Cage
Concerto per pianoforte
e orch.
1957/58

STRINGS

The following 16 pages for a stringplayer may be played with or without
other parts for other players. It is therefor a solo or a part in an
ensemble, symphony, or concerto for piano with orchestra. Though there
are 16 pages, any amount of them may be played (including none). No part
once played is to be repeated.

Each page has 5 systems. The time-length of each system is free. Given a
total performance time-length, the player may make a program that will
fill it. The action of the conductor (when there is one) will alter the
length of minutes (time-units). Therefor, in the circumstance of having
a conductor, the player's program should be made so that he will be able
to play faster or slower than he would with a standard chronometer.

Notes are of three sizes: small, medium and large. A small note is either
ppp, pp, p in the dynamic range or short in duration or both. A medium
note is either mp, mf in the dynamic range or medium in duration or both.
A large note is either f, ff, fff in the dynamic range or medium in dura-
tion or both. The possible interpretations are many: thus, a large note
may be long in length but of any amplitude; or, it may be loud, but of
any duration in time. Also, a small note may be short in length but of
any amplitude, or it may be soft, but of any duration in time. Notes
given appreciable duration may be played constantly or intermittently
(spicc., trills, etc.).

All notes are separate from one another in time, preceded and followed
by a silence (if only a short one).

Notes below a staff and attached to it by a stem are noises to be produced
on the box of the violin (by percussion or friction)or on any auxiliary
sound producing means (e.g. percussion, mechanical, electrical, wind
means, etc.).

The sharps and flats preceding thick vertical lines refer to tuning of
the four strings, a sharp meaning an increase of any amount of tension,
a flat a decrease of any amount of tension, a natural a return to normal
(approx.) tension.

A dotted line below a note or notes means con sordino. If several different
mutes are available, number them and use them to vary the sounds.

Crescendo and diminuendo marks are alone or combined. When combined, the
player may make any combination of two or more of them (espressivo). The
amount of cresc. or dim. is free in both intensity and duration. The
absence of these signs means constant dynamic level.

Curves following notes are sliding tones. They do not refer to time-length
but only to direction in pitch.

All tones are to be played non vibrato unless accompanied by wave like
signs indicating speed of vibrato. Width of vibrato may be freely varied
by the performer.

4 types of pizzicatti are distinguished: ., normal; plus-sign, stopped
against fingerboard; x, stopped sideways against fingernail; arrows,
slide following attack.

Col Arco cancels col legno. Ordinario cancels sul tasto or sul pont.
Artificial harmonics are notated with actual sound. o means natural
harmonic.

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J. Pollock 1951