

Athanasios Zlikas

MELTING CLOCKS

for Percussion and Piano

York, 2010

INSTRUMENTATION

Percussion

Wood:

3 Woodblocks (Low, Medium, High)

Membranes:

2 Bongos (Low, High)

1 Snare Drum (Snare off all the time)

2 Tom-toms (Medium, Low)

1 Bass Drum

Pitched:

Xylophone (notated 1 octave lower than it sounds)

Vibraphone (Motor off all the time)

(1 Percussionist)

Non-pitched percussion notation:

The diagram shows two staves of non-pitched percussion notation. The top staff is labeled 'Woodblocks' and has three notes labeled 'Low', 'Medium', and 'High' above it. The bottom staff is labeled 'Membranes' and has six notes labeled 'Bass Drum', 'Low Tom-tom', 'Medium Tom-tom', 'Snare Drum', 'Low Bongo', and 'High Bongo' below it. Each note is represented by a vertical bar with a horizontal line and a dot indicating the pitch level.

Piano

NOTATION

× = Placed after a specific pitch, indicates damping of that pitch with the mallet just before proceeding to the next one.

≡ = Strong accentuation. Indicates a *sforzando* at least two levels above given dynamic level. Pitches with this mark should stand out very clearly.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Barlines are only a mean of synchronization for the performers. They have no function of metric accentuation.

Dynamics should be well balanced. This means that a *fortissimo* on the Piano equals a *fortissimo* on Vibraphone, or Bass Drum for example.

The dynamic range has been divided into 12 equal levels, from *ppppp* (corresponding to the traditional *ppp*) to *fffff* (corresponding to the traditional *fff*).

From bar 1 to bar 32 dynamics notated above the staff concern the upper voice, while those notated below the staff concern the lower voice of the staff. Each particular voice maintains its dynamic level unless otherwise indicated.

Although there are suggestions on mallets, the final choice is always in the percussionist's discretion. The same applies as far as the percussion setup is concerned.

The use of the pedal on the Piano is also in the performers discretion unless specifically indicated.

The duration of the piece is approx. 9'30''.

Composer's note

In *Melting Clocks* a, a complex sonic “image” is created by the interaction of a number of elementary sonic cells. These cells exist and act without being directly perceivable. However, a change of behavior of some or all of them leads to a gradual change of the large-scale sonic image. An analogy could be drawn to the pointillistic technique of painting, where single dots of pure color are combined to synthesize a complex image on a higher level of construction.

These “dots” are mostly single pitches having a periodic pulsation, imaginary “clocks” ticking at certain speeds. Additionally, the “pointillistic painting” is not static, but it evolves in time and is subjected to kaleidoscopic transformations when some or all of its elementary cells gradually change their behavior

MELTING CLOCKS

Well balanced (♩ = 60)

Athanasios Zlikas
(2010)



① Motor off throughout the piece

Vibraphone

ppppp

ppppp *sempre*

(ppppp) *sempre*

(ppppp) *sempre*

ppppp

(ppppp) *sempre*

(*) The above are just suggested types of mallets (2 medium hard + 2 hard, all with Yarn-Wound heads).
The final choice is in the performer's discretion.

Well balanced (♩ = 60)

Piano

ppppp

⑧

Vib.

ppppp

ppppp) *sempre*

ppp) *sempre*

pppp) *sempre*

Pno.

(ppppp) *sempre*

⑫

Vib.

(ppppp) *sempre*

ppp) *sempre*

pp) *sempre*

Pno.

(ppppp) *sempre*

(ppppp) *sempre*

ppp) *sempre*

ppp) *sempre*

16

Vib.

mp sempre

ppp sempre

Pno.

ppp sempre

pp sempre

ppp sempre

19

Vib.

p sempre

Pno.

pp sempre

mp sempre

ppppp

ppp sempre

mp sempre

mp sempre

22

Vib.

f sempre

mp sempre

mp sempre

f sempre

Pno.

f sempre

p sempre

25

Vib. *mf sempre* *f sempre*

Pno. *(ppp sempre)* *f sempre* *mp sempre* *f sempre*

28

Vib.

