

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_b > forming M7(11 semitones) or m9 (13 semitones) but not m2
E
G
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

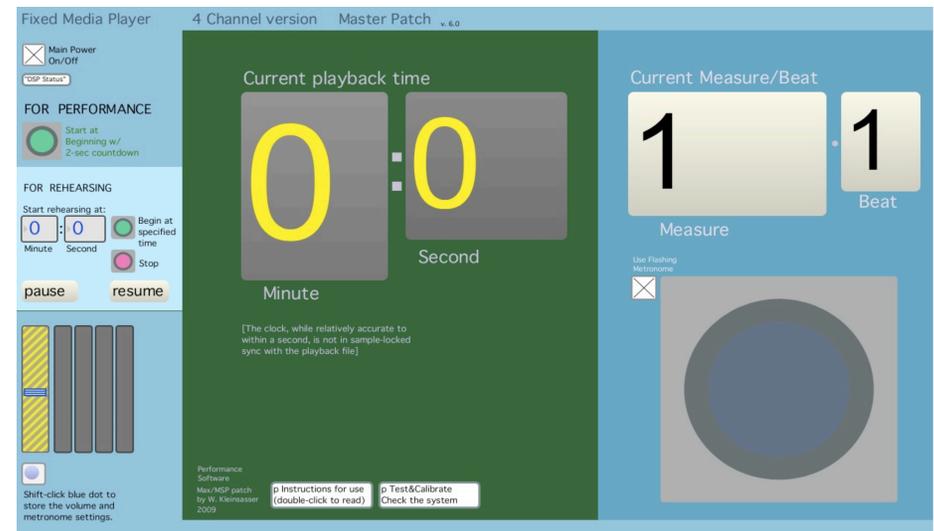
The computer music runs on a stand-alone application available for Windows and Macintosh computers developed in Max/MSP

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.

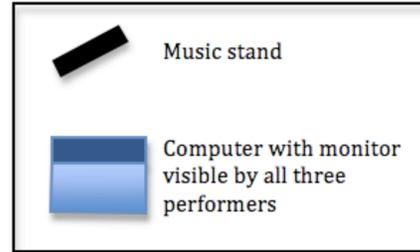
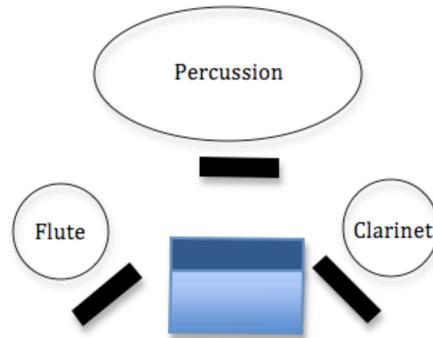
In performance, careful balance must be established between the acoustic instruments and the fixed-media music. This might require subtle amplification of the acoustic instruments.

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.

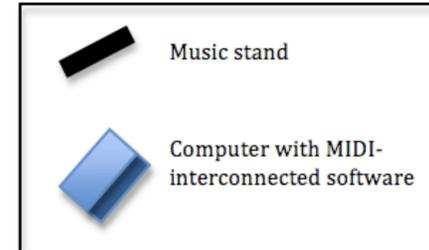
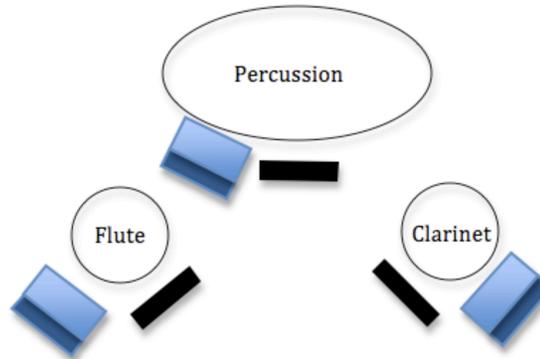


Stage Setup

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.

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
 computer

0:24 0:28 0:32

— 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 — Fixed-media computer music continues —

0:48 0:52 0:56

13

14

15

alto flute
 : *p* ————— *mf* *p* ————— *mp* *mf* ————— *mp*

clarinet
mp ————— *p* —————

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets
 5 6 5

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time
 1:00 1:04 1:08

computer
 — 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

The musical score is divided into three measures. The first measure (1:24) features the alto flute and clarinet. The second measure (1:28) features the metal plates with rubber mallets, metal plates with soft yarn mallets, and metal plates with very soft yarn mallets. The third measure (1:32) features the metal plates with rubber mallets, metal plates with soft yarn mallets, metal plates with very soft yarn mallets, and the med. tam-tam. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, and *p*.

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

computer

p *mf* *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

optional

5 5 5

5 5

1:36 1:40 1:44

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

25

26

27

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

1:48 1:52 1:56

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

28

29

30

This musical score is divided into three measures. The first measure (2:00-2:04) features the alto flute and clarinet. The alto flute part includes dynamics *p*, *mf*, *mp*, *p*, *mp*, *p*, *mp*, and *p*, with several triplet markings. The clarinet part includes dynamics *mp* and *p*, with triplet markings. The second measure (2:04-2:08) features the metal plates with very soft yarn mallets and the med. tam-tam, both with a quintuplet marking. The third measure (2:08-2:12) features the metal plates with soft yarn mallets and the metal plates with rubber mallets. The time and computer tracks are also present at the bottom.

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

computer

mp

mp

3

3

5

6

5

2:12

2:16

2:20

— 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

Musical score for page 43-45. The score includes staves for 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, and computer. The alto flute and clarinet parts feature dynamic markings (*mf*, *p*, *mp*) and articulation. The metal plates parts include specific mallet techniques and rhythmic patterns. The time and computer parts provide a temporal and production context.

