

QUASI SINFONIA

FOR 16 PLAYERS

DAVID M. GORDON

QUASI SINFONIA

for Marta Ptaszynska, Shulamit Ran, and Contempo

David M. Gordon

Duration: ca. 24'

I. Allarmi	pg. 1
II. Ritual	pg. 40
III. Tema con variazioni	pg. 83
IV. Allarmi e campane	pg. 144

Instrumentation

Unless otherwise noted, instruments sound as written in the score and parts

Piccolo

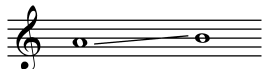
- Sounds one octave higher than written in the score and part

Alto Flute in G

- Sounds as written in the score; sounds a perfect 4th lower than written in the part

Chromatic Pitch Pipe

- Range needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself

Melodica

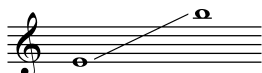
- Range needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself

Slide Whistle

- Range needed:



Oboe

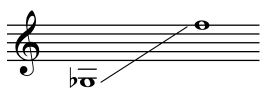
English Horn

- Sounds as written in the score; sounds a perfect 5th lower than written in the part

Kazoo

Melodica

- Range needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself
-

B \flat Clarinet

- Sounds as written in the score; sounds a major 2nd lower than written in the part

B \flat Bass Clarinet

- Sounds as written in the score; sounds one octave and a major 2nd lower than written in the part

Chromatic Pitch Pipe

- Range needed:

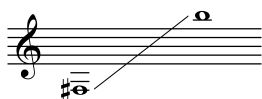


- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself

Kazoo

Melodica

- Range needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself
-

B \flat Soprano Saxophone

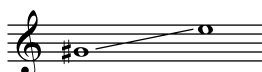
- Sounds as written in the score; sounds a major 2nd lower than written in the part

E \flat Baritone Saxophone

- Sounds as written in the score; sounds one octave and a major 6th lower than written in the part

Chromatic Pitch Pipe

- Range needed:



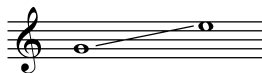
- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself
-

Contrabassoon

- Sounds one octave lower than written in the score and part

Chromatic Pitch Pipe

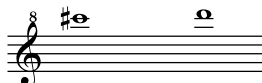
- Range needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself

2 Penny (Tin) Whistles

- Sound one octave higher than written in the score and part
- Written pitches needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and each other
-

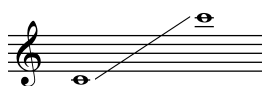
Percussion 1

Chimes (Tubular Bells)

- Shared with Percussion 2

Toy Piano

- Range needed:



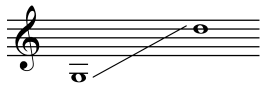
- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself

Vibraphone

- Shared with Percussion 2

Diatonic Harmonica in G

- Range needed:



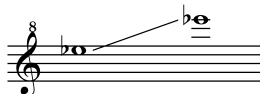
- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself
- May be shared with Percussion 2

Duck Call

- Must be able to produce a steady, consistent tone, and, when played as indicated, sound like a warning signal or alarm rather than a duck call
- A professional-quality duck call from a hunting supply store is recommended

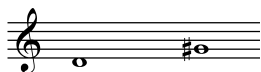
Flex-a-Tone

- Sounds one octave higher than written in the score and part
- Written range needed:



2 Glass Bowls

- Pitches needed:



- Decorative glass globes with open tops are recommended

Goose Honker

- Must be able to produce a steady, consistent tone, and, when played as indicated, sound like a warning signal or alarm rather than a goose call
- A professional-quality goose honker from a hunting supply store is recommended

Wine Glass

- Pitch needed:



Wine or Snifter Glass

- Pitch needed:



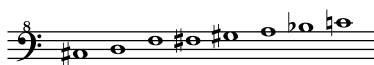
Mallets and Other Supplies

- 1 bow (bass, cello, or violin), 2 hard plastic mallets, 4 medium-hard yarn mallets, 4 medium yarn mallets, 2 rawhide chime hammers (may be shared with Percussion 2)

Percussion 2

Almglocken

- Sound one octave higher than written in the score and part
- Written pitches needed:



