

Cheong Li
Impromptu IV
for large ensemble

2013

Programme Notes

Approx. duration: 7-8 mins

Impromptu IV is a piece for woodwinds, strings, piano and percussion that further develops the idea of using notation to facilitate improvisation. Free rhythm and boxed notation are explored. In the middle section (rehearsal number F), musical materials are put in a quasi-open form, in which the conductor chooses which material to be played.

Instrumentation

2 flutes

2 oboes

2 clarinets

2 bassoons

crash cymbal on a timpani (lowest timpani preferred)

tam-tam,

timpani

crotales

vibraphone

1 percussionist

piano

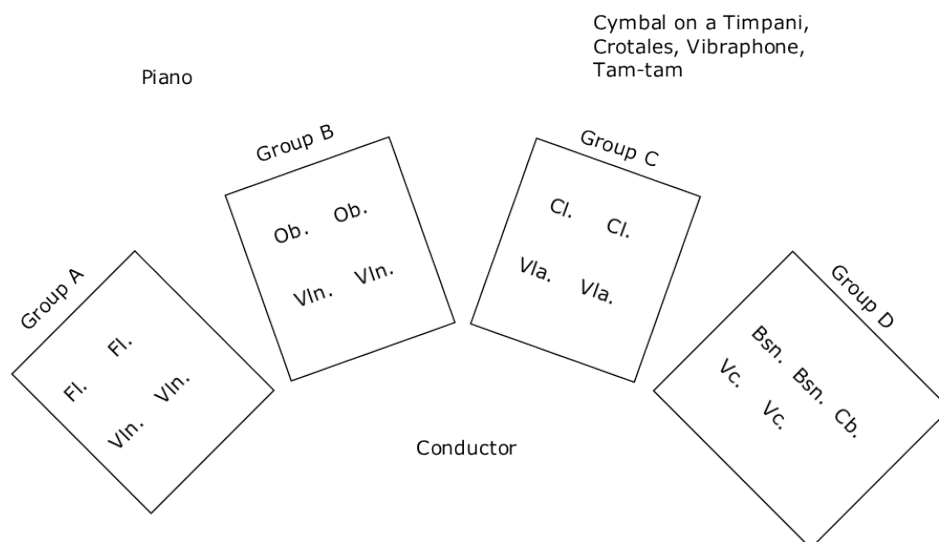
4 violins

2 violas

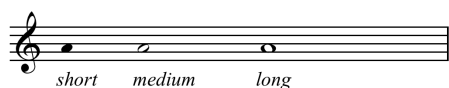
2 cellos

1 double bass

Layout



Performance Directions



noteheads represent approximate note durations



feathered beams represent the notes should be played from slow to fast or from fast to slow



notes without noteheads indicate arbitrary pitch, played in a gesture approximately shown by the notation



improvise with the given materials in the box. Please use the given pitches provided, but you can take liberties with rhythm and pattern.



breath / short pause / long pause

Notes to Conductor

A - **E** Go through rehearsal letters **A** - **E** in the normal sequence.

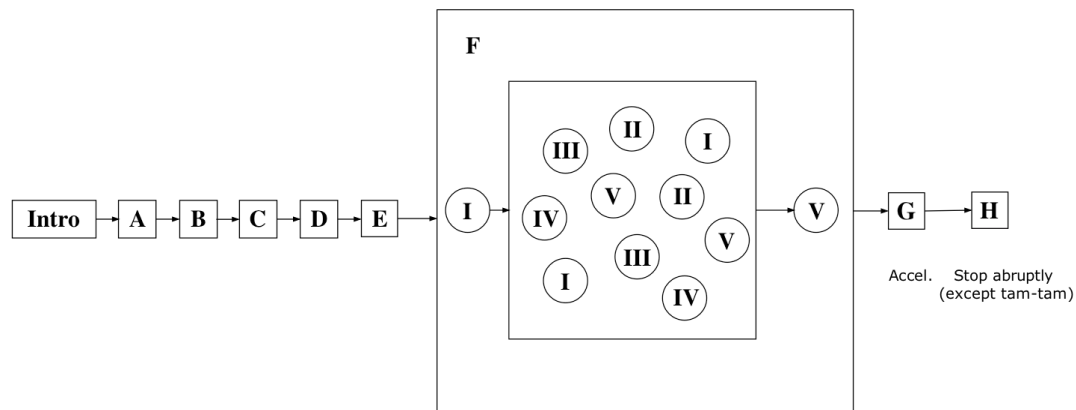
There are five different musical passages **I** - **V** in the score.

Firstly, go through musical passage **I**.

Then, mix and match any of **I** - **V** as you like. For instance, you can ask the woodwinds to play passage **I** and strings to play passage **IV**, or you can ask Group A (flutes and violin I) to play passage **II** and ask group D (cellos, bassoons and double bass) to play passage **III** at the same time.

You can use your fingers to indicate which passage you want the performers to play. When they are ready, cue them to start playing the passage.