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

mf *p* *mp* *mf* *p*
mp
 3 3 3 3 3
 3 3 5

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

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

3 6 6

3:12 3:16 3:20

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

Detailed description: This is a musical score page for a percussion ensemble. It features five staves for different instruments: alto flute, clarinet, metal plates with rubber mallets, metal plates with soft yarn mallets, and metal plates with very soft yarn mallets. A sixth staff is for a medium tam-tam. Below the instrument staves is a time axis with vertical tick marks and time stamps at 3:12, 3:16, and 3:20. At the bottom is a computer music section labeled 'computer' with the text '— Fixed-media computer music continues —'. The alto flute and clarinet parts include dynamic markings (*mp*, *p*) and articulation like slurs and accents. The metal plate parts show rhythmic patterns with some sixteenth-note runs. The tam-tam part has a few specific notes.

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

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

p

mf

mp

p

5

6

6

5

5

3

3:48

3:52

3:56

— 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

mp *mf* *poco f* *p*

p *mf*

4:00 4:04 4:08

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

61

62

63

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

4:12 4:16 4:20

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

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

4:24 4:28 4:32

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

67

68

69

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

mp

mf

mf

mp

mf

p

4:36

4:40

4:44

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

70

71

72

alto flute *mf* *mp*
 clarinet *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 4:48 4:52 4:56
 computer — Fixed-media computer music continues —

73

74

75

alto flute *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*
 clarinet *mp* *p* *mp*
 metal plates with rubber mallets
 metal plates with soft yarn mallets
 metal plates with very soft yarn mallets
 med. tam-tam
 time 5:00 5:04 5:08
 computer — Fixed-media computer music continues —

76

77

78

This musical score is divided into three measures. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- alto flute:** Features a melodic line with a *mp* dynamic marking and a triplet of eighth notes in the third measure.
- clarinet:** Plays a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure and a triplet of eighth notes in the second measure.
- metal plates with rubber mallets:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a sixteenth rest, marked with a '6' in the first measure and a '5' in the third measure.
- metal plates with soft yarn mallets:** Features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a sixteenth rest, marked with a '3' in the first measure and a '5' in the second measure.
- metal plates with very soft yarn mallets:** Features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a sixteenth rest, marked with a '3' in the first measure and a '3' in the third measure.
- med. tam-tam:** Features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a sixteenth rest, marked with a '3' in the second measure.
- time:** Shows time markers at 5:12, 5:16, and 5:20.
- computer:** A box containing the text "Fixed-media computer music continues".

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

computer

5:24

5:28

5:32

— 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 several staves. The alto flute and clarinet parts are in treble clef. The alto flute part features a melodic line with dynamic markings of *mp*, *p*, *mf*, and *p*, and includes triplet markings. The clarinet part has dynamic markings of *mp*, *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. The percussion parts include metal plates with rubber mallets, metal plates with soft yarn mallets, metal plates with very soft yarn mallets, and a medium tam-tam. The time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into three measures with time markers at 5:36, 5:40, and 5:44. A computer music track is indicated at the bottom.

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

mp *mf*

p *mf* *p*

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

Musical score for alto flute and clarinet. The alto flute part features a melodic line with triplets and dynamic markings: *p*, *mf*, *p*, and *p*. The clarinet part includes a triplet and dynamic markings: *mp* and *p*. The score is divided into three measures by a time axis at the bottom, with time markers at 6:00, 6:04, and 6:08. The computer part is labeled "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

mf *mp* *mf* *p*

3

3

7:00 7:04 7:08

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

The musical score consists of two staves. The alto flute staff begins with a series of eighth notes, followed by a triplet of eighth notes, and then a series of quarter notes with slurs. The clarinet staff begins with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a quarter note, and then a half note. The dynamic markings are *mf*, *mp*, *mf*, and *p*. The timeline shows time markers at 7:00, 7:04, and 7:08. The computer part is labeled "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

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets

metal plates with soft yarn mallets

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets

med. tam-tam

time

computer

p *p* *mp*

mp *mf* *p* *mp*

7:24 7:28 7:32

— 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

p *mp* *p* *mf*

mp *p* *mp* *mf*

7:48 7:52 7:56

— Fixed-media computer music continues —

The musical score consists of two staves: alto flute and clarinet. The alto flute staff begins with a melodic line starting at 7:48, marked *p*. It features several phrases with dynamic markings *mp*, *p*, and *mf*. The clarinet staff is mostly silent until 7:52, where it enters with a melodic line marked *mp*, followed by *p*, *mp*, and *mf*. Below the staves are four empty staves for percussion: metal plates with rubber mallets, metal plates with soft yarn mallets, metal plates with very soft yarn mallets, and med. tam-tam. A time axis at the bottom shows markers at 7:48, 7:52, and 7:56. A computer track at the very bottom contains the text "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

8:00 8:04 8:08

computer — Fixed-media computer music continues —

The score is divided into three measures. The first measure (8:00-8:04) features the clarinet and metal plates. The second measure (8:04-8:08) features the alto flute, clarinet, metal plates, and med. tam-tam. The third measure (8:08-8:12) features the clarinet and metal plates. The computer music continues throughout the entire duration.

121

122

123

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

rall . . . **5**
4 **2**
2

alto flute

clarinet

metal plates with rubber mallets *rall . . .*

metal plates with soft yarn mallets *pp* *pp*

metal plates with very soft yarn mallets *p* *pp* *pp* *mp*

med. tam-tam *p* *pp* *mp*

time 9:04 9:08 9:12 9:30

computer — Fixed-media computer music continues — — computer music ends.

137

138

139

140

141

142