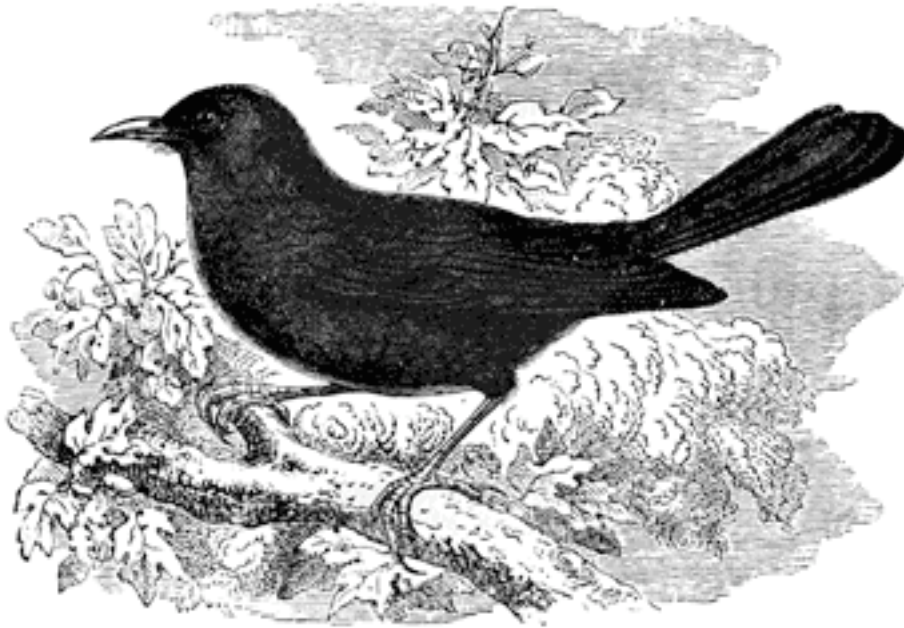


night black bird song

for two flutes/piccolos
and three percussion



commissioned by SCI/ASCAP
for the NYU New Music Ensemble

© Emily Doolittle, 1999

night black bird song

commissioned by SCI/ASCAP

for the NYU New Music Ensemble

duration: 7'30"

Percussion instruments:

rain stick - large (1 1/2 meters), with a deep, resonant sound

wave (ocean) drum -- medium sized

two bongos

conga

bamboo wind chimes

2 wood blocks - lower pitched, preferably a minor 3rd apart

temple blocks - tuned to approximately E4, F#4, G4, A4

marimba

cowbells - smallest size (approx. 1 1/2 to 3 inches), tuned to A4, C#5, D#5, G5 B5, C6

Chinese opera gong -- highest pitched, with a sound that bends upwards

Chinese crash (cymbal) -- lower pitched, sound does not bend

The percussion parts are divided as follows:

Percussion 1 -- wood blocks, temple blocks, marimba (shared with percussion 2), Chinese opera gong (shared with percussion 3), Chinese crash

Percussion 2 -- rain stick, conga, marimba (shared with percussion 1)

Percussion 3 -- Chinese opera gong (shared with percussion 1), bamboo wind chimes, wave drum, bongos, cow bells

night black bird song

for piccolo, flute, and 3 percussion

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♩ = 108

The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of 108 beats per minute. It features two piccolo parts (piccolo 1 and piccolo 2/flute) and three percussion parts (percussion 1, 2, and 3).
- Piccolo 1: Starts with a half note B-flat, then a triplet of eighth notes (B-flat, A, G) with a fermata. Dynamics range from *sf p* to *sfz*.
- Piccolo 2/flute: Starts with a half note B-flat, then a half note A, then a half note G. Dynamics range from *sf p* to *f*.
- Percussion 1: Temple blocks. *mf* at the start, *ff* at the second measure.
- Percussion 2: Rain stick. *ff* at the second measure, then a long decay to *ppp*.
- Percussion 3: Chinese opera gong and bamboo wind chimes. *mp* at the start, *f* at the second measure. Includes the instruction 'dampen with hands*' and 'let resonate (do not dampen)'.
- Percussion 2 (continued): 'turn rainstick' at the end of the first measure, then a long decay to *p*, followed by a sharp attack to *sub. mf* and a final decay to *pp*.
- Percussion 3 (continued): 'let fade to nothing' at the end of the first measure, then 'to wave drum' at the start of the second measure.
- Piccolo 1 and 2 (continued): Both parts have a fermata over the final note and then 'fade to nothing (before rainstick)'.
- Percussion 1 (continued): 'let fade to nothing' at the end of the first measure.

