
Sid Richardson

Gramarye

for Chamber Ensemble

2019

Gramarye

Instrumentation

Flute

Clarinet in A

Violin

Violoncello

Percussion (Bongos, Tam-tam, Vibraphone with motor, Wood Block, Cartwheel Timpani mallets)

Piano

Performance Notes

Accidentals hold throughout the bar.

A large square fermata indicates a long pause of indefinite length.

An arrow indicates to gradually transition from one mode of playing to another, e.g. from sul ponticello to ordinario.

For string instruments, natural harmonics intended to be fingered at the first octave or above on the fingerboard are notated with the intended resultant pitch marked by a circle above. All other harmonics are notated as artificial harmonics with the string they appear on as an ordinary notehead and the touch spot as a diamond notehead.

Repeat m. 190 ad lib. until conductor cues the gong hit on the downbeat of m. 191. Coinciding with the gong hit, the pianist activates the strings inside the piano with both hands (finger glissando) while holding down the sustain pedal in order to achieve a maximum of resonance ringing out. Allow piano and gong to fully decay before moving on to the coda.

Program Note

Gramarye for chamber ensemble explores the interstices between music and language. Grammar is regarded today as an ubiquitous study instilled in us from a young age in school. In the Middle Ages, however, knowledge of grammar was scarce enough to be considered a form of sorcery by the layman. Along with logic and rhetoric, grammar formed the core of the seven liberal arts known as the trivium. The term “gramarye” now has connotations of occult learning, magic, and necromancy. This new work springs from this mystical view of grammar and learning in general.

Gramarye presents many variations of its opening harmonic material in textures that are each controlled by unique sound grammars. Excerpts from preexistent texts are woven into the formal, rhythmic, and harmonic structures of the piece. These include references to gramarye in the Towneley plays and Sir Walter Scott’s *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*. I do not intend these processes to be recognized and carefully followed by the listener, but rather I aim for them to lend the music an underpinning structure and personal meaning, which allows a metaphorical resonance with the source materials to blossom. *Gramarye* was commissioned by the Utah Arts Festival for Sinfonia Salt Lake and was premiered in Salt Lake City on July 22, 2019. This work was made possible in part with the support of Crosstown Arts in Memphis.

Commissioned by the Utah Arts Festival
for Sinfonia Salt Lake

Transposed Score

Duration: ca. 13 minutes

Gramarye

Sid Richardson
(b. 1987)

♩ = 66 Pesante

This system contains the first four measures of the piece. The instruments are Flute, Clarinet in A, Violin, Violoncello, Vibraphone (motor off), and Piano. The Flute and Clarinet parts feature a melodic line with various dynamics including *f*, *ff*, and *ff*. The Violin and Violoncello parts are marked *pizz.* and *arco* with dynamics *f* and *ff*. The Vibraphone part has a steady eighth-note pattern with dynamics *f* and *ff*. The Piano part features a complex harmonic texture with dynamics *f* and *ff*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

This system contains measures 5 through 8. The instruments are Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Violoncello (Vc.), Percussion (Perc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute and Clarinet parts continue the melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *sfz*, and *f*. The Violin and Violoncello parts are marked *arco* and *pizz.* with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *sfz*, and *f*. The Percussion part has a steady eighth-note pattern with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *sfz*, and *f*. The Piano part features a complex harmonic texture with dynamics *f*, *sfz*, *mp*, and *f*. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

17

Fl. *ord.* *f* *sub. p* *mf* *ord.* *fl. ord.* *mp* *3* *mp*

Cl. *f* *p* *mf* *mp* *fl. ord.* *sfz*

Vln. *f* *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *sfz*

Vc. *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *arco* *sfz*

Perc. **Bongos** *sfz* *mf* *p* *mf* *3* **Tam-tam** *mp* *l.v.*

Pno. *f* *mp* *6* *mp* *f* *sfz*

21

Fl. *f* *7* *mp* *3* *mf* *5* *f* *ord.* *fl.* *tr*

Cl. *mf* *5* *f* *mf* *f* *ord.* *tr*

Vln. *Sul D* *slow gliss, sea-gull effect* *f* *tr*

Vc. *pizz.* *3* *f* *gliss.* *sfz* *arco* *tr* *mf* *f*

Perc. **Bongos with hands** *p* *molto* *f* *fp* *mf*

Pno. *15^{ma}* *7* *3* *tr* *tr*

24

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

mf 6 7 *f* 7 *mp* 7 *f*

mp 3 *f* 3 6 *mf* 5 6 *f* 5 *ff* tremolo + gliss.

ff 3 *f* 5 3 tremolo + gliss. *ff* *f*

ff 3 *p* 7 *mf* 6 6 *Red.*

Red.

