

*William Kleinsasser*

***ADAGIO (amore)***

*for alto flute, Bb clarinet,  
metal percussion, and computer*

*(2009)*

*Duration: 9.5 minutes*



## INSTRUMENTATION

### 1 alto flute

### 1 Bb clarinet

### percussion

4 indefinitely pitched metal plates (medium to low, moderately deep sounding)  
played with soft rubber mallets, medium yarn mallets, and very soft yarn mallets.

The tones of the plates should be deep and resonant and not clearly pitched.  
If there are pitched qualities, it is best to have a hint of the following (which octave for each pitch is not so important as long as they are relatively low, not clustered, and not bright).

Not necessarily in this specific ascending or descending order:

E<sub>b</sub>  
> forming M7(11 semitones) or m9 (13 semitones) but not m2  
E  
G  
> forming M7(11 semitones) or m9 (13 semitones) but not m2  
G#

### 1 medium tam-tam

played with three various mallets used for the metal plates with notehead placement indicating rubber, medium yarn and soft yarn from high to low on the staff.

The percussion instruments and sounds from those instruments should be selected to be sonically complementary with the instrumental and fixed-media music.  
In general, the instruments should be dark and sonically dynamic and varied.

### 1 computer operator facilitating playback of multi-channel fixed media music

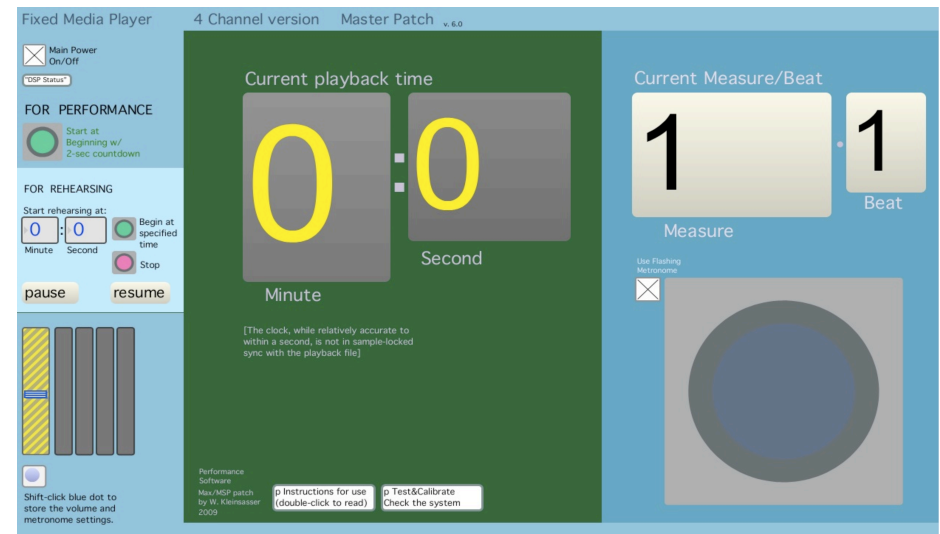
The computer music runs on a stand-alone application available for Windows and Macintosh computers developed in Max/MSP

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

This composition uses software developed by the composer that plays multi-channel computer music as fixed media. In order to facilitate synchronization with the performers, an elapsed time clock and metronome are provided in the software. The fixed-media music can be started, stopped, paused, and resumed at any point for rehearsing. In performance, the fixed-media music can be presented in 2-8 speakers, depending on the performance venue.

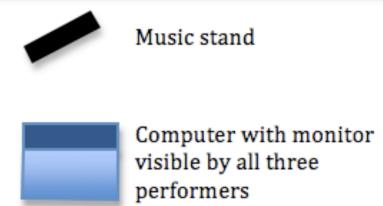
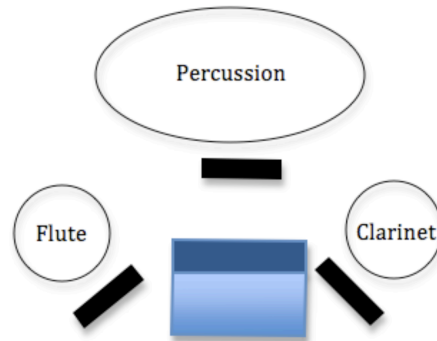
In performance, careful balance must be established between the acoustic instruments and the fixed-media music. This might require subtle amplification of the acoustic instruments.