* Hold firmly on the inclined part of the gong, just before the flat center, so that the pitch rises immediately and the sound decays quickly.

12

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

wood blocks

mf

ff

rainstick almost silent – just occasional drops

turn rainstick

sub. *f*

perc. 2

perc. 3

pause until rainstick is almost silent

17

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

sf p

insistent

sf z mp

insistent

mp

almost nothing

pp

22

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mp

mf

mf

uneven crescendo, with small variations up and down

mf

mf

* grace notes on beat

27

pic. 1 *lively, sweet*

pic. 2 *mf*

perc. 1 temple blocks *mp*

perc. 2 fairly steady *p* to *mp* background rain sounds

perc. 3 wave drum *ppp* roll drum slowly and smoothly *p* *p - mp* swellings of sound, blending with rainstick

31

pic. 1 *smooth*

pic. 2 *lively, sweet* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

perc. 1 *mf*

perc. 2 (*p - mp*)

perc. 3 (*p - mp*) roll faster, moving to foreground *p* slower, blending with rainstick *mf* *p*

34

pic. 1 *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

perc. 1

perc. 2 (*p - mp*)

perc. 3 speeding *f* slowing *p*

36

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

low wood block

temple blocks

mf *mf*

(*p - mp*) (*mp*)

speeding slowing

ff

39

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

pause until silent

sf p

ppp almost nothing

ppp almost nothing

43

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mp

mf

mf

f *mf*

pp *p*

pp

insistent

mf

mf

lively, sweet

lively, sweet

beginning slowly

steady, rainy background sound, with small swellings of sound between *p* and *mp*

47

pic. 1 *smooth*

pic. 2 *mp* *smooth*

perc. 1 low wood block

perc. 2 *sub. mf* *sub. f* *steady decrescendo*

perc. 3 *(p - mp)*

49

pic. 1 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

pic. 2 *mf* *p*

perc. 1 temple blocks *mp* *mf*

perc. 2 *fade to nothing* *ppp*

perc. 3 *(p - mp)*

51

pic. 1 *mf* *p*

perc. 1 marimba *f*

perc. 2 *set down rainstick as quietly as possible, move to conga* *mf* *p*

perc. 3 *tap lightly on drum* *mp* *(pp)* *let fade to nothing* *pp*

56

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

conga

medium speed, irregular tapping with fingers

pp *p* tapping, *p - mp*

almost nothing *ppp* roll drum and tap slowly and lightly with fingers *p* increase speed of tapping, continue tapping and rolling, making *p - mf* swellings of sound

61

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

wood blocks

mf *mf* *mf*

mf *mf* *mf*

p - mp

p - mf

65

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

temple blocks

p *mf* *sub. ff* *f*

gradually stop tapping (following decay of wave drum) nothing

stop tapping and rolling, let sound decay naturally nothing

♩ = 84

shrill

70 $\text{♩} = 108$ $\text{♩} = 84$

pic. 1 *ff* *lively, sweet* *mf* *ff*

pic. 2 *mf*

perc. 1 *mp* 3 *mf* *mp*

perc. 2 *ff* resume tapping stop tapping abruptly (cut off by temple block)

perc. 3 *p - mp* resume tapping and rolling stop tapping and rolling abruptly (cut off by temple block), put wave drum down silently, move to bongos

mp - mf

74 $\text{♩} = 108$ *smooth*

pic. 1 *lively, sweet* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

pic. 2 *mf* *mp* *smooth*

perc. 1 *mf* *f* *mp* low wood block

perc. 2 *p* slowly accelerando

perc. 3 tap on lower bongo slowly accelerando tap on both bongos

p

77 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

pic. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

pic. 2 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

perc. 1 *f* *mp* temple blocks *mp* *mf*

perc. 2 (continuing to accelerate) (gradually slowing)

perc. 3 (continuing to accelerate) *mf* (gradually slowing)

mf

79

pic. 1 *lively, sweet*
mf

pic. 2 *mf* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf*

perc. 1 *mp* *mf* *f* *mp*

perc. 2 hit conga with hand
p
pp, cresc

perc. 3 *p*

82

pic. 1 *lively, sweet*
p *mf* *p* *mf*

pic. 2 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

perc. 1 *p* *pp*

perc. 2 hit conga with palm on first, roll fingers on second
(mp, cresc.)

perc. 3 hit lower bongo with hand *p, cresc.* hit bongo with palm on first, roll fingers on second
(mf, cresc.)