When you think it is the time for ending, cue all the players to play passage **II**. When everyone joins in playing passage **V**, lead them through a long accelerando and crescendo. Now give another cue to indicate a stop for the ensemble, leaving the sound of tam-tam alone until it fades out.



Impromptu IV

(Score in C)

Cheong Li

Free Rythm

ad lib. (do not align)

4" 3" 6"

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B \flat

Bassoon

Percussion

Vibraphone

with bow

with mallets

inside piano: pluck any strings (highest register)

inside piano: glissando (highest register)

Piano

15th 8^{va}

Free Rythm

4" 3" 6"

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

A

4

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

improv. on (D, F#, G#, C)

improv. on (C, D, F#, G#)

↓ 4"

↓ 6"

↓ 4"

↓ 6"

8va

8vb

dampen the string with finger

p *f*

improv. on (A, B, C, D)

improv. on (A, B, C, D)

pp *pp*

pp *f*

B

3

5

↓ 3"

↓ 6"

FL.

pp

improv. on (A, B, C, D)

improv. on (A, B, C, D)

Ob.

mf

lip gliss. (down 1/4-1/2 tone)

improv. on (A, C#, D#, G & lip gliss.)

mf

lip gliss. (down 1/4-1/2 tone)

improv. on (G#, A, C#, D# & lip gliss.)

Cl.

gliss. (down 1/2 pitch)

(D, F#, G#, C & gliss.)

gliss. (down 1/2 pitch)

(C, D, F#, G# & gliss.)

Bsn.

Perc.

Pno.

dampen the string with finger

p *f*

8^{va}

↓ 3"

↓ 6"

fades out as flute enters

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pp *f*

C

↓ 10"

6

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

(C#, D#, G, A, C#)

(A, C#, D#, G, A)

(G#, C, D, F#, G#)

(G#, C, D, F#, G#)

improv. on (D#, Eb, F, A, B)

improv. on (D#, Eb, F, A, B)

mf

mf

↓ 10"

pizz. arco, alto sul. pont. pizz. arco, alto sul. pont. improv. on (A, D#, Eb, G, A)

ff *pp* *f* *pp*

pizz. arco, alto sul. pont. pizz. arco, alto sul. pont. improv. on (A, D#, Eb, G, A)

ff *pp* *f* *pp*

pizz. arco, sul. pont. pizz. arco, sul. pont. improv. on (D, G#, A, C#, D#)

ff *pp* *f* *pp*

pizz. arco, sul. pont. pizz. arco, sul. pont. improv. on (D, G#, A, C#, D#)

ff *pp* *f* *pp*

[illegible]

[illegible]

F Go through material (I) all together once, then the conductor will start to cue each groups of performers to perform materials from (I) - (V), indicating by his left hand fingers which to play. Watch for conductor's cue to start and stop and change tempo and dynamics. This section can last for four to five minutes, until everyone is playing material (V). Towards the end, the conductor will indicate a global *accel. e cresc.* and then stop the piece abruptly.

I

23

Fl.

mp

Ob.

mp

Cl.

mp

Bsn.

Vib.

p

Pno.

mp

6

(Improv. with this scale)

I

Vln. I

pp

Vln. II

pp

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

II

28

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Perc.

Crotales

mf

Pno.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 28 through 31 for the woodwind section. It includes staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Percussion (Perc.), Crotales, and Piano (Pno.). Measures 28 and 29 feature complex woodwind passages with triplets and quintuplets. Measure 30 shows a continuation of these patterns. Measure 31 is a whole rest for all instruments. The Crotales part has a melodic line starting in measure 28 and ending in measure 31. The Piano part is silent throughout.

II

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 28 through 31 for the string section. It includes staves for Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). Measures 28 and 29 feature complex string passages with triplets and quintuplets. Measure 30 shows a continuation of these patterns. Measure 31 is a whole rest for all instruments. The Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass parts have long, sustained notes starting in measure 28 and ending in measure 31.

III

32

Fl.

p *mp-f*

Ob.

p *mp-f*

Cl.

p *p*

Bsn.

p *p*

Perc.

Pno.

con pedal

(Improv. with this scale)

III

Vln. I

f

Vln. II

f

Vla.

f

Vc.

f

Cb.

f

IV

Improv. on this pattern with the pitches C and B

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *p*

Perc.

Pno. *f*

IV

Improv. on this pattern with the pitches C and B

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

V

38

Fl.

f

Ob.

f

Cl.

f

Bsn.

f

Perc.

crash cymbal inverted, on a timpani
changing the timpani's pitch randomly with pedal

pp *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *f*

(Timpani pedal)

Pno.

f

pp *mf* *p* *f*

V

Vln. I

f

Vln. II

f

Vla.

f

Vc.

f

Cb.

f

G **H**

ca. 30" **Sempre accel. e crescendo** Tam-tam cue **Stop abruptly, G.P.**
(except tam-tam continues to ring)

44 2" ca. 15"

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Perc. (cymbal on timpani) l.v. **ff**

Tam-tam { Tam-tam l.v. **ff**

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.