Pno. *mf sempre* *f sempre* *f sempre* *f sempre*

32

Vib. *ff* *f* *f sempre*

Pno. *f* *f*

35

Vib. *ff f ff*

Pno. *ff*

37

Vib. *fff ff*

Pno. *fff*

38

Vib. *fff ff*

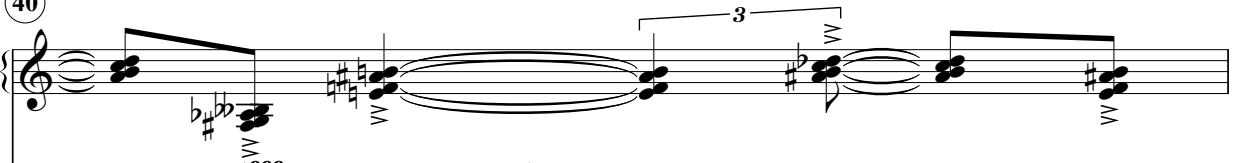
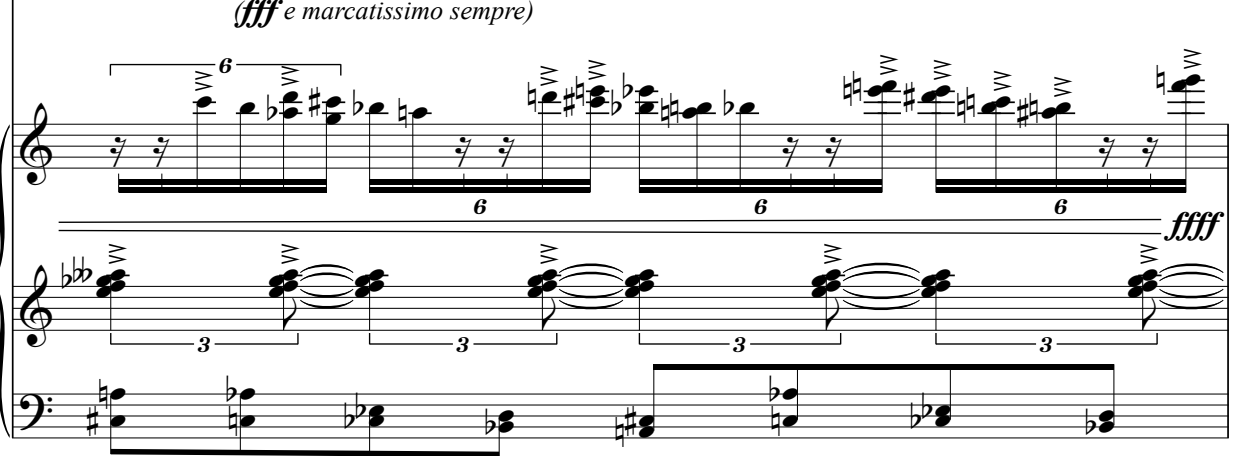
Pno. *fff*

39

Vib. 
Pno. 



40

Vib. 
Pno. 



41

Vib. 
Pno. 

42

Vib.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 42-43. The Vibraphone part features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 43. The Piano part has a complex texture with sixteenth-note runs in the right hand and sustained chords in the left hand. Dynamic markings include *ffff* and *ff*.

43

Vib.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 44-45. The Vibraphone part has a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 45. The Piano part continues with sixteenth-note runs and sustained chords. Dynamic markings include *ff*.

44

Vib.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 46-47. The Vibraphone part features a melodic line with a triplet of eighth notes in measure 47. The Piano part has sixteenth-note runs and sustained chords. Dynamic markings include *ff* and *fff*.

45

Membranes

Vib.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 45-46. The Membranes part has a rest in measure 45 and a single note in measure 46 marked *pp*. The Vibraphone part features complex chords and triplets in measure 45, marked *f* and *fff*, and a sustained chord in measure 46. The Piano part includes a sextuplet in measure 45 marked *pp fff* and a sextuplet in measure 46 marked *mf*. The bass line has a melodic line in measure 45 and a sustained note in measure 46 marked *fff*.