Orchestra Bells (Glockenspiel)

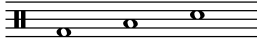
- Sound two octaves higher than written in the score and part

Vibraphone

- Shared with Percussion 1

3 Brake Drums

- Written as:



Deer Grunt Call

- Must produce an extremely low pitch, somewhat similar in sound to the low octave of a contrabassoon
- A professional-quality deer grunt call from a hunting supply store is recommended

Diatonic Harmonica in F#

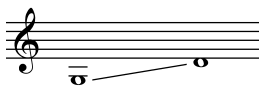
- Range needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself

Diatonic Harmonica in G

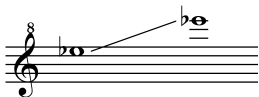
- Range needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself
- May be shared with Percussion 1

Flex-a-Tone

- Sounds one octave higher than written in the score and part
- Written range needed:



Glass Bowl

- Pitch needed:



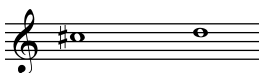
- A decorative glass globe with an open top is recommended

2 Thai Button Gongs

- Written as:



- Recommended (approximate) sounding pitches:



Wine or Snifter Glass

- Pitch needed:



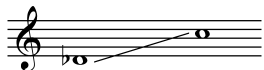
Mallets and Other Supplies

- 2 bows (bass, cello, or violin), 3 hard plastic mallets, 2 medium-hard yarn mallets, 2 plastic chime hammers, 2 rawhide chime hammers (may be shared with Percussion 1)
-

Percussion 3

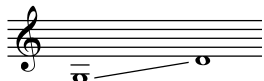
Crotales

- Sound two octaves higher than written in the score and part
- Written range needed:



Diatonic Harmonica in G

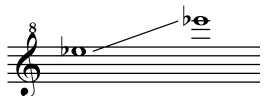
- Range needed:



- Can be slightly out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself

Flex-a-Tone

- Sounds one octave higher than written in the score and part
- Written range needed:



Glass Bowl

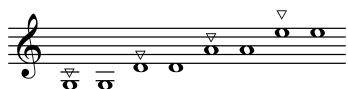
- Pitch needed:



- A decorative glass globe with an open top is recommended

Mandolin

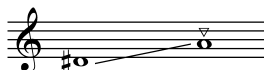
- Tuning of open strings (see below for details on the special notation):



Sizzle Cymbal

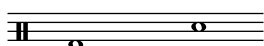
Slide Whistle

- Range needed (see below for details on the special notation):



2 Tam-Tams

- Written as:



- The higher tam-tam should be medium-sized and the lower tam-tam should be large-sized

Wine or Snifter Glass

- Pitch needed:

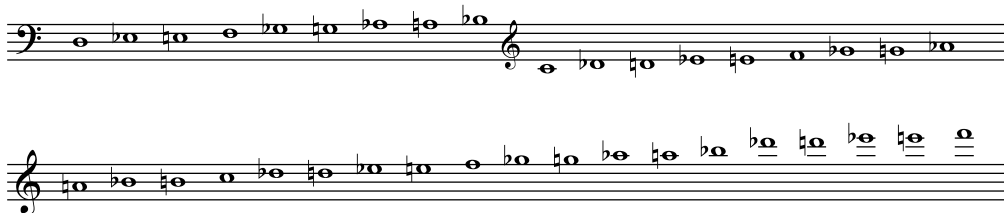


Mallets and Other Supplies

- 1 or 2 bows (bass, cello, or violin), 2 hard plastic mallets, 1 medium plectrum (pick), 2 medium-soft yarn mallets, 1 tam-tam beater
-

Prepared Piano

- The following strings must be prepared by placing a vinyl machine screw between strings 2 and 3 (the center and right strings), or, in the case of pitches with only two strings, between 1 and 2. Whenever possible, the screws should be placed approximately midway between the damper and the bridge. In the case of lower strings that cross above or below other strings, however, it may be necessary to place the screws closer to, or even behind, the damper. All screws should fit tightly between the strings so as not to buzz, and the heads of the screws should not touch the strings. Recommended screw sizes are #8-32 × 1" (for high and mid-range strings) and #10-24 × 1" (for mid-range and low strings), though the best choices will ultimately depend upon the construction of the piano being used.



