

star-light is a little light
for flute & percussion

ethan hayden
2010 (rev. 2012)

star-light is a little light centers itself around simple, pure sonorities and gestures consisting of high metallic percussion and various subtle flute effects. these pure, "little" sounds are sometimes echoed with more dense, noisy gestures in a relationship which ebbs and flows as the piece moves from low, inharmonic textures to high, harmonic sonorities.

the piece was commissioned by and composed in close collaboration with flautist lana stafford and percussionist michelle purdy. it is dedicated to them in heartfelt gratitude for their commitment, enthusiasm, and artistic contributions.

performance notes:

general:

- slashed grace notes should be played as quickly as possible; grace notes in brackets can be played with relative freedom within the time of the bracketed duration
- the instruments may be amplified slightly to ensure reception of the quietest sounds; however, the amplification must be regulated to avoid any characteristic sonorities associated with amplification
- there are three types of fermati used in the piece, performers should feel free to expand or condense these pauses if necessary:

-  short fermata - ca. 1-2"
-  medium fermata - ca. 2-3"
-  long fermata - ca. 4-6"

flute:

- flute fingering charts are displayed when necessary, over bisbigliandi and multiphonics
- the following abbreviations are used in the score:
 - WT = whistle tone
 - TR = tongue ram
 -  = bisbigliando (color trill)
- the following noteheads are used in the score:
 - > = pizzicato
 - × = key click
 - ▼ = aeolian (breath sound)

percussion:

- vibraphone should be played without motor for entire piece
- vibraphone and chimes should be allowed to sustain freely, and weights may be set on the damper pedals of each instrument to aid in performance
- snares on snare drum should be left off throughout the entire piece
-  refers to a type of tremolo in which, rather than performing a regular two-hand roll, the performer quickly alternates a single brush (or other mallet) in a subtle back-and-forth motion

instrumentation:

flute

percussion:

- crotales (high octave)
- glockenspiel
- vibraphone
- tubular chimes
- 2 finger cymbals (high & low, preferably ~ e & d[#])
- 2 crystal glasses (pitched c⁵ & e⁵)
- prayer bowl
- tuned gongs (pitched c, d, e, f[#], g, a^b, b -- any octave)
- snare drum

mallets used:

- brass (preferably ron vaughn tiny bell mallets)
- soft yarn
- wire brushes
- bow
- chopsticks (or knitting needles)
- block mallets (preferably ron vaughn med. block mallets)

duration ca. 10'

*Star-light, what is star-light, star-light
is a little light that is not always
mentioned with the sun, it is
mentioned with the moon and the sun,
it is mixed up with the rest of the time.*

- Gertrude Stein
from *Tender Buttons* (1914)

star-light is a little light

-for lana stafford and michelle purdy-

ethan hayden
2012

-arc 1-
ca. 60

flute

(wide vib.) (accel. vib.) (flz.)
ppp *mp* *p*
(gradual change to aeolian)

percussion

crot. (brass) *p*
glock. (brass) *p*
vibes (soft yarn) *mp*
gongs (wire brush) *p* *pp* *mp*
glock. *pp*
vibes *p*

fl.

perc.

chimes (soft yarn) *mp* *l.v.* *p*
vibes *p*

WT

7

fl. WT

perc. fing. cym. (brass)

vibes

glock.

12

11 16

mp

pp

p

(accel./decel. bisbig.)

fl.

perc.

17

pp

ppp

gongs (wire brush)

snare dr. (wire brush)

L.v.

ppp

fl. 23

perc.

mp

mp

mf *sub. p* *mf* *mp*

fing. cym.
(brass)

p

glock.
(brass)

crot.

p

glock.

crot.

glock.

crot.

mp

3

bowl
(soft yarn)

chimes

l.v.

mp

mp

vibes
(bow)

mf



fl. 29

perc.

p

**with alt. fing.*
(in addition to tremolo)

**with alt. fing.*

pp

p

a tempo

chimes
(soft yarn)

l.v.

mp

gongs
(wire brush)

ppp

vibes
(soft yarn)

p (dead stroke)

fl. 33

TR

mp

p

perc.

p

pp

mp

p

glock.
(brass)

crys. gls.
(fingers)



fl. 38

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

pp *p* *pp*

p *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

p

perc.

pp

glock.
(brass)

vibes
(soft yarn)

WT

WT

43

fl. *p* *ppp < p > ppp* *mp* (lip gliss) *p* (lip gliss) *mp*

perc. *p* *pp* *mp*

vibes (soft yarn) (arrival pitch) chimes l.v.

==

48

fl. (depress gliss) *p* *pp* (peel gliss)

perc. *mp* *p* (tilt glass sideways while sounding) (block mallet) *ppp*

vibes crys. gls. (fingers) snare dr. (wire brush)

64

fl.

TR

3

p

5:4

(lip gliss)

perc.

p

pp

p

pp

pp

pp



70

fl.

pp

mp

mp

3

p

mf

mp

TR

perc.

gongs (wire brush)

snare dr.

gongs

ppp

p

fl. 75 *mp* *mf* *sub. mp* *sub. mf* *mp* *mf* *f* *sub. p*

perc. *mf* *f* *sub. mp*

TR 7:4 5:4 6

vibes (chopsticks) gongs (chopsticks)

WT



-arc 2-

♩ ca. 45 (♩. = ♩)

fl. 79 *pp* *pp*

perc. *pp* *pp*

crot. (brass) *pp* *l.v. throughout*

fing. cym. (brass) *pp* *pp*

bowl *pp*

glock. (brass) *pp* *l.v. throughout*

7:4 3 3

fl. *ca. 60* ($\text{♩} = \text{♩.}$)

perc. *glock. (brass)* *L.v.*

WT

p *pp* *p* *pp*

7/16 11/16 5/4

vibes (soft yarn)

pp

7/16 11/16 5/4

fl. *88*

perc. *vibes* *chimes (soft yarn)* *L.v.* *glock. (block mallets)* *ghostly*

WT

p *p* *mp* *p* *p*

5/4 4/4 5/4 3/4 5/4 3/4 4/4

fl. *pp*

perc. *p* *p* *pp*

crys. gls.
(fingers)

95

fl. *p* *pp*

perc. *p* *pp*

crot.
(brass)

glock.

(brass)

(block mallets)

100

104

fl. *pp*

glock.
(brass)

vibes
(soft yarn)

ppp



109

fl. *pp*

glock.
(brass)

pp

crot.
(brass)

pp

vibes
(bow)

pp

fl. poco rit.

WT

perc.

7 16

7 16

7 16



fl. molto rit.

ca. 40
transcendent

WT

perc. glock.
(brass)

pp

ppp

ppp

pppp

7 16

4 4

4 4

buffalo, ny
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