

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.

A musical staff in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The notation shows a sequence of notes with dynamic markings and performance instructions. The first measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *n* (niente) and a slur over it. The second measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) and a slur over it. The third measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *n*. The fourth measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *n*. The fifth measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *n*. The sixth measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *mp* and a slur over it. The seventh measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *n*. The eighth measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *n*. The ninth measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *n*. The tenth measure has a quarter note with a dynamic marking of *n*. Above the staff, there are three sets of instructions with arrows pointing to specific parts of the notation: 'Achieve highest dynamic level here' points to the peak of the first *mp* note; 'Begin humming approx. at loudest point of note' points to the start of the *mp* note in the sixth measure; 'Continue humming until approx. stop line' points to the end of the *mp* note in the sixth measure. A dashed line labeled 'hum any Bb' spans from the start of the *mp* note in the sixth measure to the end of the *mp* note in the sixth measure.

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

Percussion 1

Aurora

Jordan Nobles

♩ = 60 **Crotales** *sempre with bow* *let all ring...*

Percussion 1

4

n *p* *n* *p*



Perc. 1

8

3

n *p* *n* *p*

Perc. 1

14

n *p* *n* *p*

Perc. 1

18

n *p* *n* *p*

Perc. 1

22

n *p* *n* *p* *n* *p* *n* *p*

Perc. 1

26

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



Perc. 1

30

19

2

Tam-tam

n *mf*

l. v.

2

Perc. 1

34

Gong

l. v.

2

Tam-tam

l. v.

Vibraphone

l. v.

n *mf* *n* *mf*



59 Perc. 1 **2** **23** Crotales *let all ring...*
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 59-61. Includes a 2-measure rest, a 23-measure rest, and three notes with *mp* dynamics.

86 Perc. 1
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 86-90. Includes five notes with *mp* dynamics.

90 Perc. 1 **8**
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 90-94. Includes six notes with *mp* dynamics and an 8-measure rest.

101 Perc. 1 * whisper "Aurora Borealis, the Northern Dawn" repeat -----
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 101-104. Shows a series of rests.

stop on bass drum attack

105 Perc. 1
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 105-108. Shows a series of rests.



109 Perc. 1 Tam-tam Gong Large Cymbal
n \triangleleft *mf* *n* \triangleleft *mf* *n* \triangleleft *mp*
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 109-114. Includes dynamic markings for Tam-tam, Gong, and Large Cymbal.

115 Perc. 1 Tam-tam Gong Large Cymbal
n \triangleleft *mp* *n* \triangleleft *p* *n* \triangleleft *pp*
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 115-120. Includes dynamic markings for Tam-tam, Gong, and Large Cymbal.

121 Perc. 1 whisper "Aurora Borealis, the Northern Dawn; Aurora Australis, the Southern Dawn" repeat -----
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 121-124. Shows a series of rests.

125 Perc. 1 **2**
 Musical notation for Perc. 1, measures 125-126. Includes a 2-measure rest.

* see performance notes