

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 crescendoing, achieve the highest dynamic where indicated.
- ◆ Each note should be produced with only one bow stroke, except where impossible to do so.

The musical notation is on a single staff in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. It consists of a sequence of notes with dynamic markings and performance instructions:

- An initial rest marked with ***n***.
- A quarter note marked with ***mp***.
- A quarter note marked with ***n***.
- A quarter note marked with ***n***.
- A quarter note marked with ***n***.
- A half note marked with ***n***.
- A half note marked with ***mp***.
- A half note marked with ***n***.
- A half note marked with ***n***.
- A half note marked with ***n***.
- A half note marked with ***n***.

Performance instructions are indicated by arrows and text:

- "Achieve highest dynamic level here" points to the first ***mp*** note.
- "Begin humming approx. at loudest point of note" points to the first ***mp*** note.
- "Continue humming until approx. stop line" points to a vertical line at the end of the piece.
- "hum any B♭" points to the first ***mp*** note.

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

Aurora

Contrabass

Jordan Nobles

♩ = 60 *sempre non vibrato*

* whisper "where the atmosphere of the Sun touches the atmosphere of the Earth" repeat -----

8

Contrabass

12

cb.

A

* hum any B \flat

16

cb.

hum any D

hum any A

22

cb.

hum any B \flat

8va

28

cb.

9

41

cb.

mf

f

47

cb.

B

mf

52

cb.

mf

mf

* see performance notes

57

cb. 8

Staff 57: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Measure 57 contains a whole note G2, a whole note G2, a quarter rest, and a half note G2. Dynamics: *n* (under G2), *mf* (under G2), *n* (under G2).



61

cb. 8

Staff 61: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Measure 61 contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4. Dynamics: *mf* (under G2), *n* (under A2), *mf* (under B2), *n* (under C3), *mf* (under D3), *n* (under E3), *mf* (under F3), *n* (under G3), *mf* (under A3), *n* (under B3), *mf* (under C4).

65

cb. 8

Staff 65: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Measure 65 contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4. Dynamics: *mf* (under G2), *n* (under A2), *mf* (under B2), *n* (under C3), *mf* (under D3), *n* (under E3), *mf* (under F3), *n* (under G3), *mf* (under A3), *n* (under B3), *mf* (under C4).

69

cb. 8

Staff 69: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Measure 69 contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4. Dynamics: *mf* (under G2), *n* (under A2), *mf* (under B2), *n* (under C3), *mf* (under D3), *n* (under E3), *mf* (under F3), *n* (under G3), *mf* (under A3), *n* (under B3), *mf* (under C4).

73

cb. 8

Staff 73: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Measure 73 contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4. Dynamics: *mf* (under G2), *n* (under A2), *mf* (under B2), *n* (under C3), *mf* (under D3), *n* (under E3), *mf* (under F3), *n* (under G3), *mf* (under A3), *n* (under B3), *mf* (under C4).

76

cb. 8

Staff 76: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Measure 76 contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4. Dynamics: *mf* (under G2), *n* (under A2), *mf* (under B2), *n* (under C3), *mf* (under D3), *n* (under E3), *mf* (under F3), *n* (under G3), *mf* (under A3), *n* (under B3), *mf* (under C4).

78

cb. 8

Staff 78: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Measure 78 contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4. Dynamics: *n* (under G2), *mf* (under A2), *n* (under B2), *mf* (under C3), *n* (under D3), *mf* (under E3), *n* (under F3), *mf* (under G3), *n* (under A3), *mf* (under B3), *n* (under C4).

81

cb. 8

Staff 81: Bass clef, 8/8 time signature. Measure 81 contains a half note G2, a quarter note A2, a quarter note B2, a quarter note C3, a quarter note D3, a quarter note E3, a quarter note F3, a quarter note G3, a quarter note A3, a quarter note B3, a quarter note C4. Dynamics: *n* (under G2), *mf* (under A2), *n* (under B2), *mf* (under C3), *n* (under D3), *mf* (under E3), *n* (under F3), *mf* (under G3), *n* (under A3), *mf* (under B3), *n* (under C4). A fermata is placed over the final note C4.

2



85

8

cb.

95

cb.

99

cb.

103

cb.



107

cb.

111

hum any F

cb.

115

extreme sul pont.

cb.

119

Sul D

cb.

123 Sul A

Sul A

cb.