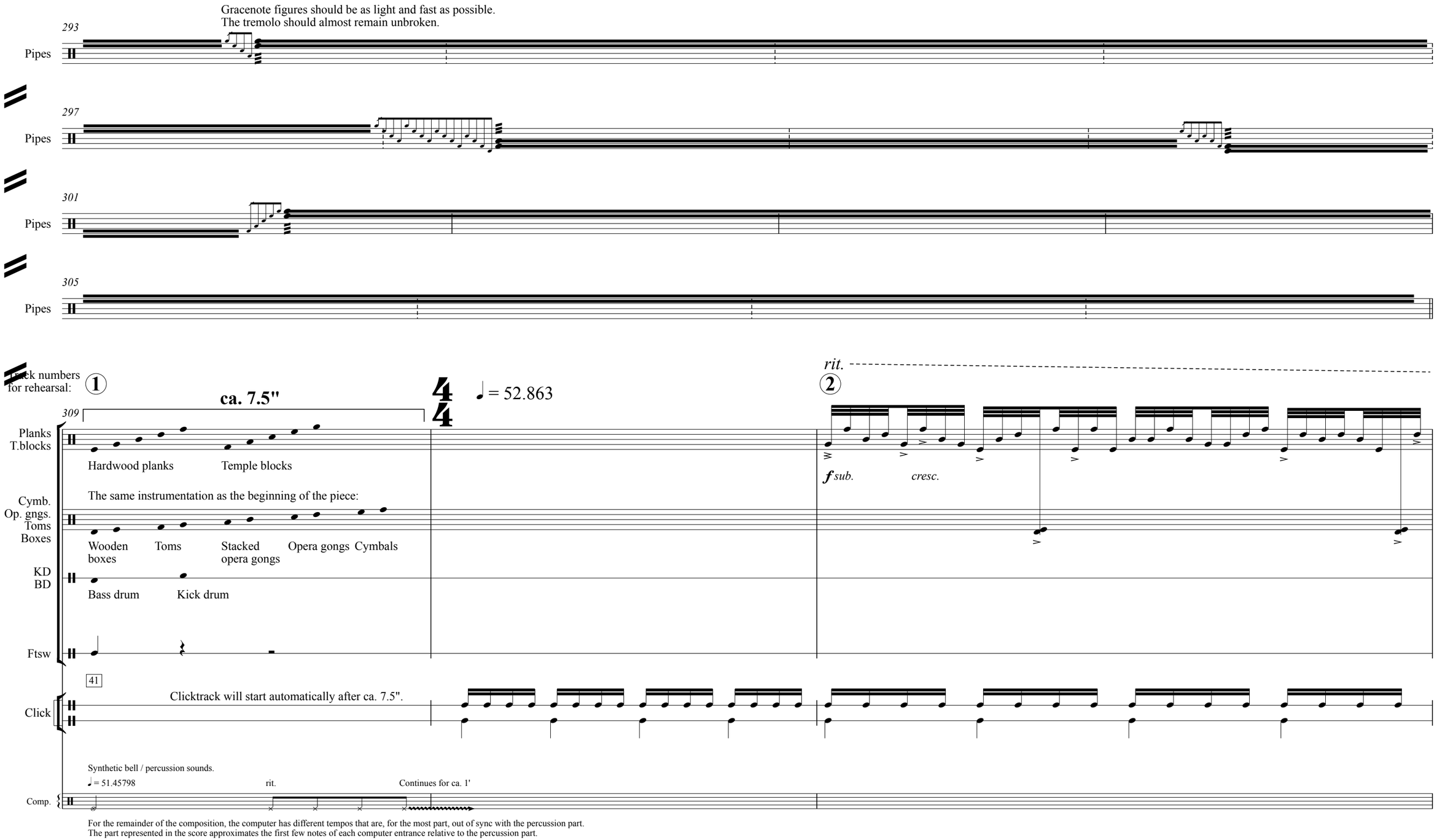
p

mf

p

289

Pipes



For the remainder of the composition, the computer has different tempos that are, for the most part, out of sync with the percussion part.
The part represented in the score approximates the first few notes of each computer entrance relative to the percussion part.

312

Planks
T.blocks

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Click

Comp.

2/4

cresc.

♩ = 62.37006

Continues for ca. 40"

316

1/4

3 ♩ = 5.217
(𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 166.957)

323 violently

Planks
T.blocks
Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes
KD
BD
Click
Comp.

fff possible

3 5 3

4

accel.

f sub.

♩ = 20.869
(𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 166.957)

326

5

3/16 1/4

fff possible

subito

♩ = 6.956 (𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 222.584)

329

Planks
T.blocks
Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes
KD
BD

f sub.

fff possible

Click

♩ = 55.607 *rit.* ♩ = 18.53 *accel.*

Comp.

Continues for ca. 2.5'

♩ = 13.91142 (𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 222.584)

6

subito

♩ = 4.6368 (𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 148.378) *accel.*

332

Planks
T.blocks
Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes
KD
BD

f sub.

fff possible

Click

Comp.

335

Planks
T.blocks

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Click

♩ = 63.12

Continues for ca. 3'

Comp.

338

Decresc. only the unaccented notes.

Planks
T.blocks

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Click

Comp.

♩ = 18.547
(𝅘𝅥𝅯 =148.378)

rit.

(Tremolo marks indicate notes to be rolled--unmeasured tremolo)

7

341

Planks
T.blocks

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

p (Accented notes = ***f***)

Click

Comp.

345

3

Planks
T.blocks

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Click

Comp.

349

Planks
T.blocks

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Click

Comp.

8

352

= 4.121
(= 131.868)

accel. molto

violently

poco ***fff*** *sub.*

fff

356

Planks
T.blocks

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes

KD
BD

Click

Comp.

360

9

= 131.868

subito
= 43.924

10

p

fff

subito
♩ = 19.506 (𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 156.047)

subito
𝅘𝅥𝅯 = 12 ♩ = 26

7/8

367

Cymb.
Op. gngs.
Toms
Boxes
KD
BD
Click
Comp.

fff

fff cresc.

Clicktrack ends.

12 12 12 6

subito
12 = 9 ♩ = 34.677

subito
9 = 7 ♩ = 44.585

369

9 9 9 9 7 7 7 7

fff possible