Because the computer music is created from transformed and overlaid recordings of flute and clarinet multiphonics (originally performed by Lisa Cella, flute and E. Michael Richards, clarinet, as part of the composition *Smooth Wood, Flash Metal*), the pitches of the computer music are not always true to ET12 tuning. When flute and clarinet notes are prominently sustained in conjunction with such pitches in the computer music, slight tuning inflections are encouraged in order to match the tuning in the computer music. Such inflections are to be approached as being within the expressive interpretive freedom of the performers.

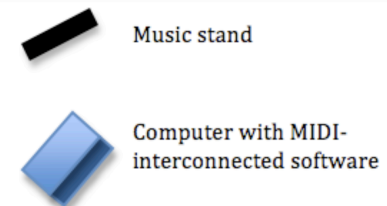
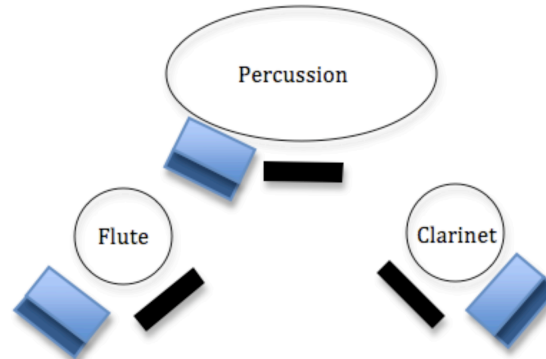


## Stage Setup

### Single-computer option



### Multi-computer option





## PROGRAM NOTE

*Adagio (amore)* was composed in 2009 for the Ecology project with the Spiza contemporary music collective and is dedicated to my wife, Susan. The genesis of the composition is a recasting of a recording of two-minutes of flute and clarinet multiphonic counterpoint from my earlier composition entitled Smooth Wood, Flash Metal, performed by Lisa Cella and E. Michael Richards. This recording was folded, recombined, and layered upon itself after being time-stretched well beyond its original proportions. Once this new multiphonic music was created, it was made the subject of spectral analyses to map salient pitch and contour profiles within the developed multiphonic excerpt. This might be thought of as analogous to time-varying sequences of changing prismatic light intensities. The analysis results provided a skeletal frame from which contrapuntal lines were composed for alto flute and clarinet. There is also a sonic affinity between the computer music and the indefinitely pitched metal percussion music, which is formed from the analyzed spectral texture as well. In performance, the acoustic instruments synchronize with the computer music so that the acoustic music is anchored to, and built upon, the multiphonic texture layer. Because the computer music is created from transformed and overlaid recordings of flute and clarinet multiphonics, the pitches of the computer music are not always aligned to Western twelve-note equal-tempered tuning. When instrumental notes are prominently sustained along with such pitches in the computer music, slight tuning inflections are encouraged from the performers to match the tuning in the computer music. These inflections are to be approached as elements of expressive interpretive freedom by the performers, moving in and out of agreement with their sonic context.

Despite the rather technical genesis for *Adagio (amore)*, the music is primarily lyrical and expressive, cast in a shade of mystery, but essentially and consistently gracious and positive in tone—a love song.

## SCORE IN C

## Adagio (amore)

William Kleinsasser

(2009)

Adagio  $\text{♩} = 30$ 

(The tempo must be strict to synchronize  
with the computer music, as given in time staff.  
Within this strict tempo, the phrases can be  
expressively elastic beat-to-beat but keeping to  
the general notated rhythm and metric placement.)

calmly, without tension,  
never forced, detailed but  
dolce and graziosos throughout

2  
2

alto flute

clarinet

4 metal plates \*  
played with medium  
rubber mallets

4 metal plates played with  
soft yarn mallets

4 metal plates played with  
very soft yarn mallets

medium tam-tam \*\*

time  
(min:sec)

computer

START  
0:00

0:00 0:04 0:08

Digital soundfile playback begins and continues throughout the piece

1

2

3

\* The same four metal plates are notated on three staves to clarify the stick/mallet used.

