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Distant Cathedrals

by

Gina Ceccoli

Thesis

Submitted to the Department of Music and Dance

Eastern Michigan University

In partial fulfillments of the requirements

for the degree of

MASTER OF MUSIC

in

Music Composition

Thesis Committee:

Anthony Iannaccone, Ph.D., Chair

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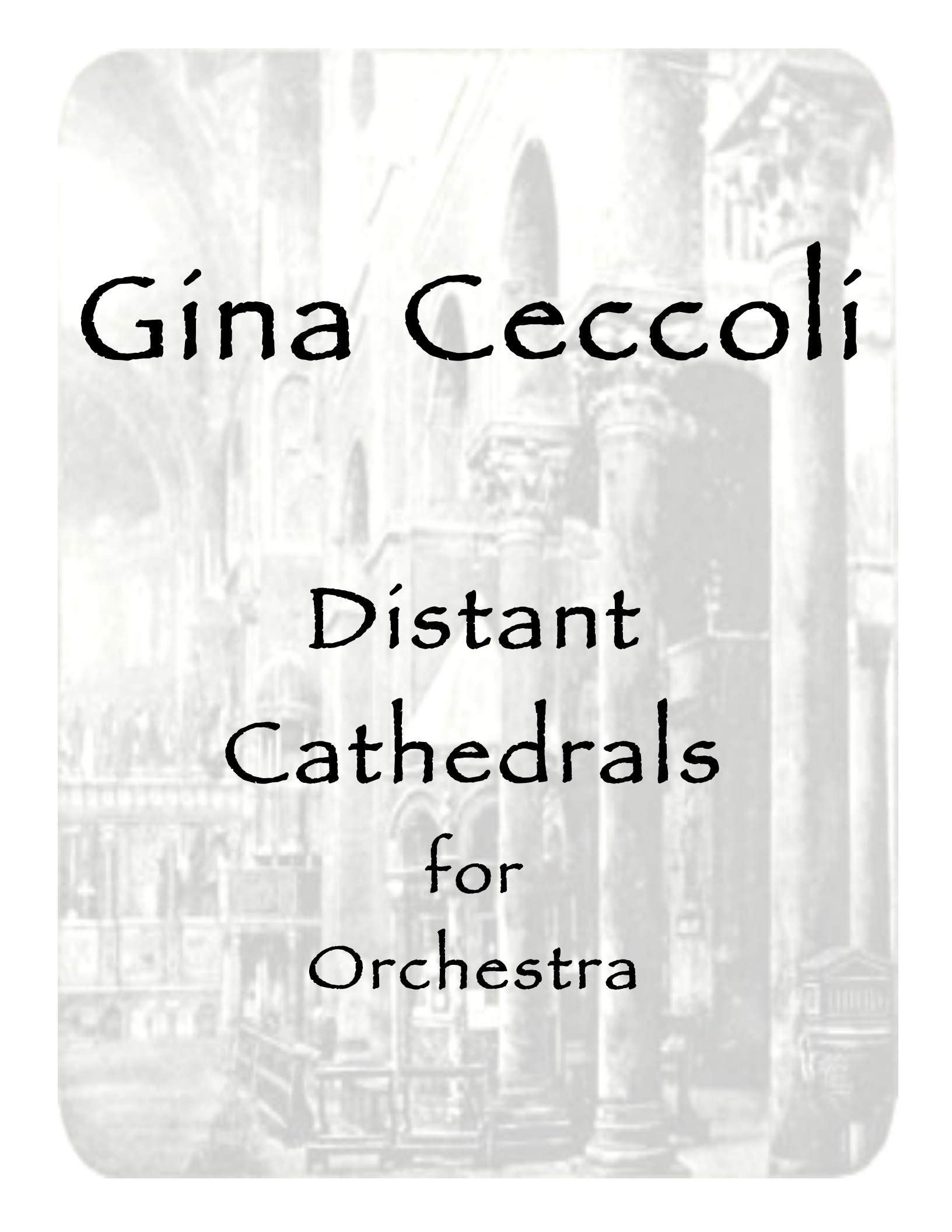
Nelson Amos, Ph.D.

