

Aurora

for string orchestra and percussion

About the Piece....

- ◆ *Aurora* was written in April 2004 in Vancouver, B.C.
- ◆ The duration of the piece is 8 minutes.
- ◆ The instrumentation of the piece is string orchestra (minimum 43221) and 2 bowed percussion (bass drum, crotales, vibraphone, tam-tam, gong, & large cymbal).
- ◆ *Aurora* is dedicated to Chloë Norton.

Performance Notes

- ◆ The symbol ***n*** is for *niente* meaning 'nothing' i.e. 'as quiet as absolutely possible'.

WHISPERING

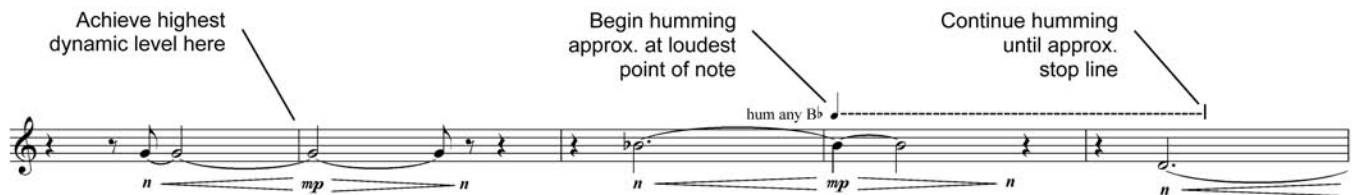
- ◆ The whispering should be done quietly and is intended NOT be understood by the audience. Musicians should not use a 'stage whisper' to project. The text should be obscured.
- ◆ Note: The text comes from myths and legends of different peoples and cultures and what they thought the Aurora was. People often claim they could hear noise from Aurorae and some tribes believed this noise was the voices of the spirits trying in vain to communicate with the people of the Earth.

HUMMING

- ◆ In the beginning and throughout the piece the string players are called upon to hum a note.
- ◆ Players only ever have to hum the note they are playing and in whatever octave fits their voice.

STRINGS

- ◆ Should play without vibrato at all times.
- ◆ Each note will fade in from silence and the dynamic it crescendos to and the approx time this dynamic should be reached is always given.
- ◆ Each player should strive to begin and end each note (whether bowed or hummed) as quietly as possible, and while crescending, achieve the highest dynamic where indicated.
- ◆ Each note should be produced with only one bow stroke, except where impossible to do so.



PERCUSSION

- ◆ Crotales, vibraphone, tam-tam, gong, and large cymbal are always to be bowed.
- ◆ The bass drum should be played with very soft mallets.
- ◆ All sounds, including the bass drum, should be allowed to let vibrate.

Dedicated to Chloë Norton

Jordan Nobles, Vancouver, April 2004

Violin I-1 & 2

Aurora

Jordan Nobles

♩ = 60

* whisper "Aurora Borealis, the Northern Dawn" repeat -----

Violin I-1

Violin I-2

vln I-1

vln I-2

6

6

sempre non vibrato

sempre non vibrato

8^{va}

n *mp* *n*

n *mp* *n*

vln I-1

vln I-2

10

10

whisper "blood flung into the sky"

whisper "torches lighting the far side of the sky"

n *mp* *n*

n *mp* *n*

A

vln I-1

vln I-2

14

14

n *mp* *n*

n *mp* *n*

n *mp* *n*

n *mp* *n*

* hum any D

V.S.

* see performance notes

18 * hum any A

vln I-1

vln I-2

22 hum any Bb

vln I-1

vln I-2

26

vln I-1

vln I-2

30

vln I-1

vln I-2

* see performance notes

vln I-1

vln I-2

34

n *mp* *n* *n* *mp* *n*

34

n *mp* *n* *n* *mp* *n*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 34 to 37. The top staff (vln I-1) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melodic line with a slur over measures 34-35 and another slur over measures 36-37. The bottom staff (vln I-2) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It has a similar melodic line with slurs. Dynamics are indicated as *n* (piano) and *mp* (mezzo-piano).

vln I-1

vln I-2

38

n *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf*

38

n *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 38 to 42. The top staff (vln I-1) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It features a melodic line with a slur over measures 38-40 and another slur over measures 41-42. The bottom staff (vln I-2) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It has a similar melodic line with slurs. Dynamics are indicated as *n* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). An *8va* (octave) marking is present above the top staff in measures 41 and 42.

vln I-1

vln I-2

43

n *mf* *n* *n* *mf* *n*

43

n *mf* *n* *n* *mf* *n*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 43 to 46. The top staff (vln I-1) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It features a melodic line with a slur over measures 43-44 and another slur over measures 45-46. The bottom staff (vln I-2) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It has a similar melodic line with slurs. Dynamics are indicated as *n* (piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte). An *8va* (octave) marking is present above the top staff in measures 43 and 44.

vln I-1

vln I-2

47

mf *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

47

mf *n* *mf* *n* *n* *mf* *n*

Detailed description: This system covers measures 47 to 50. The top staff (vln I-1) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It features a melodic line with a slur over measures 47-48 and another slur over measures 49-50. The bottom staff (vln I-2) has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. It has a similar melodic line with slurs. Dynamics are indicated as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *n* (piano). A diamond-shaped box containing the letter 'B' is located in the bottom staff between measures 48 and 49.

vln I-1

51

8va

n *mf* *n*

vln I-2

51

n *mf* *n*

vln I-1

54

8va

n *mf* *n*

vln I-2

54

n *mf* *n*

vln I-1

58

8va

n *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

vln I-2

58

8va

n *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

C

vln I-1

62

8va

mf *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

vln I-2

62

8va

mf *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

vln I-1

vln I-2

66 *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

vln I-1

vln I-2

70 *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n*

vln I-1

vln I-2

74 *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *n* *mf* *simile*

vln I-1

vln I-2

78 *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*



vln I-1

82 $(8^{va})^{-1}$ 8^{va} 8^{va}

mf <> <> *mf* <> <> *mf* <> <> *mf* <> <> simile <> <>

vln I-2

82 $(8^{va})^{-1}$ 8^{va} 8^{va}

mf <> <> *mf* <> <> *mf* <> <> *mf* <> <> simile <> <>

vln I-1

86 (8^{va})

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

vln I-2

86 (8^{va})

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> <>

vln I-1

91

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> 5

vln I-2

91

<> <> <> <> <> <> <> 5

vln I-1

100 whisper "the reflection of the fires of Nanahbozho, creator of the Earth" repeat ----- stop on bass drum attack

vln I-2

100 whisper "torches lighting the far side of the sky" repeat ----- stop on bass drum attack



109 *8va* hum any A# hum any F

vln I-1

vln I-2

n *f* *n* *n* *f* *n* *n* *f* *n*

8va *8va* *8va*

n *f* *n* *n* *f* *n* *n* *f* *n*

Humming notes: A# (first two measures), F (last two measures)

114 extreme sul pont. hum any D extreme sul pont.

vln I-1

vln I-2

n *f* *n* *n* *mp* *n* *n* *mp* *n*

extreme sul pont. *extreme sul pont.*

Humming note: D (first two measures)

119

vln I-1

vln I-2

n *f* *n* *n* *mp* *n* *n*

n *f* *n* *n* *mp* *n* *n*

123

vln I-1

vln I-2

mp *n* *n* *p* *n*

mp *n* *n* *p* *n*