

Equinoxes of the Infinite

2008/2013

Christian Mason

Instrumentation: 2 Pianos and 2 Percussion

Percussion I: 3 Triangles (small, medium, large), 2 Rin (pitches D, E), 2 Suspended Cymbals (small, medium), 1 Chinese Cymbal (large), Vibraphone (+ bow)

Piano I (+ plectrum)

Percussion II: 2 Rin (pitches A, B), 2 Suspended Cymbals (medium, large), 1 Chinese Cymbal (medium), 3 Thai Gongs (pitches C, F, E), Tam-tam (large), Marimba (5 oct. C2-C7), Crotales (+ bow)

Piano II (+ plectrum)

The image shows three musical staves. The first staff is in bass clef and is labeled "Perc II: 3 Thai Gongs:". It contains three notes: a whole note labeled "small", a whole note labeled "medium", and a whole note labeled "large". The second staff is in treble clef and is labeled "Perc I: Rin:". It contains two notes: a whole note and a half note. The third staff is in treble clef and is labeled "Perc II: Rin:". It contains two notes: a whole note and a half note.

Performance notes:

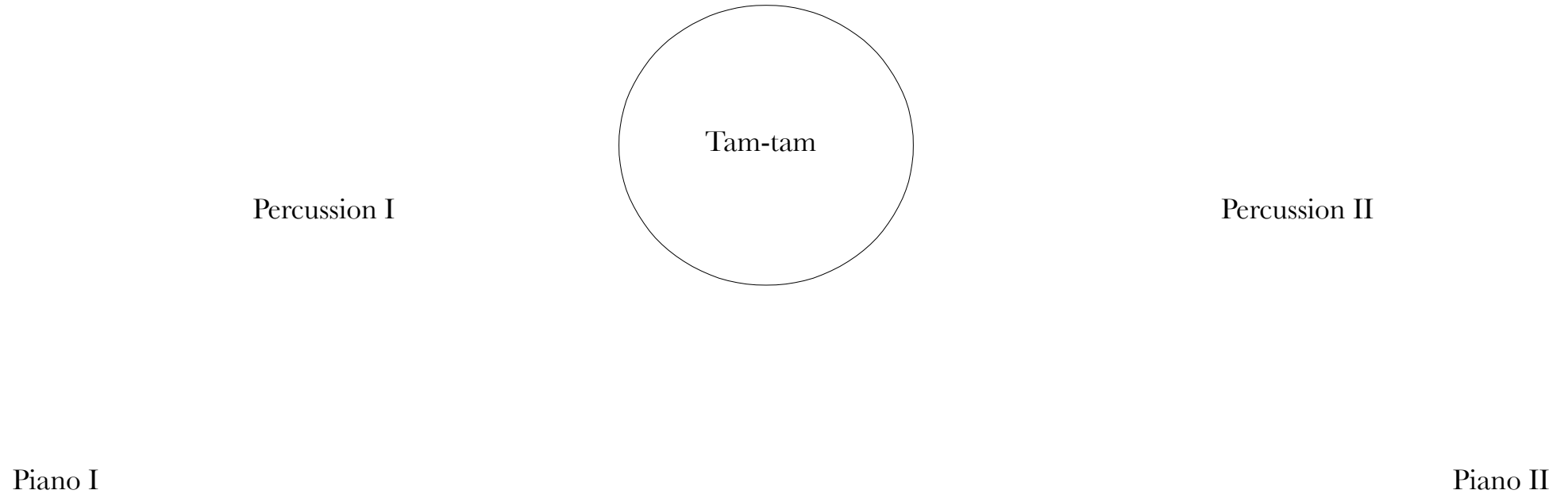
- Both pianists are required to use a plectrum for the sections of the piece which take place inside the piano.
- The bowed cymbals should aim to sound different on each occasion.
- Grace notes should be played as quickly as possible, just before the beat.

Score in C with relevant octave transpositions

Duration: c.7 minutes

Stage Layout:

Groups I and II should be set opposite one another, either side of the Tam-tam, which should be visible at the heart of the ensemble. The precise arrangement of percussion instruments is left to the discretion of the players.



Equinoxes of the Infinite

In Memoriam Karlheinz Stockhausen

Christian Mason (2008/rev. 2013)

A Very slow, solemn, contemplative

$\text{♩} = 40$

3 Triangles (I) *f* *sempre l.v.* *small* *medium*

2 Suspended Cymbals (I) *pp* *sempre arco.* *medium* *p*

Piano (I) Pizz. (with plectrum) *sempre l.v.* *p* *mf*

A Very slow, solemn, contemplative

$\text{♩} = 40$

2 Suspended Cymbals (II) *pp* *medium* *sempre arco.* *sempre l.v.* *large*

3 Gongs (II) *p* *small*

Tam-tam (II) *f* *Rapidly scrape edge with knitting needle*

Piano (II) Pizz. (with plectrum) *sempre l.v.* *p* *mf*

poco accel.

