
Sid Richardson

Astrolabe

for Flute, Clarinet, Violin,
Cello, Piano, Percussion

2014, Rev. 2022

Astrolabe

Instrumentation:

Flute

Clarinet in Bb (doubling Bass Clarinet in Bb with "C" extension)

Violin

Violoncello

Percussion

Piano

Percussion List:

Vibraphone

Crotales (2 octaves)

Suspended Cymbals (3)

Brake Drums (2)

Small Gong (tam-tam or wind gong)

Cowbell

Snare Drum

Tom-tom

Bass Drum (with pedal)

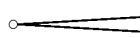
Wood blocks (2)

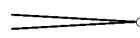
Duration: *10 minutes, 30 seconds*

Performance Notes:

All players are asked to use their voice in some capacity. If necessary, players may change the octave range of a passage to suit individual capability. Spoken passages should emphasize consonants instead of vowels. In whispered passages, lines enter approximately where they appear in the measure and cutoff in the same manner.

Amplification for all instruments and voices is suggested along with a small amount of reverb, between 20-30% in the mix, at the discretion of the sound technician. This should not be very loud, just enough to pick up and balance both instruments and voices.

 = Crescendo dal niente

 = Diminuendo al niente

 = note raised 1/4 tone

 = note raised 3/4 tone

 = note lowered 1/4 tone

 = note lowered 3/4 tone

Strings:

SP = Sul ponticello

ST = Sul tasto

N = Normale, ordinary bow placement

Winds:

Diamond noteheads with an open circle above indicate to use breath tone. Use the fingering needed to produce the marked pitch, however, do not produce the normal tone, just blow air through the instrument. A dotted line connecting the open circle to a filled-in circle above an ordinary notehead indicates to gradually shift from breath tone to normal tone, and vice versa.

Revised June 15, 2022.

Program Note:

The astrolabe is an astronomical device used to solve problems relating to time and the position of the celestial bodies in the sky. It was the primary astronomical education tool of ancient times, and as such astrolabes were fashioned by various cultures around the world for both scientific and astrological purposes. Aesthetically, the astrolabe was regarded as a symbol of the universe and as an object of great beauty. *Astrolabe* seeks to interpret the mystical and scientific properties of the device and to consider the implications of time and positioning in musical space. Over the course of the work, several disparate musical elements are combined in new ways, each time with shifts in texture and mood, in much the same way as the moving components of the astrolabe are manipulated to solve for solutions to astronomical problems. The mystical and supernatural properties of the astrolabe, which date back to its early history as an instrument of astrology and divination, are reflected in musical passages incorporating the players' voices. The text is compiled out of three sources: star names from constellations of the zodiac, excerpts from Geoffrey Chaucer's *Treatise on the Astrolabe*, and Walt Whitman's poem "Kosmos." Untrained voices and text are employed to convey the dramatic intensity of the symbolic forces represented by the astrolabe, and to further the expressive potential of the musical textures in which they interact.

Astrolabe

for the Da Capo Chamber Players

Transposed Score

♩ = 50 **Largo misterioso**

SID RICHARDSON
(b. 1987)

breath tone breath *sim.* *sim.*

Flute

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

Clarinet in B♭

breath tone breath *sim.* *gliss.*

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

Violin

Violoncello

con sord. *gliss.*

p *pp*

Vibraphone

(motor off)

pp *p*

Ped.



4 *sim.*

Fl.

mp *mf* *p* *sfz* *poco*

Cl.

sim. *sfz* *p* *sfz* *p* *poco* *sfz* *mp* *pp* *gliss.* 3

Vln.

con sord.

pp *p* *pp*

Vc.

gliss.

p

Vib.

7

tone breath

Fl. *mp* *p* *mf*

Cl. *poco* *sfz* *pp* *p* *sfz* *p*

Vln. *poco SP* *pp*

Vc. *poco SP* *p* *mp*

Vib. *ppp* *Ped.*

gliss.



A

9

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* *espressivo* *sim.* *p* *sfz* *p*

Cl. *mf* *mp* *pp* *sfz* *mp* *p* *sfz*

Vln. *fp* *poco* *mp* *p* *mp* *mf* *p*

Vc. *fp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

Vib. *p* *pp* *poco* *p* *pp*

gliss. *gliss.* *gliss.* *tr* *ST*

sim. *sim.* *sim.*

ped.