47

Membranes

Vib.

Pno.

Musical score for measures 47-48. The Membranes part has a melodic line in measure 47 and a sustained note in measure 48. The Vibraphone part has chords and triplets in measure 47 marked *mf* and *fff*, and a sustained chord in measure 48 marked *p*. The Piano part features sustained chords in both measures. The bass line has a melodic line in measure 47 and a sustained note in measure 48.

Gradually replace the previous 4 yarn mallets with 2 d. sticks + 2 xylophone mallets(*)

50

Membranes

Vib.

Pno.

p

(*) suggested 



54

Membranes

Vib.

Pno.

mp

fff sempre

mf sempre

fff

mp

(mf)

Concernig Snare Drum:
Snare off throughout the piece

Membranes

57

Pno.

(mf) *(fff)* *mp* *(fff)* *mp*

Membranes

60

Pno.

(mp sempre) *(mp)* *(fff)*

Membranes

62

Pno.

f *fff*

Membranes

64

Pno.

mp *fff* *p*

Membranes

66

Pno.

mp

ff

fff p

Membranes

68

Pno.

Membranes

69

Pno.

mf

Membranes

71

Pno.

72

WB

Membranes

Pno.

Musical score for measures 72-73. The top staff (WB) features a series of notes with accents and dynamic markings. The Membranes staff shows a complex rhythmic pattern with accents and dynamic markings. The Pno. staff includes a treble and bass clef with various notes, slurs, and dynamic markings such as *fff* and *f*.



73

WB

Membranes

Pno.

Musical score for measures 74-75. The top staff (WB) continues with notes and accents. The Membranes staff shows a complex rhythmic pattern with accents and dynamic markings. The Pno. staff includes a treble and bass clef with various notes, slurs, and dynamic markings such as *f* and *ff*.



74

WB

Membranes

Pno.

Musical score for measures 76-77. The top staff (WB) continues with notes and accents. The Membranes staff shows a complex rhythmic pattern with accents and dynamic markings. The Pno. staff includes a treble and bass clef with various notes, slurs, and dynamic markings such as *ff* and *fff*.

75

WB

Membranes

Pno.

8va

fff



76

WB

Membranes

Pno.

(8)

fff

fff

16

77

WB

Membranes

Pno.



78

WB

Membranes

Pno.

fff

fff

79

WB

Membranes

Pno.



80

WB

Membranes

Pno.

81

WB

Membranes

Xyl.

ffff perfectly balanced with piano.
Xylophone should not stand out!

Pno.

82

WB

Xyl.

Pno.

83

WB

Xyl.

Pno.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is divided into three systems, each corresponding to a measure number (81, 82, 83). Each system contains staves for Wood Block (WB), Membranes, Xylophone (Xyl.), and Piano (Pno.).
- System 81: WB and Membranes play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. Xyl. has a few notes. Pno. has a complex accompaniment with many notes. A performance instruction is placed between the Xyl. and Pno. staves: *ffff* perfectly balanced with piano. Xylophone should not stand out!
- System 82: WB and Xyl. play a rhythmic pattern. Pno. continues with a dense accompaniment. A *ffff* dynamic marking is placed below the Pno. staff.
- System 83: WB and Xyl. play a rhythmic pattern. Pno. continues with a dense accompaniment.

84

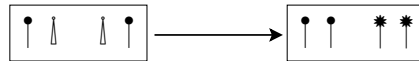
WB

Xyl.

Pno.



Gradual mallet replacement. Suggested:



85

Xyl.

Pno.

ffff

ffff

5 6 6

3



86

Xyl.

Pno.

fff

ff

p

no diminuendo!

3

3

12/8

12/8

1

88

Xyl. *ff*

Vib. *mf*

Pno. *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 88-89. The Xylophone part (Xyl.) features a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including accents and a fortissimo (*ff*) dynamic marking. The Vibraphone part (Vib.) has a sustained chord with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Piano part (Pno.) consists of a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes in the right hand and rests in the left hand, also marked *mf*.