\*\* The tam-tam is played with three various mallets used for the metal plates with notehead placement indicating rubber, medium yarn and soft yarn from high to low on the staff.

alto flute

*in general, hold out and taper the last moment of the notes that end phrases rather than tapering too quickly*

*mp* *p*

clarinet

*in general, hold out and taper the last moment of the notes that end phrases rather than tapering too quickly*

*mp* *p*

metal plates with rubber mallets

*p*

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

*p*

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

*p* *mp*

med. tam-tam

*p*

time

0:12 0:16 0:20

computer

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

4

5

6

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

0:24 0:28 0:32

computer — Fixed-media computer music continues —

7

8

9

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

0:36 0:40 0:44

Fixed-media computer music continues

10

11

12

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

0:48

0:52

0:56

Fixed-media computer music continues

The musical score is organized into three measures. The first measure (0:48) features the alto flute and clarinet. The second measure (0:52) features the clarinet and metal plates. The third measure (0:56) features the alto flute and metal plates. The score includes dynamic markings (mp, p) and articulation (accents, slurs).

13

14

15

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

1:00 1:04 1:08

Fixed-media computer music continues

16

17

18

alto flute  
 clarinet  
 metal plates with rubber mallets  
 metal plates with soft yarn mallets  
 metal plates with very soft yarn mallets  
 med. tam-tam  
 time  
 computer

1:12  
 1:16  
 1:20

Fixed-media computer music continues

19

20

21



alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

1:24 1:28 1:32

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

22

23

24



alto flute			
clarinet			
metal plates with rubber mallets			
metal plates with soft yarn mallets			
metal plates with very soft yarn mallets			
med. tam-tam			
time	1:48	1:52	1:56
computer	— Fixed-media computer music continues —		

28

29

30

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

2:00 2:04 2:08

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

31

32

33

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

2:12 2:16 2:20

computer — Fixed-media computer music continues —

34

35

36

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

2:24 2:28 2:32

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

37

38

39



alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

2:48 2:52 2:56

Fixed-media computer music continues

43

44

45



alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

3:00 3:04 3:08

Fixed-media computer music continues

46

47

48

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

3:12 3:16 3:20

Fixed-media computer music continues

*mp* *p* *optional* *mp* *p*

3 6 6

49

50

51

alto flute

*mf*

*mp*

clarinet

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

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

3:24 3:28 3:32

computer

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

52

53

54

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

3:36 3:40 3:44

Fixed-media computer music continues

55

56

57

alto flute

*p*

*mf*

clarinet

*mp*

*p*

3

metal plates with rubber mallets

5

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

6

6

5

5

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

5

time

3:48

3:52

3:56

computer

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

58

59

60

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

4:00 4:04 4:08

Fixed-media computer music continues

*mp* *mf* *poco f* *p*

*p* *mf*

3 3 3 3 3

6 5 5

61

62

63

This musical score page (64) includes the following tracks and notation:

- alto flute:** Treble clef, mostly rests, with a melodic phrase in the final measure marked *mf* and *mp*.
- clarinet:** Treble clef, featuring triplet and sixteenth-note patterns, a slur over measures 2-3, and dynamics *mp* and *p*.
- metal plates with rubber mallets:** Empty staff.
- metal plates with soft yarn mallets:** Treble clef, contains a few notes in the first measure.
- metal plates with very soft yarn mallets:** Treble clef, contains notes with a '5' marking in measures 2 and 3.
- med. tam-tam:** Treble clef, contains a single note in measure 3.
- time:** A timeline at the bottom with vertical dashed lines and time markers at 4:12, 4:16, and 4:20.
- computer:** A track at the bottom with the text "Fixed-media computer music continues" in the first measure.

64

65

66





alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

4:36 4:40 4:44

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

The musical score is divided into three measures. The first measure (4:36-4:40) features the alto flute and clarinet. The second measure (4:40-4:44) features the metal plates with rubber mallets. The third measure (4:44-4:48) features the metal plates with soft yarn mallets, metal plates with very soft yarn mallets, and the med. tam-tam. The computer track continues throughout.

70

71

72

alto flute			
clarinet			
metal plates with rubber mallets			
metal plates with soft yarn mallets			
metal plates with very soft yarn mallets			
med. tam-tam			
time	4:48	4:52	4:56
computer	— Fixed-media computer music continues —		

73

74

75

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

5:00 5:04 5:08

Fixed-media computer music continues

76

77

78

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

5:12 5:16 5:20

Fixed-media computer music continues

The musical score is organized into three measures. The first measure (5:12-5:16) includes parts for the alto flute, clarinet, and metal plates. The second measure (5:16-5:20) includes parts for the metal plates and med. tam-tam. The third measure (5:20-5:24) includes parts for the alto flute, clarinet, and metal plates. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings.