84

pic. 1 *smooth*
mp

pic. 2 *smooth* *mp*

perc. 1 *(f, cresc.)*

perc. 2 *(f, cresc.)* roll fingers, alternating lower and higher pitch

perc. 3 *(f, cresc.)* roll fingers, alternating lower and higher bongo

86

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

pause until silent

$\text{♩} = 152$

playful

mf > *p*

ff

fff

to marimba

to bamboo wind chimes

89

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf > *p*

mp

p > *mf*

92

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

started

piu f

started

mf

lively, sweet

lively, sweet

mp

mf

marimba

f > *mf*

$\text{♩} = 108$

lively, sweet

* grace notes before beat

94

pic. 1 *smooth*

pic. 2 *mp* *smooth* *mf* *p* *mf*

perc. 1 *p*

perc. 2

perc. 3

96

pic. 1 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

pic. 2

perc. 1 *mp* *mf* *p*

perc. 2 *mf* *mp*

perc. 3

98

pic. 1 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p*

pic. 2

perc. 1 *p*

perc. 2 *f* *mp*

perc. 3

101 ♩ = 152 *playful*

pic. 1 *mf* > *p*

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3 **bamboo wind chimes** (stop chimes gently with arm, hold as silent as possible until next entrance)
fairly steady *mp - mf*

107

pic. 1 *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p*

pic. 2 *playful* * *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p*

perc. 1 *mf*

perc. 2

perc. 3 *mp* (fairly slow)

111

pic. 1 *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p* *mf* > *p* *piu f* *started* 3

pic. 2 *piu f* *started* 3

perc. 1 *mp, crescendo* 3

perc. 2 *mf*

perc. 3 (stop chimes) *mp* (fairly slow), gradually crescendo and move chimes faster

* grace notes before beat

114 *scolding*

pic. 1 *p* *ff*

pic. 2

perc. 1 *(mf, crescendo)*

perc. 2 *mf* *f*

perc. 3 *(mf, crescendo and move chimes faster)*

117 *scolding*

pic. 1 *ff* *piu f*

pic. 2 *ff* *piu f*

perc. 1 *(f, crescendo)* *ff* *f* *mf*

perc. 2 *f* *ff* *ff* *f* *mf*

perc. 3 *(f, crescendo and move chimes faster)* *ff* *hit chimes as loudly as possible* *let decay as naturally as possible (but make sure sound continues to m. 125)*

120

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1 *mp* *p* *pp*

perc. 2 *mp* *p* *pp*

perc. 3 *(f, decrescendo)*

124

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

ppp

mp

to nothing

move to cow bells

(p)

solo

128

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf \triangleright *p* *mf*

mf \triangleright *mp*

mf \triangleright *piu f*

playful

131

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf \triangleright *p* *mf* \triangleright *p*

mf \triangleright *p*

mf \triangleright *p* *mf* \triangleright *p*

mf \triangleright *mp* *f*

mf

mp

134

pic. 1 *mf* \triangleright *p* *mp* *smooth* *scolding*

pic. 2 *mf* \triangleright *p* *mf* \triangleright *p* *playful* *p, cresc*

perc. 1 *mp* *p* *p* \triangleright *mp*

perc. 2 *mp* *p* \triangleright *mf* *mp* *mf* \triangleright *p*

perc. 3 *cow bells*
always *p* (blend with other percussion)

137

pic. 1 *ff* *piu f* *playful* *mf*

pic. 2 *pp* *ff* (flutter tongue) change to flute

perc. 1 *mp*

perc. 2 *mf* \triangleright *mp* \triangleright *f* \triangleright *mp* *mf*

perc. 3

$\text{♩} = 126$

141

pic. 1 *p* *mf* \triangleright *p* *f* *playfully aggressive* *(4+3+4)*

flute

perc. 1 *mf*

perc. 2 *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp*

perc. 3

144

pic. 1 *playful*
mf \rightarrow *p*

flute

perc. 1 *mp* \rightarrow *mf* \rightarrow *mp*

perc. 2 *mf* \rightarrow *mp* \rightarrow *mp*

perc. 3 *fff*

147

pic. 1 *mf* \rightarrow *p* *playfully aggressive*
f \rightarrow *mp* *f* \rightarrow *mp*