13

Fl. *sim.* *sfz* *p* *poco f* *sfz*

Cl. *mp* *poco* *sfz* *p*

Vln. *poco SP* *mf*

Vc. *ord.* *p* *mp* *mp*

Vib. *Red.* *p*

16

Fl. *gliss.* *p* *mf* *poco f* *sfz* *f* *mf* *gliss.*

Cl. *mf* *mf > p < mf* *sim.* *p*

Vln. *ST* *pp* *p* *poco SP* *fp* *mf* *sub. p*

Vc. *poco SP* *pp* *p* *fp* *mf* *sub. p*

Vib. *Red.* *pp* *mp* *p* *mf* *sub. pp*

20

Fl. *p* *poco f* *mp* *f* *flz.*

Cl. *f* *mf* *sfz* *p* *sub. f* *p*

Vln. *f* *p* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *f* *p* *tr*

Vib. *p* *mp* *pp* *Red.* *p*

24

Fl. *sfz* *p* *sfz* *f* *6* *gliss.* *4"*

Cl. *sim.* *mp* *4"*

Vln. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *ord.* *pp* *mp* *f* *4"*

Vc. *(tr)* *mp* *ord.* *p* *f* *gliss.* *4"*

Vib. *p* *pp* *4"*

28

Fl. *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. *f*

Vln. *p* *mf* *f*

Vc. *mp* *p* *mf* *f*

Perc. with vibraphone mallets
Gong l.v. *f* Suspended Cymbal l.v. *mf*

Pno. *f*

Ped.

31 *sim.*

Fl. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *f*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vln. *mp* *mf* *mp* 5 6

Vc. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Perc. Sus Cym *p* Gong l.v. *p* Sus Cym l.v. *mp* *p*

Pno. *mf* *f*

(Pedaled)

34

Fl. *sub. p* *mf* *f* *mf* *mp* *molto*

Cl. *mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Vln. *sub. p* *mp* *f* *mf* *mp* *molto*

Vc. *sub. p* *mp* *f* *mf* *mp* *molto*

Perc. Gong l.v. *p*

Pno. *sub. mp* *mf* *f* *mf*

Detailed description: This page contains the musical score for measures 34 through 37. The score is written for a full orchestra, including Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The Flute part begins with a sixteenth-note scale (measures 34-35) and a triplet (measure 36), followed by a melodic line in measure 37. The Clarinet part has a melodic line with a slur and a crescendo. The Violin and Viola parts have similar melodic lines with slurs and crescendos. The Percussion part features a Gong strike in measure 35, marked 'l.v.' and 'p'. The Piano part has a complex texture with sixteenth-note patterns in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. Dynamics include *sub. p*, *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and *molto*. Articulation marks like accents and slurs are used throughout.

37

Fl. *f* *mf*

Cl. *f* *mf*

Vln. *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mf*

Perc. Gong l.v. Sus Cym choke Gong l.v. *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Pno. *f* *> mf*

40

Fl. *mp* *f* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *f* *mp*

Vln. *mp* *f* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *f* *mp*

Perc. Cym *p* *mf* Gong *mf*

Pno. *mp* *f* *mp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 8, contains staves for Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 40-44) features a 3/4 time signature. The Flute, Clarinet, Violin, and Viola parts all begin at a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and crescendo to a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic by measure 42, where they play a sustained sixteenth-note figure. The Percussion part includes a cymbal roll starting at *p* and reaching *mf* by measure 42, and a gong strike at measure 43. The Piano part features a complex texture with chords and moving lines in both hands, starting at *mp* and reaching *f* by measure 42. The second system (measures 45-48) changes to a 2/4 time signature. All melodic instruments (Fl., Cl., Vln., Vc.) decrescendo from *f* to mezzo-piano (*mp*) by measure 46 and then play a sustained sixteenth-note figure. The Percussion part remains silent. The Piano part continues its complex texture, decrescendo from *f* to *mp* by measure 46. The score concludes at measure 48 with a 3/4 time signature.