90

Xyl. *ff*

Vib.

Pno. *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 90-91. The Xylophone part (Xyl.) continues with a melodic line, marked fortissimo (*ff*). The Vibraphone part (Vib.) features a melodic line with slurs and a fortissimo (*f*) dynamic. The Piano part (Pno.) has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes, marked fortissimo (*f*).



92

Xyl.

Vib.

Pno.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 92-93. The Xylophone part (Xyl.) has a melodic line with slurs. The Vibraphone part (Vib.) features a melodic line with slurs and a flat note. The Piano part (Pno.) has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes.

93

Musical score for measures 93-94. The score is in 12/8 time. It features three staves: Xyl. (Xylophone), Vib. (Vibraphone), and Pno. (Piano). The Xyl. part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Vib. part has a sustained chordal texture with a flat note in the second measure. The Pno. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and slurs. A dynamic marking of *f* is present at the beginning of the Pno. part.



94

Musical score for measures 94-95. The score is in 12/8 time. It features three staves: Xyl. (Xylophone), Vib. (Vibraphone), and Pno. (Piano). The Xyl. part has a melodic line with accents and slurs, ending with a dynamic marking of *ff*. The Vib. part has a sustained chordal texture with a flat note in the second measure and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The Pno. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and slurs, ending with a dynamic marking of *ff*.



95

Musical score for measures 95-96. The score is in 12/8 time. It features three staves: Xyl. (Xylophone), Vib. (Vibraphone), and Pno. (Piano). The Xyl. part has a melodic line with accents and slurs. The Vib. part has a sustained chordal texture with a sharp note in the second measure. The Pno. part has a rhythmic accompaniment with accents and slurs.

97

Xyl.

Vib.

Pno.

97

98

ff

fff

fff

fff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 97 and 98. The Xylophone part (top) features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes with accents. The Vibraphone part (middle) has a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *ff*. The Piano part (bottom) consists of dense chords and arpeggiated figures in both hands, marked *fff*. A double bar line is present between measures 97 and 98.

99

Xyl.

Vib.

Pno.

99

100

ff

fff

fff

fff

Detailed description: This system contains measures 99 and 100. The Xylophone part (top) continues with a rhythmic pattern, marked *ff*. The Vibraphone part (middle) has a melodic line with slurs and accents, marked *fff*. The Piano part (bottom) features dense chords and arpeggiated figures in both hands, marked *fff*. A double bar line is present between measures 99 and 100.

101

Xyl.

Vib.

Pno.

101

102

Detailed description: This system contains measures 101 and 102. The Xylophone part (top) has a rhythmic pattern with accents. The Vibraphone part (middle) has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Piano part (bottom) consists of dense chords and arpeggiated figures in both hands.

102

Xyl.

Vib.

Pno.

ffff

ffff

104

Vib.

Pno.

105

Vib.

Pno.

106

Membranes

Vib.

Pno.

Gradually change to soft beaters

mf well balanced!

107

Membranes

Membranes staff for measure 107, featuring a series of five dotted quarter notes with a slur underneath.

Vib.

Vib. staff for measure 107, containing a single whole note.

Pno.

Piano staff for measure 107, consisting of two staves with complex rhythmic patterns and accidentals.



108

Membranes

Membranes staff for measure 108, featuring a series of five dotted quarter notes with a slur underneath.

Pno.

Piano staff for measure 108, consisting of two staves with complex rhythmic patterns and accidentals.



109

Membranes

Membranes staff for measure 109, featuring a series of five dotted quarter notes with a slur underneath.

Pno.

Piano staff for measure 109, consisting of two staves with complex rhythmic patterns and accidentals.

110

Membranes

Pno.

112

Membranes

Pno.

fff

8^{ub}

8^{ub}
Red.

(♩ = ♩)

116

Membranes

Pno.

(8)

(8)

120

Pno.

(8)

(8)

124

Pno.

128

Pno.

133

Pno.

139

Pno.

Duration: ca 9'30"
York, 2010