Viola 2

Autoharp

- Range needed:



- A 15 chord model with the chord bars removed is recommended
- Can be out-of-tune with the other instruments and itself

Large Metal Wind Chimes

- Should be close in size and register to tubular bells, with a sound similar to church bells
- Must be tuned differently than the wind chimes used by the other viola and violin players

Mutes and Other Supplies

- medium plectrum (pick), regular mute, wood (ebony) mute
-

Violoncello 1

Mutes

- regular mute, wood (ebony) mute
-

Violoncello 2

Mutes

- regular mute, wood (ebony) mute
-

Contrabass

- Sounds one octave lower than written in the score and part
- Must have a low C string or C extension

Mutes

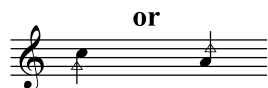
- regular mute, wood (ebony) mute
-

Abbreviations

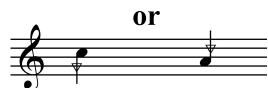
A Fl	Alto Flute	Mnd	Mandolin
Ahp	Autoharp	MPl	Medium Plectrum
Alm	Almglocken	MSY	Medium-Soft Yarn Mallet(s)
B Cl	B \flat Bass Clarinet	MY	Medium Yarn Mallet(s)
Bk D	Brake Drums	Ob	Oboe
Bls	Orchestra Bells	Pc	Percussion
B Sax	E \flat Baritone Saxophone	Picc	Piccolo
Cb	Contrabass	PH	Plastic Chime Hammers
Cbsn	Contrabassoon	Pno	Prepared Piano
Chm	Chimes	P P	Chromatic Pitch Pipe
Cl	B \flat Clarinet	P Wh	Penny Whistles
Cro	Crotales	RH	Rawhide Chime Hammer(s)
D C	Duck Call	S Sax	B \flat Soprano Saxophone
D G	Deer Grunt Call	S W	Slide Whistle
E H	English Horn	Sz C	Sizzle Cymbal
Fx-T	Flex-a-Tone	T Pn	Toy Piano
G B	Glass Bowl	T-T	Tam-Tams
G H	Goose Honker	TTB	Tam-Tam Beater
Gng	Thai Button Gongs	Vbr	Vibraphone
Har	Harmonica	Vc	Cello
HP	Hard Plastic Mallet(s)	Vla	Viola
Kz	Kazoo	Vln	Violin
Mel	Melodica	W Ch	Large Metal Wind Chimes
MHY	Medium-Hard Yarn Mallet(s)	W G	Wine/Snifter Glass

Performance Notes

Special Notations



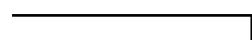
quarter-tone higher than the indicated pitch



quarter-tone lower than the indicated pitch



continue observing the indicated marking (e.g., *δva*, *δvb*, etc.) until further notice



stop observing the indicated marking (e.g., *δva*, *δvb*, etc.)

Performance Instructions

Saxophone

- All saxophone parts must be played with a minimum of vibrato

Percussion

- Throughout the work, all instruments must be allowed to ring
- The chime and vibraphone pedals must be fixed so that they are held down for the entire work
- The mandolin is played by strumming the open strings in the direction indicated
- The mandolin may be played while it lays on a table

Prepared Piano

- The sustain pedal must be fixed so that it is held down for the entire work
- Under no circumstances should the una corda pedal be used, since it will change the timbre of the prepared notes

Strings

- The entire work must be played without vibrato
- Pizzicato notes must be allowed to ring as long as possible

Autoharp

- The autoharp is played by strumming the open strings in the directions indicated
- Throughout the work, the autoharp must be allowed to ring
- The autoharp should be played while it lays on a table

Wind Chimes

- The wind chimes should be placed on the sides of the stage (2 chime sets per side) and the players should set down their normal instruments and walk over to the wind chimes when called upon to play them
- The wind chimes should be suspended from tall stands or racks so that they do not touch the ground and the players can easily access their strikers