42

Fl. *f* *mp*

Cl. *f* *mp* *p* Spoken *f*

Voice *f* *mp* *p* Spoken *f*
ki

Vln. *f* *mp*

Voice Spoken *f* *mp* *f*
Ruk - bat Nun ki

Vc. *f* *mp*

Voice Spoken *f* *mp* *f*
Ruk - bat Nun ki

Perc. Crotales l.v. Wood block Cowbell Snare Drum WB
mf *mf* *p* *mp*

Voice Spoken *f* *mp* *f*
Ruk - bat Nun ki

Pno. *f*

Voice Spoken *f* *mp* *f*
Ruk - bat Nun ki

45

Fl. *f* *flz.* *f* *sim. mf*
 Speak words over the mouthpiece while fingering the pitch
 Au - va Syr - ma

Cl. *mf* *mp*

Voice *mf*
 Syr - ma

Vln. *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*
 SP 3 3 3
 Za - ni - ah Au - va Syr - ma

Vc. *mf* *p* *f* *mf*
 3 3 3
 Za - ni - ah Au - va Syr - ma

Perc. SD WB Cow SD WB Sus Cym Cow WB Brake Drum
> p *mf* *p* *< mf* *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*
 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
 Za - ni - ah Au - va Syr - ma

Pno. *mf* *f* *3*
 (Pedaled) *mp* *f* *mf*
 3 3 3
 Za - ni - ah Au - va Syr - ma

Voice *mp* *f* *mf*
 3 3 3
 Za - ni - ah Au - va Syr - ma

48

Fl. *ord.* *f* *sim.* *ord.* *sim.* *ord.* *mp*

Cl. *f* *mp* 6 7

Voice *f* *f* *f* *mp*
Za - vi Aw - wa

Vln. *N arco* *mp* 5 6

Voice *f* *mf* *f*
Za - vi ja - va Ri - lal Aw - wa

Vc. *arco* *mf* *f* *mp*

Voice *mf* *f*
Ri - lal Aw - wa

Perc. SD WB Cow Brk Gong Sus Cym *p* *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

Voice *f* *mf* *f*
Za - vi - ja - va Ri - lal Aw - wa

Pno. *3* *8va* *3* *8va*

Voice *senza Ped.* *f* *mf* *f*
ja - va Ri - lal Aw - wa

51 *sim.* **ff** *ord.* **f** **mf**

Fl. Ar-kab Nu-sha-ba

Cl. **mf** **mf**

Voice He - ze Seph - dar Al-bal-dah

Vln. **mf** **mf**

Voice Seph - dar Por - ri - ma

Vc. **mf** **mp** **f** **f**

Voice Ar-kab Nu-sha-ba He - ze Al-bal-dah Por - ri - ma

Perc. SD Cow WB Sus Cym WB SD WB Cow Gong Brk Cow

Voice Ar-kab Nu-sha-ba He - ze Seph - dar Al-bal-dah Por - ri - ma

Pno. **mf** **f** **mp** **f** **mf** **f**

Voice Ar-kab Nu-sha-ba He - ze Seph - dar Al-bal-dah Por - ri - ma

(8) *8va*

53 *ff* *sim.* ord.

Fl. *f* *mp* *p*

Cl. *f* *mp* *p*

Voice *ff* *sim.*

Vln. *f* *mp* *p*

Vc. *ff* *mp* *p*

Perc. Brk WB Cow SD Brk Cow Sus Cym choke

Pno. *f*

Voice *ff* *sim.*

Spi - ca Vin - de - mi - a - trix

D ♩ = 60 - 63 Adagio misterioso

55

Fl. *poco f* *mp* *f* *p* *poco f* *sfz*

Cl. *mf* *mp* *mf*

Voice hum (any octave)

Vln. *mp* *mf*

Voice hum (any octave)

Vc. *mp* *mf*

Voice hum (any octave)

Crotales Crotales l.v. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

8^{vb}
Ped.

59

Fl. *p* *mf* *p* *sfz* *mp* *p* 15

Cl. *mfz* *p* *mp* *mf*

Voice hum (any octave)

Vln. *mf* *mp* *p* 5 *mf* 6 *mp*

Voice hum (any octave)

Vc. *mf* *mp* *p* 6 *mf* 5 *mp*

Voice hum (any octave)

Crotales *mp* Crotales l.v.

Pno. *mf* 8^{vb} Ped.

61

Fl. *poco* *f* *gliss.* *flz.* *mf* *p*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p*

Voice hum (any octave) *sim.*

Vln. *p* *mf* *p*

Voice hum (any octave) *sim.*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p*

Voice hum (any octave) *sim.*

Perc. Gong l.v. Crotales l.v. *p* *mp*

Pno. *mp*

(8) Ped.