

night black bird song

for piccolo, flute, and 3 percussion

commissioned by SCI/ASCAP

Emily Doolittle, 1999

♩ = 108

without vibrato

piccolo 1

piccolo

sf p

without vibrato

piccolo 2/flute

sf p

f

fade to nothing (before rainstick)

fade to nothing (before rainstick)

temple blocks

percussion 1

mf

ff

rain stick

turn rainstick

Chinese opera gong

ff

dampen with hands*

mp

let resonate (do not dampen)

f

bamboo wind chimes

ff

ppp

6

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

let fade to nothing

to wave drum

ppp

mp

turn rainstick

p

sub. *mf*

pp

perc. 3

let fade to nothing

* 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.

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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

ppp

17

pic. 1

sf p

insistent

sf z mp

pic. 2

insistent

mp

perc. 1

perc. 2

almost nothing

pp

perc. 3

22

pic. 1

mp

pic. 2

perc. 1

mf

perc. 2

uneven crescendo, with small variations up and down

mf

mf

perc. 3

* grace notes on beat

27

pic. 1

pic. 2

lively, sweet

mf

perc. 1

temple blocks

mp

perc. 2

fairly steady *p* to *mp* background rain sounds

perc. 3

wave drum

roll drum slowly and smoothly

ppp

p

p - mp swellings of sound, blending with rainstick

31

pic. 1

pic. 2

lively, sweet

mf

smooth

mp

mf *mp*

perc. 1

mf

perc. 2

(*p - mp*)

perc. 3

(*p - mp*)

roll faster, moving to foreground

p

mf

p

slower, blending with rainstick

34

pic. 1

mf *mp*

mf *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

pic. 2

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*

insistent

lively, sweet

lively, sweet

beginning slowly

pp

pp

p

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* *steady decrescendo* *sub. f*

perc. 3 *(p - mp)*

49

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

pic. 2 *mf* *p*

perc. 1 *temple blocks* *3* *mf* *3*

perc. 2 *fade to nothing* *ppp*

perc. 3 *(p - mp)*

51

pic. 1 *mf* *p*

perc. 1 *marimba* *3* *4:5*

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*

70 $\text{♩} = 108$ $\text{♩} = 84$

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

pic. 2 *mf*

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

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

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

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 *p* *accelerando* tap on both bongos

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

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

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

perc. 1 *f* *mp* temple blocks *mp* *mf* (gradually slowing)

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

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

79

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

lively, sweet

mf

smooth

mf *p* *mf*

mp

mf *f* *mp*

p

hit conga with hand

pp, cresc

p

82

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

lively, sweet

p *mf* *p* *mf*

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

p *3*

pp

hit conga with palm on first ♩, roll fingers on second ♩

(mp, cresc.)

hit lower bongo with hand

p, cresc.

hit bongo with palm on first ♩, roll fingers on second ♩

(mf, cresc.)

84

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

smooth

smooth *mp*

mp

(f, cresc.)

roll fingers, alternating lower and higher pitch

(f, cresc.)

roll fingers, alternating lower and higher bongo

(f, cresc.)

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

startled

piu f

lively, sweet

mf

marimba

f mf

3/4

* grace notes before beat

94

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

smooth

mp

smooth

mf

p

mf

mp

p

96

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

mp

mf

p

mf

mp

98

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

p

mf

p

mf

p

p

p

f

mp

101 ♩ = 152 *playful*

pic. 1 *mf* *p*

pic. 2

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* *playful* *

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

perc. 1 *mf*

perc. 2

perc. 3 *mp* (fairly slow)

111

pic. 1 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *startled* *piu f*

pic. 2 *startled* *piu f*

perc. 1 *mp*, crescendo

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*

perc. 1 *(mf, crescendo)*

perc. 2 *mf* *f*

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

117 *scolding*

pic. 1 *ff* *piu f*

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

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

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

120

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

move to cow bells

to nothing

(*p*)

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

5/4

128

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf *p* *mf*

mf *mp*

mf *piu f*

playful

mf *p*

5/4

4/4

4/4

5/4

4/4

4/4

131

pic. 1

pic. 2

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf *p* *mf* *p*

mf *p*

mf *p* *mf* *p*

mf *mp* *f* *mp*

mf *mp*

5/4

4/4

4/4

5/4

4/4

4/4

134

pic. 1 *mf* *p* *mp* *smooth* *3* *scolding* *p, cresc*

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

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

perc. 2 *mp* *p* *mf* *mp* *3* *mf*

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* *3*

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

perc. 3

$\text{♩} = 126$

141

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

flute

perc. 1 *mf* *3*

perc. 2 *mf* *3* *mp* *mf* *mp*

perc. 3

144

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

playful

mf *p*

mp

mf *mp*

mf

fff

147

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

playfully aggressive

mf *p*

f *mp* *f* *mp*

mf *f* *mf*

f *mp*

always fff

149

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

** playfully aggressive*

f

mf *mp* *mf*

mp *mf* *mp*

3

* fast, accented grace note, on beat

151

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

flute

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

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

perc. 3

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 (again blending with the other percussion)
mp *mp*

157

pic. 1 *startled*
piu f *playfully aggressive*
f

flute

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, cresc.

f

piu f

163

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf

f

mf

ff

pp

ff

mf

ff

f

pochiss. rit.

slower

$\text{♩} = 114$

shrill

166

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

f

loco

f

ff

mp

mp

a little nicer

169

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

f

mf

ff

172

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

f

mf

mp

insistent

175

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf

f

mf

f

mf

smooth

mp

insistent

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

180 (3+4+4+4) *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

183 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

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

perc. 1 *f*

perc. 2 *conga* *f*

perc. 3

$\text{♩} = 152$
(old ♩ = new ♩)
playful

186

pic. 1

started 3

scolding

sweeter

flute

piu *f* started

f

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

started 3

restless

flute

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

201

pic. 1

flute

perc. 1

perc. 2

perc. 3

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf, poco a poco crescendo

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

(*mp*, cresc.)

flute

perc. 1

(piu *f*, cresc.)

f

perc. 2

perc. 3

(*mp*, poco a poco crescendo)

210

pic. 1

(*mf*, cresc.)

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

Chinese crash

12/16

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

pic. 1 *pp*

flute expressive but simple, with not much vibrato

p $\leftarrow$ *mp* $\rightarrow$ *p* *p* *mp* *mp*

percussion tacet to end

223 slight rit. a tempo

pic. 1

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

♩ = ♪ (♩ = 108)

227

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

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

231

pic. 1 *mp*

flute *f* *mf*

235

pic. 1 *p* $\leftarrow$ *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

flute *f*

239

pic. 1 *p* *pp*

flute *mp* *p*