March 15, 2012

Ypsilanti, Michigan

Abstract

Utilizing the first eight measures of the *Kyrie* from *Missa Primi Toni* by Palestrina, *Distant Cathedrals* is a piece which connects the old with the new. The elegant voice-leading and careful regulation of dissonance in Palestrina's panconsonant music is emblematic of late Renaissance polyphony. Given Palestrina's position as one of Europe's leading composers, late Renaissance counterpoint is often labeled Palestrina-style polyphony. This piece infuses the pureness of Palestrina with extended tertian and mixed-interval harmonies of the contemporary variety, while alternating and integrating Palestrina's thematic material and *Distant Cathedral's* original material. *Distant Cathedrals* was written for full orchestra, including: one piccolo, two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets, two bassoons, four horns, three trumpets, three trombones, one tuba, timpani, and strings. This piece was read by the Eastern Michigan University Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Professor Kevin Miller, on March 13, 2012.



Gina Ceccoli

Distant
Cathedrals
for
Orchestra

INSTRUMENTATION

1 Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
2 Clarinets in B-flat
2 Bassoons

4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C
3 Trombones
1 Tuba

Timpani

Strings

Transposed Score
Duration: ca. 7 min.

Program Note

Distant Cathedrals is a piece that connects the old with the new, utilizing the first eight measures of the *Kyrie* from *Missa Primi Toni* by Palestrina. One of the hallmarks of Palestrina's music is that dissonances are typically relegated to specific weak or strong beats, depending on the type of dissonance. This produces a smooth and consonant type of polyphony, which we now consider to be definitive of late Renaissance music. Given Palestrina's position as one of Europe's leading composers, late Renaissance polyphony is often labeled Palestrina-style polyphony. This piece infuses the pureness of Palestrina with extended tertian and mixed-interval harmonies of the contemporary variety, while alternating and integrating Palestrina's thematic material and *Distant Cathedral's* original thematic material.

