

*For Orchestra of the Swan*

Yfat Soul Zisso

# Gravity

for large mixed ensemble

Programme notes:

Written for Orchestra of the Swan, Gravity focuses on one fundamental and its harmonic series as an alternative to tonality, exploring how it is affected when confronted with a constantly descending glissando, which starts by inhibiting many of the notes of the harmonic series, but gets further and further away from it the lower it gets, having less in common with the surrounding instruments. Since the glissando is a constant force that cannot be ignored, each instrument individually reacts to its move away from the harmonic series. This move represents a loss of grounding for them, especially when the Double Bass, who plays the fundamental pitch, takes over the glissando.

Y.S.Z.

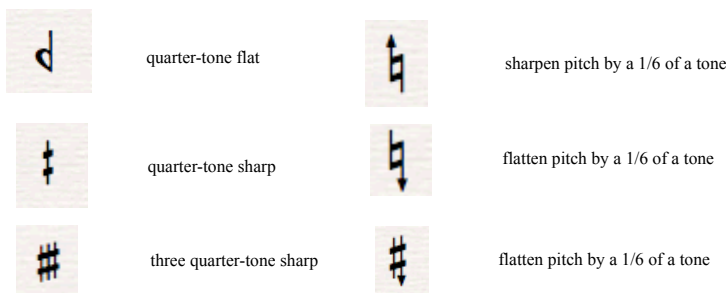
Instrumentation:

Flute  
 Oboe  
 Clarinet in Bb  
 Bassoon  
 Horn in F  
 2 Violins  
 Viola  
 Cello  
 Double Bass (preferably with an extension down to bottom C, if not, tune bottom string a minor 3rd down and play transposed ossia part)

Performance notes:

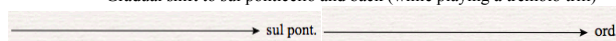
solo = these notes should come out of the texture so can therefore be slightly over the stated dynamics. Cancelled by ord.

Quarter-tones and micro-tones (should be kept to as much as possible to maintain the harmonic series within the piece):



Viola:

Gradual shift to sul ponticello and back (while playing a tremolo trill)



String glissando:

Lean in on every quarter-tone minim before sliding to the next note. Do not alter speed or dynamic.

Score in C

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glissando is strict while the rest of the instruments  
are either floating (high-pitched) or grounded (low held pitches)

♩ = 92

A

The musical score is written for a large mixed ensemble in 4/4 time. The instruments and their parts are as follows:

- Flute:** Starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *pp* dynamic. It features a glissando and a section marked 'A'.
- Oboe:** Features a solo section with a triplet of eighth notes, starting with a *p* dynamic and moving to *mp* and *pp*.
- Clarinet in Bb:** Starts with a *pp* dynamic, followed by a *p* dynamic. It features a glissando and a section marked 'A'.
- Bassoon:** Starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *pp* dynamic, then a *p* dynamic. It features a glissando and a section marked 'A'.
- Horn in F:** Starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *mp* dynamic. It features a solo section.
- Violin I:** Starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by *<poco>* and *<poco>* dynamics. It features a glissando and a section marked 'sim.'
- Violin II:** Starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *pp* dynamic. It features a glissando and a section marked 'A'.
- Viola:** Starts with a *p* dynamic, followed by a *mp* dynamic, then a *p* dynamic. It features a solo section.
- Violoncello:** Starts with a *p* dynamic.
- Contrabass:** Starts with a *p* dynamic.

**B** **C** **D**

10

Fl. (solo) *mp* *p* *mp* *p* solo timbral trill sim.

Ob. *mp* ord. *p*

Cl. *pp* *p*

Bsn. *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Hn. *p* *mp* *pp* (solo) *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

Vln. I solo *mp* *p*

Vln. II *p* *gliss.* *sim.* *poco* *poco*

Vla. (solo) *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* ord. trem. *p*

Vc. *pp*

Cb. *pp*

**E** **F**

21 (tr)

Fl. *mp* (solo) *mf*

Ob. *mp* ord.

Cl. solo *mp* ord. *p*

Bsn. *pp* solo *mp* *pp* ord. *p* *mp* *pp*

Hn. *mp* solo *pp* *mp* ord.

Vln. I *mp* *p* solo *mp*

Vln. II solo *mp*

Vla. *sim.* *gliss.* *sim.* *p* *poco* *poco*

Vc. *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

Cb. *p* *pp*

Non-gliss. instruments  
start to feel slightly lost **G**

**H**

Musical score for measures 32-39. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cb.), and Double Bass (Vc.).

- Fl.**: Starts at measure 32 with a melodic line. Dynamic markings: *>pp*, *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *mp*.
- Ob.**: Rests until measure 33, then plays a sustained note.
- Cl.**: Rests until measure 33, then plays a sustained note.
- Bsn.**: Rests until measure 33, then plays a sustained note.
- Hn.**: Rests until measure 33, then plays a sustained note.
- Vln. I**: Rests until measure 33, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *pp*.
- Vln. II**: Rests until measure 33, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *pp*.
- Vla.**: Plays a rhythmic pattern throughout.
- Vc.**: Rests until measure 33, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *p*, *pp*.
- Cb.**: Rests until measure 33, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *p*.

Musical score for measures 40-43. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cb.), and Double Bass (Vc.).