12

Tri. I

Cym. I

Pno. I

pp dolce

ped.

poco accel.

Cym. II

Gong II

Pno. II

pp dolce

ped.

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system includes Tri. I, Cym. I, and Pno. I. The second system includes Cym. II, Gong II, and Pno. II. The Percussion parts (Tri. I, Cym. I, Cym. II, Gong II) consist of rhythmic patterns with rests. The Piano parts (Pno. I and Pno. II) feature complex melodic lines with triplets and slurs. The Pno. I part includes a *pp dolce* dynamic and a *ped.* (pedal) marking. The Pno. II part also includes a *pp dolce* dynamic and a *ped.* marking. The tempo marking *poco accel.* appears at the beginning and end of the page.

23

Tri. I

Rin I

Vib. I

Pno. I

Mar. II

Pno. II

f *mp* *f* *p* *f* *pp*

pp medium hard sticks

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 23 through 26. The top two staves, Tri. I and Rin I, are silent. Vib. I plays a melodic line with triplets and a quintuplet. Pno. I has a complex texture with triplets, sextuplets, and various dynamics including *f*, *mp*, *f*, *p*, *f*, and *pp*. It includes a *Ped.* marking and fingering numbers like 3, 5, 6, 5, 3, 7, 5. Mar. II is silent until measure 26, where it plays a muffled drum roll (*pp*) with the instruction "medium hard sticks". Pno. II has a triplet and a quintuplet in the treble clef. The bottom staff, Pno. II, is silent.

ord: hard sticks
(bright, intense sound)
trem.

32

Vib. I

pp \longleftarrow *f*

pp

Pno. I

trem.

Mar. II

sfz

p

sfz p sfz p sfz p sfz p sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz p sfz p sfz p sfz p sfz sfz p sfz sfz

Pno. II

sfz

sfz p sfz f sfz

D With growing intensity

Vib. I

35

ff *pp dolce* *mp legato molto cantabile* *pp* *mp*

Pno. I

ff *pp dolce* *mp legato molto cantabile* *pp* *p*

D With growing intensity

Mar. II

ff *pp dolce* *p* *f* *p* *sfz* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Pno. II

ff *pp dolce* *sfz* *f* *p* *sfz* *f* *p* *sfz* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

This page of a musical score contains four systems of staves, numbered 38 to 47. The instruments are Vib. I, Pno. I, Mar. II, and Pno. II. The Vib. I part features a melodic line with dynamic markings *p*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *f*, and *ff*, along with triplet and quintuplet figures. The Pno. I part provides harmonic support with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. The Mar. II and Pno. II parts are characterized by frequent *sfz* (sforzando) accents and dynamic contrasts between *f* and *p*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and articulation marks.

E Ethereal, as if floating

Vib. I

41

fff *pp sempre legato* *f* *pp* *f*

Pno. I

sfz *sfz* *sfz* *sffz* *pp cresc. poco à poco* *p cresc. poco à poco*

quasi-bisbigliando: fast irregular alternation between notes creating rapid (but not repetitive) scale/arpeggio figures

8^{va}

E Ethereal, as if floating

Mar. II

p *ff* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *fff* *p* *f* *pp* *f*

Pno. II

f *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *pp* *sfz* *pp*

l.v. (hold keys until decay is complete)

8^{va}

G

53 trem. (as fast as poss.)

Vib. I *fffz* Led. *p*

Pno. I trem. (as fast as poss.) *fffz* *fff sempre* *p* *fff*

Mar. II trem. (as fast as poss.) *fffz* *p* *p^v* *q^v*

Pno. II trem. (as fast as poss.) *fffz* *fff sempre* *p* *fff*

Led. *p* *fff*

H

57

Chin.
Cym. I

Vib. I

Pno. I

H

Chin.
Cym. II

Mar. II

Pno. II

I Flowing
♩ = 50

60
Vib. I
soft sticks
pp
mf

Pizz.
Pno. I
p
mf

I Flowing
♩ = 50

Chin.
Cym. II
p

Gong II
p

T.-t. II
Rapidly scrape edge with knitting needle
f

Crot. II
arco
p

Pizz.
Pno. II
p
mf

rall. ♩ = 40

72

Vib. I

Pno. I

rall. ♩ = 40

Chin.
Cym. II

Gong II

T.-t. II

Crot. II

Pno. II