Distant Cathedrals

Moderato ♩ = 76

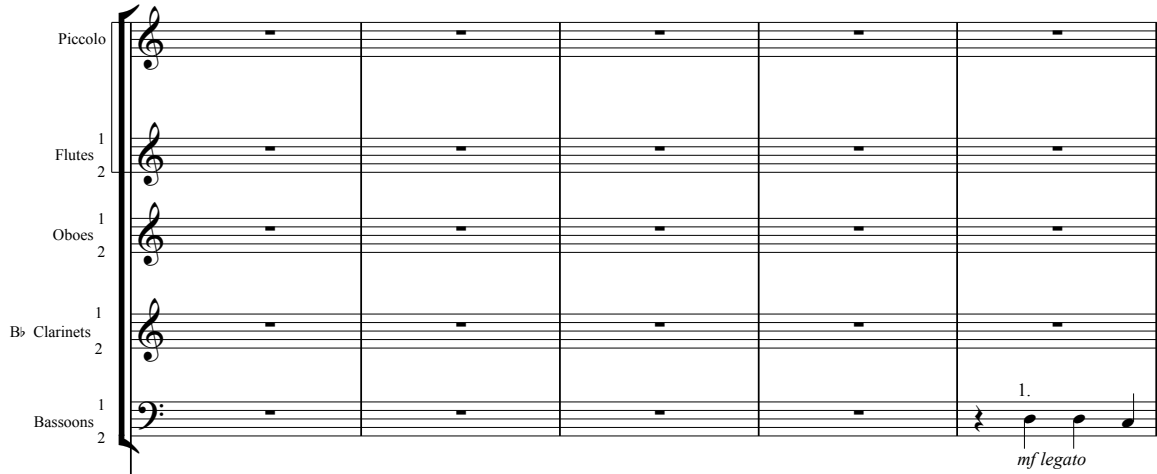
Piccolo

1
2
Flutes

1
2
Oboes

1
2
B♭ Clarinets

1
2
Bassoons



1
3
2
4
F Horns

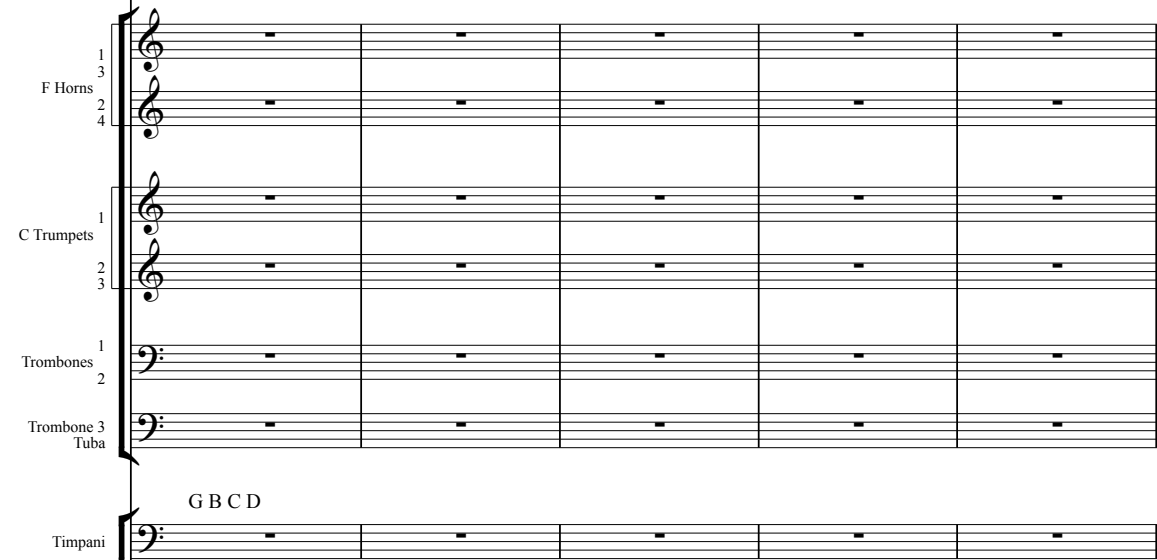
1
2
3
C Trumpets

1
2
Trombones

Trombone 3
Tuba

Timpani

G B C D



Moderato ♩ = 76

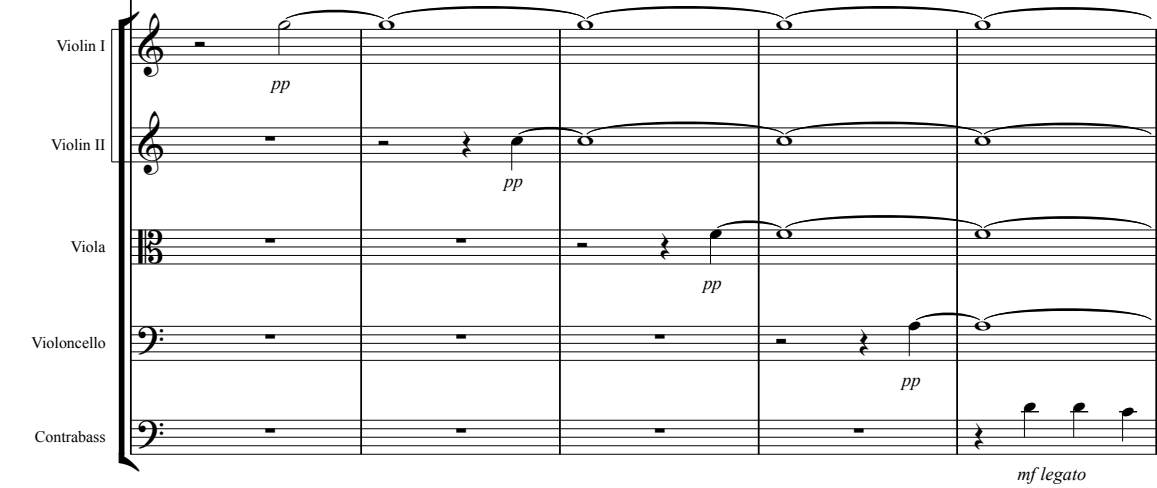
Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass



⑥ **ritard.** **a tempo**

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. 2

1 Bn. 2

1 3 Hn. 2 4

1 Tpt. 2 3

1 Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp.

⑥ **ritard.** **a tempo** *div.* *pp* *pp*

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb. *div.* *pp*

— *pp*

19

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. 2

1 Bn. 2

1 Hn. 3

2 Hn. 4

1 Tpt. 2 3

1 Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp.