flute

perc. 1 *mf* \rightarrow *f* \rightarrow *mf*

perc. 2 *f* \rightarrow *mp* *mf*

perc. 3 *always fff*

149

pic. 1 ** playfully aggressive*
f

flute

perc. 1 *mf* \rightarrow *mp* *mf*

perc. 2 *mp* \rightarrow *mf* \rightarrow *mp*

perc. 3

* fast, accented grace note, on beat

151 *playful*

pic. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

flute

perc. 1 *mp* *f* *mf*

perc. 2 *mf* *f* *mp*

perc. 3 *ff* *f*

154

pic. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

flute *8va* *always ff*

perc. 1 *f* *ff* *f* *f* *mf*

perc. 2 *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

perc. 3 *mp* *mp*

(again blending with the other percussion)

157 *started* *playfully aggressive*

pic. 1 *piu f* *f*

flute *3* *3*

perc. 1 *f* *mf*

perc. 2 *f* *mp* *p* *mf*

perc. 3 *mf* *mp*

160

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

f

f

f, cresc.

f

piu f

163

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf

f

mf

ff

pp

ff

mf

ff

f

f

pochiss. rit.

slower

$\text{♩} = 114$

shrill

166

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

f

f

ff

mp

mp

a little nicer

loco

169

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

f

mf

ff

f

mf

172

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

f

mf

mf

mp

insistent

f

mp

mp

f

f

175

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf

f

mf

f

mf

smooth

mp

insistent

mp

f

mf

f

mf

178

pic. 1 *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

flute *smooth* *mp*

perc. 1 *mf*

perc. 2 *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf*

perc. 3 *mf*

180

pic. 1 *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

flute *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp, poco a poco decresc.*

perc. 1

perc. 2 *f* *p* *to conga*

perc. 3

$\bullet = 152$
(old $\bullet =$ new \bullet)
playful

(3+4+4+4)

183

pic. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

flute *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

perc. 1 *f*

perc. 2 *conga* *f*

perc. 3

186

pic. 1 *startled* *scolding* *sweeter*

flute *piu f startled* *mp scolding* *f sweeter*

perc. 1 *f*

perc. 2 *f*

perc. 3

189

pic. 1 *p*

flute *playful* *mp* *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf > p* *mf > p*

perc. 1 *f*

perc. 2 *f*

perc. 3

193

pic. 1

flute *startled* *restless* *f* *mf*

perc. 1 *to opera gongs*

perc. 2 *f*

perc. 3 *cow bells* *mp*

196

pic. 1

flute

Chinese opera gong dampen with hand (as at beginning)

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

pp, poco a poco crescendo

always *f*

mp

mf

mf

mp

mf

smooth

6

199

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

p

mf

p

mf

p

p, poco a poco crescendo

6

6

6

6

6

201

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf, poco a poco crescendo

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

6

204

pic. 1

flute

restless

mf

p, poco a poco crescendo

gradually stop dampening

perc. 1

(*mf*, cresc.)

perc. 2

(always *f*)

perc. 3

sub. *p, poco a poco crescendo*

207

pic. 1

flute

(*mp*, cresc.)

perc. 1

(*piu f*, cresc.)

f

perc. 2

perc. 3

(*mp*, poco a poco crescendo)

210

pic. 1

flute

smooth

mp

undampened to end

mf *p* *mf* *p* *mf*

perc. 1

(*f*, cresc.)

perc. 2

perc. 3

(*mf*, poco a poco crescendo)

212

pic. 1 *f*, crescendo *ff*, crescendo

flute *p* *mp* *ff*, crescendo

perc. 1 *ff*, crescendo

perc. 2 *ff*, crescendo

perc. 3 *f*, crescendo

215

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2 (piu *ff*, crescendo)

perc. 3 *ff*, crescendo

217

pic. 1 *fff*

flute *fff*

perc. 1 (let resonate) *fff*

perc. 2 *fff*

perc. 3 *fff*

very long pause, until crash and gong have faded to nothing

12/16

219 slower (♩ = 72), with very slight freedom

pic. 1 *pp*
expressive but simple, with not much vibrato

flute *p* < *mp* > *p* *p* *mp* *mp*

percussion tacet to end

223 slight rit. a tempo

pic. 1

flute *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

227 ♩ = ♩ (♩ = 108)

pic. 1 *p* *mp* *p*

flute *mf* *a little bit dance-like*

231

pic. 1 *mp*

flute *f* *mf*

235

pic. 1 *p* < *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

flute *f*

239

pic. 1 *p* *pp*

flute *mp* *p*