79

80

81

alto flute			
clarinet			
metal plates with rubber mallets			
metal plates with soft yarn mallets			
metal plates with very soft yarn mallets			
med. tam-tam			
time	5:24	5:28	5:32
computer	— Fixed-media computer music continues —		

82

83

84

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

5:36

5:40

5:44

Fixed-media computer music continues

The musical score for page 85 consists of six staves. The first two staves are for woodwinds: alto flute and clarinet. The alto flute part begins with a whole note G4, followed by a half rest, then a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and dynamic markings (mp, p, mf, p). The clarinet part begins with a half note G4, followed by a half rest, then a series of eighth and sixteenth notes with slurs and dynamic markings (mp, p, mp, mf). The next three staves are for percussion: metal plates with rubber mallets, metal plates with soft yarn mallets, and metal plates with very soft yarn mallets. The rubber mallets part has a half rest, then a triplet of eighth notes. The soft yarn mallets part has a half rest, then a triplet of eighth notes. The very soft yarn mallets part has a half rest, then a triplet of eighth notes. The med. tam-tam part has a half rest, then a half note. The time signature is 5:36, 5:40, and 5:44. The computer part continues.

85

86

87

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

5:48 5:52 5:56

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

88

89

90

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

6:00 6:04 6:08

Fixed-media computer music continues

91

92

93



alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

6:12 6:16 6:20

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

94

95

96

alto flute

*mf*

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

clarinet

*mf*

*p*

*mf*

*p*

metal plates  
with rubber mallets

metal plates with  
soft yarn mallets

metal plates with  
very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

6:24

6:28

6:32

computer

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

97

98

99

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

6:36

6:40

6:44

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

100

101

102

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

6:48 6:52 6:56

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

103

104

105

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

7:00 7:04 7:08

Fixed-media computer music continues

106

107

108

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

7:12 7:16 7:20

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

109

110

111

alto flute

*p* *p* *mp*

clarinet

*mp* *mf* *p* *mp*

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

7:24 7:28 7:32

computer

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

112

113

114

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

7:36

7:40

7:44

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

115

116

117



alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

7:48 7:52 7:56

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

118

119

120

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

8:00 8:04 8:08

Fixed-media computer music continues

The musical score is organized into three measures, each 4 seconds long, marked by time indicators at 8:00, 8:04, and 8:08. The alto flute part begins in the third measure with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a crescendo hairpin. The clarinet part has a melodic line starting in the first measure, marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic and a crescendo hairpin. The metal plates parts provide rhythmic accompaniment: rubber mallets play a steady eighth-note pattern, soft yarn mallets play a pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes, and very soft yarn mallets play a pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The med. tam-tam part plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The computer part continues with fixed-media music throughout the piece.

121

122

123

alto flute

*mp*

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

8:12 8:16 8:20

computer

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

124

125

126

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

8:24

8:28

8:32

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

127

128

129

with poise, in conclusion

match pitch of computer music

alto flute

clarinet

match pitch of computer music

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

8:36 8:40 8:44

computer

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

130

131

132

alto flute

*expressively, slower, not hurried,  
in summation*

*last three notes  
fade to nothing, grazioso*

*mp*

clarinet

*expressively, slower, not hurried,  
in summation*

*last notes fade to  
nothing, grazioso*

*mp*

metal plates  
with rubber mallets

metal plates with  
soft yarn mallets

metal plates with  
very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

8:48 8:52 8:56 9:00

computer

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

133

134

135

136

	<i>rall . . .</i>		$\frac{5}{4}$	$\frac{2}{2}$	
alto flute					
clarinet					
metal plates with rubber mallets		<i>rall . . .</i>			
metal plates with soft yarn mallets	<i>p</i>		<i>pp</i>		
metal plates with very soft yarn mallets		<i>pp</i>			<i>like an overtone to the tamtam</i>
med. tam-tam	<i>p</i>		<i>pp</i>		<i>remniscent of first sound of piece</i>
time	9:04	9:08	9:12		9:30
computer	— Fixed-media computer music continues —				— computer music ends.

137

138

139

140

141

142