- Fl.**: Starts at measure 40 with a melodic line. Dynamic markings: *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *mp*.
- Ob.**: Rests until measure 41, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *pp*, *mp*.
- Cl.**: Rests until measure 41, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *pp*, *mp*.
- Bsn.**: Rests until measure 41, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *pp*, *p*.
- Hn.**: Rests until measure 41, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *pp*.
- Vln. I**: Rests until measure 41, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *mp*. Marking: *solo*.
- Vln. II**: Rests until measure 41, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *mp*. Marking: *solo*.
- Vla.**: Plays a rhythmic pattern throughout. Dynamic: *pp*.
- Vc.**: Rests until measure 41, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *pp*. Marking: *sim.*, *< poco >*.
- Cb.**: Rests until measure 41, then plays a sustained note. Dynamic: *p*.

J

45

Fl. *pp* *mp* *p*

Ob. *pp* *mp*

Cl. *pp* *mp*

Bsn. solo *mp* *p*

Hn. *p*

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla. *p*

Vc.

Cb.

*pp*

Non-gliss. instruments start to increasingly panic

K

50

Fl. *p* *mp* *p*

Ob. *pp* *mp* *mp*

Cl. *pp* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Bsn. ord. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Vln. I *pp*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. solo *mf* trem.

Vc.

Cb. *p* *gliss.* *sim.* *poco* *poco*

55

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf* *mp*

Cl. *mf* *mp*

Bsn. *p*

Hn.

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. ord. (non-solo) *mp* sim. → sul pont.

Vc.

Cb.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 55, 56, and 57. The Flute part features a melodic line with triplets in measures 55 and 57. The Oboe and Clarinet parts have similar melodic lines, with the Clarinet playing in a lower register. The Bassoon part has a sustained note in measure 55 and a half note in measure 57. The Horn part has a sustained note in measure 57. The Violin I and II parts have sustained notes in measure 57. The Viola part has a tremolo in measure 55 and a half note in measure 57. The Violoncello part has a sustained note in measure 55 and a half note in measure 57. The Contrabass part has a sustained note in measure 55 and a half note in measure 57.

58

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mp*

Hn.

Vln. I *mf* *p*

Vln. II *mf* *p*

Vla. ord. → ord.

Vc. *mp*

Cb.

Detailed description: This system contains measures 58, 59, and 60. The Flute part features a melodic line with triplets in measures 58 and 60. The Oboe and Clarinet parts have similar melodic lines. The Bassoon part has a sustained note in measure 58 and a half note in measure 60. The Horn part has a sustained note in measure 60. The Violin I and II parts have sustained notes in measure 60. The Viola part has a tremolo in measure 58 and a half note in measure 60. The Violoncello part has a sustained note in measure 58 and a half note in measure 60. The Contrabass part has a sustained note in measure 58 and a half note in measure 60.

60 **L**

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp* *sul pont.*

Vc. *mp*

Cb. *mp*

62

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Vln. I *mf*

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf* *ord.*

Vc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for an orchestra, covering measures 60 to 62. The score is written for ten instruments: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The music is in 3/4 time. Measure 60 begins with a first ending bracket labeled 'L' over the flute part. The flute plays a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes. The oboe and clarinet have similar rhythmic patterns. The bassoon plays a sustained note with a slur. The horns play a sustained note. The violins play a sustained note. The viola plays a sustained note with a 'sul pont.' instruction. The cello and contrabass play a sustained note. Measure 61 continues the patterns. Measure 62 begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The flute part has a first ending bracket. The oboe and clarinet parts have a first ending bracket. The bassoon part has a first ending bracket. The horns play a sustained note. The violins play a sustained note. The viola plays a sustained note with an 'ord.' instruction. The cello and contrabass play a sustained note. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).



poco rit. . . . .

**M** Gradually calming down

Musical score for measures 64-65. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

- Fl.:** Measure 64 has a *Flz* marking. Dynamics are *f* in measure 64 and *sub. mp* in measure 65. A triplet is present in measure 65.
- Ob.:** Dynamics are *sub. mp* in measure 65. A triplet is present in measure 65.
- Cl.:** Dynamics are *sub. mp* in measure 65.
- Bsn.:** Dynamics are *f* in measure 64.
- Hn.:** Dynamics are *mf* in measure 64 and *f* in measure 65.
- Vln. I:** Dynamics are *f* in measure 64 and *sub. mp* in measure 65.
- Vln. II:** Dynamics are *f* in measure 64 and *sub. mp* in measure 65.
- Vla.:** Dynamics are *mf* in measure 64 and *f* in measure 65. A *sul pont.* marking is present in measure 65.
- Vc.:** Dynamics are *mf* in measure 64 and *f* in measure 65.
- Cb.:** Dynamics are *mf* in measure 64 and *f* in measure 65.

Musical score for measures 66-68. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.).

- Fl.:** Dynamics are *f* in measure 66 and *sub. mp* in measure 67. Triplet markings are present in measures 66, 67, and 68.
- Ob.:** Dynamics are *sub. mp* in measure 67. Triplet markings are present in measures 66, 67, and 68.
- Cl.:** Dynamics are *sub. mp* in measure 67.
- Bsn.:** Dynamics are *sub. mp* in measure 67.
- Hn.:** Dynamics are *sub. mp* in measure 67.
- Vln. I:** Dynamics are *p* in measure 66 and *pp* in measure 67.
- Vln. II:** Dynamics are *p* in measure 66 and *pp* in measure 67.
- Vla.:** Dynamics are *p* in measure 66 and *pp* in measure 67.
- Vc.:** Dynamics are *p* in measure 66 and *pp* in measure 67.
- Cb.:** Dynamics are *p* in measure 66 and *pp* in measure 67.