19

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

pp

unis.

div.

pp

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 19 through 22. The woodwind section includes Piccolo, Flute 1 and 2, Oboe 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Bassoon 1 and 2, Horns 1-4, Trumpets 1-3, Trombones 1-3, and Tuba. The string section includes Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. In measure 19, the Flute 1 part has a melodic line with a slur and a dynamic marking of *p*. The strings play a sustained harmonic accompaniment. In measure 20, the Flute 1 part continues with a slur and a dynamic marking of *p*. In measure 21, the Violin I part has a dynamic marking of *pp* and a slur. In measure 22, the Violin I part has a dynamic marking of *pp* and a slur, and the Violin II part has a dynamic marking of *pp* and a slur. The word "unis." is written above the Violin I staff in measure 22, and "div." is written above the Violin II staff in measure 22.

23

Picc.

1
Fl.
2

1
Ob.
2

1
Cl.
2

1
Bn.
2

1
3
Hn.
2
4

1
Tpt.
2
3

1
Tbn.
2

Tbn.3
Tuba

Timp.

23

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

cresc.

mf

mf legato

a2

(Solo)

(gli altri)

27

Picc.

1 Fl.
2

1 Ob.
2

1 Cl.
2

1 Bn.
2

1. : *pp*

1
3

Hn.

2
4

1
2
3

Tpt.

1
2

Tbn.

Tbn. 3
Tuba

Timp.

27

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

(Solo)
Vc.

(gli altri)

Cb.

pp

pp

pp

Solo: *f cantabile*

31

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. 2

1 Bn. 2

1 3 Hn. 2 4

1 2 3 Tpt.

1 2 Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp.

soft mal.
pp

31

unis.

p

unis.

mf

p

(Solo) Solo: *p* unis. *p*

(gli altri)

p

35 **accel.**

Picc. $\frac{3}{4}$

1 Fl. $\frac{3}{4}$

2 Fl. $\frac{3}{4}$

1 Ob. $\frac{3}{4}$

2 Ob. $\frac{3}{4}$

1 Cl. $\frac{3}{4}$
mf legato *cresc.* *f*

2 Cl. $\frac{3}{4}$

1 Bn. $\frac{3}{4}$

2 Bn. $\frac{3}{4}$

1 Hn. $\frac{3}{4}$

2 Hn. $\frac{3}{4}$

3 Hn. $\frac{3}{4}$

4 Hn. $\frac{3}{4}$ *pp*

1 Tpt. $\frac{3}{4}$

2 Tpt. $\frac{3}{4}$

3 Tpt. $\frac{3}{4}$

1 Tbn. $\frac{3}{4}$

2 Tbn. $\frac{3}{4}$

3 Tbn. $\frac{3}{4}$

Tuba $\frac{3}{4}$

Timp. $\frac{3}{4}$ *mf* *pp* (to hard mal.)

35 **accel.**

Vn. I $\frac{3}{4}$ *pp* *cresc.* *mf cresc.*

Vn. II $\frac{3}{4}$ *pp* *cresc.* *mf cresc.*

Va. $\frac{3}{4}$ *pp* *cresc.* *mf cresc.*

Vc. $\frac{3}{4}$ *pp* *cresc.* *mf cresc.*

Cb. $\frac{3}{4}$ *mf* *cresc.* *mf cresc.*

43

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. 2

1 Bn. 2

1 Hn. 2 3 4

1 Tpt. 2 3

1 Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3 Tuba

Tuba

Timp.

III. II. B. A_b

43

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

div. unis. unis. *ff legato*

mf *f* *mf* *p* *fp* *pp* *f* *fp* *pp* *mf* *fp* *pp* *f* *pp* *ff* *legato* *a2* *f legato* *a2* *f legato*

55 accel. Poco più mosso (♩ = c. 88)

Picc.
1 Fl.
2
1 Ob.
2
1 Cl.
2
1 Bn.
2
1 Hn.
3
2 Hn.
4
1 Tpt.
2
3
1 Tbn.
2
1. Tbn. 3
Tuba
Timp.

1. *p* *cresc.*
1. *p* *cresc.*
1. *p* *cresc.*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for woodwinds and brass instruments. It starts with a circled measure number '55' and the instruction 'accel.'. The tempo is marked 'Poco più mosso' with a quarter note equal to approximately 88 beats per minute. The instruments listed are Piccolo, Flutes (1 and 2), Oboes (1 and 2), Clarinets (1 and 2), Bassoons (1 and 2), Horns (1, 2, 3, and 4), Trumpets (1, 2, and 3), Trombones (1 and 2), Trombone 3/Tuba, and Timpani. The woodwinds and some brass instruments have rests. The Horns and Trombone 3/Tuba parts have musical notation starting in measure 55. Horn 1 and Trombone 3/Tuba have a first ending bracketed over measures 55-56, marked with a first ending '1.' and a piano dynamic 'p'. Horn 1 and Trombone 3/Tuba have a crescendo 'cresc.' marking over measures 57-58.