15^{ma} *poco f* *8^{va}*

♩ = 63 Poco meno mosso e calmo

28

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vibraphone

Perc.

Pno.

solo 6 6 *mp calm* *pp* 6 6 7 *mp*

ppp *p* *f*

mf *mf* *f* *8^{va}*

32

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vibraphone

Perc.

Pno.

p *mf* *mp*

p *f* *p*

(8) *Ped. sim.*



35

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

p *con sord.* *mp* *mf* *p* *pp*

f *mf* *f* *mf*

38

Fl. *p* *mp*

Cl. *p*

Vln. *p*

Vc. *fp*

Perc. *mp* *f*

Piano *mp* *f*

mf

8va

8vb

41

Fl. *mf*

Cl. *mf* *p*

Vln. *mf*

Vc. *slow tremolo* *fast tremolo* *ff* *p* *f* *fp*

Perc. *f* *mf*

Piano *f*

8va

8vb

f

44

Fl. *p* *f* *mf*

Cl. *mf* *f* *mf*

Vln. *mp* *f* *mf*

Vc. *f* *f*

Vibraphone

Perc.

Pno.

tr. *3* *5* *6* *7* *6* *3* *5* *6* *6* *5* *3* *ord.* *3*

sul pont.

48 ♩ = 72 Freely - *I se thou can of gramory*

Hold as long as possible with one breath, do not reattack

mp

Hold as long as possible with one breath, do not reattack

mp

senza sord.

ord., Match decay of gong and piano

p misterioso

sul pont.

pp *f*

fp *ppp*

Tam-tam Hold until gong and piano fully decay

p *l.v.*

Hold until gong and piano fully decay

p *8^{va}* *Ped.*

50

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

pp sub. *mp* *pp* *mf*

slow to fast

Match decay with gong

Tam-tam with hard vibraphone mallet on the edge of gong ord., with gong beater

mf l.v. *pppp*



53

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

p *mf* *ppp* *pp* emerging from gong *mp*

sul pont. → ord.

Tam-tam

pp *ppp* *mf* l.v. buzz off, gong continues

strike ordinario while holding triangle beater against gong to create buzzing

rit.

♩ = 72 Poco più mosso

57

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

Tam-tam scrape on edge with triangle beater ord., with gong beater

ord., with triangle beater buzz on

p *mf* *pp furtive* *mp*

sfz l.v. *ppp* *p* *mp* l.v.

=

61

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

Tam-tam buzz off

buzz on

buzz off

with hard vibraphone mallet in center

allow gong to fully decay

pp *ppp* *p* *mf* *ppp*

sul pont. *tr* *tr* *gliss.* *ord., match gong decay*

♩ = 69

64

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

p *pp* *mp* *ord.* *tr* *pp* *fade out with gong*

Tam-tam with gong beater at edge *ord.* allow gong to fully decay *pppp*

pp l.v.

sul tasto *3* *3*



67 Misterioso - Dark was the vaulted room of gramarye

67

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vibraphone with medium-soft mallets

Perc.

Pno.

p *warm* *mp* *con sord.* *p* *ppp* *poco* *ppp*

una corda sempre
Ped. sempre

71

Fl. *pp* *p* *mp*

Cl. *pp* *p* *mp* 3

Vln. *pp* *p*

Vc. *pp* *p*

Perc. *mf* *p* *ppp*

Pno. *mf* *pp* *p* *ppp*



75

Fl. *pp*

Cl. *pp* *p*

Vln. *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *p*

Perc. *mp* *pp*

Pno. *mp* *pp*

79

Fl. *mp* *mf* *p*

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

Vln. *mp* *pp* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *pp* *mp* *poco*

Vibraphone

Perc. *mp* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

Pno. *mp* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

83

Fl. *pp* *mp* *mf* *p*

Cl. *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln. *pp* *p*

Vc. *p* *mf* *p*

Perc. *mf* *pp* *mp* *p*

Pno. *mf* *pp* *mp* *p*

87

Fl. *ppp*

Cl. *pp*

Vln. *mf* 3 *p* *ppp*

Vc. *mf* 3 *pp*

Vibraphone

Perc. *mf* 6 5 3 *ppp*

Pno. *mf* 5 3 *ppp*

(una corda)

(Ped.)



92 ♩ = 80 - 84 Meccanico

92

Fl. *p* *mf* 5 6 *sfz*

Cl. *pp* *mf* 5 6 3 *sfz*

Vln. *pizz.* *mf* *sfz*

Vc. *senza sord., pizz.* *mf* *sfz*

Wood Block with hard beaters

Perc. *p brittle* *mf*

Pno. *p secco* 6 *mf*