55 accel. Poco più mosso (♩ = c. 88)

Vn. I
Vn. II
Va.
Vc.
Cb.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for string instruments. It starts with a circled measure number '55' and the instruction 'accel.'. The tempo is marked 'Poco più mosso' with a quarter note equal to approximately 88 beats per minute. The instruments listed are Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabasso. All string instruments have rests throughout the entire page.

67

Picc.

1
Fl.
2

1
Ob.
2

1
Cl.
2

1
Bn.
2

1
3
Hn.
2
4

1
Tpt.
2
3

1
Tbn.
2

Tbn. 3
Tuba

Timp.

67

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

cresc.

f

a2

f legato

cresc.

f

a2

f legato

cresc.

f

a2

f

mf

mf

f

f

f

71

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. 2

1 Bn. 2

1 3 Hn. 2 4

1 2 3 Tpt.

1 2 Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp.

71

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

This musical score page contains measures 71 through 74. The woodwind section includes Piccolo, Flute 1 and 2, Oboe 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Bassoon 1 and 2, Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4, Trumpets 1, 2, and 3, and Trombones 1, 2, and 3/Tuba. The brass section includes Trombone 1 and 2, Trombone 3/Tuba, and Timpani. The string section includes Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score features various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamics like *mf*. Measure 71 is marked with a circled '71' at the beginning of the staff.

75

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. 2

1 Bn. 2

1 3 Hn. 2 4

1 2 3 Tpt.

1 2 Tbn.

1 Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp.

75

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

f legato

mf

a2

mf

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 75 through 78. The woodwind section includes Piccolo, Flute 1 and 2, Oboe 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, Bassoon 1 and 2, Horns 1-4, Trumpets 1-3, and Trombones 1-3/Tuba. The brass section includes Trombone 3/Tuba and Timpani. The string section includes Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score features complex rhythmic patterns with many slurs and ties. The Piccolo part is marked *f legato*. The Trombone 3/Tuba part has a dynamic marking of *mf* and a fingering of *a2*. The Timpani part also has a dynamic marking of *mf*. The number 75 is circled at the beginning of the first system and above the first staff of the second system.

87 rit. Tempo primo ♩ = 76

Picc.
1 Fl.
2 Fl.
1 Ob.
2 Ob.
1 Cl.
2 Cl.
1 Bn.
2 Bn.
1 Hn.
2 Hn.
3 Hn.
4 Hn.
1 Tpt.
2 Tpt.
3 Tpt.
1 Tbn.
2 Tbn.
Tbn.3 Tuba
Timp.

Detailed description: This block contains the woodwind and percussion staves for measures 87-90. The Piccolo (Picc.) and Flutes (Fl.) parts have melodic lines with slurs and ties. The Oboes (Ob.) and Clarinets (Cl.) parts have similar melodic lines. The Bassoons (Bn.) are mostly silent. The Horns (Hn.), Trumpets (Tpt.), and Trombones (Tbn.) are also silent. The Timpani (Timp.) part is silent. The tempo marking 'Tempo primo' with a quarter note equal to 76 is indicated at the start of measure 89.

87 rit. Tempo primo ♩ = 76

Vn. I
Vn. II
Va.
Vc.
Cb.

Detailed description: This block contains the string staves for measures 87-90. The Violins (Vn. I and Vn. II) have melodic lines with slurs and ties. The Violas (Va.) have sustained chords with slurs. The Violoncellos (Vc.) and Contrabasses (Cb.) have sustained chords with slurs. The tempo marking 'Tempo primo' with a quarter note equal to 76 is indicated at the start of measure 89.

91

Picc.
1 Fl.
2
1 Ob.
2
1 Cl.
2
1 Bn.
2
1 Hn.
2
3
4
1 Tpt.
2
3
1 Tbn.
2
Tbn. 3
Tuba
Timp.

Vn. I
Vn. II
Va.
Vc.
Cb.

mf
pp sub.
mf
pp sub.
pp
pp
pp

div.
unis.

96

Picc.

1
Fl.

2

1
Ob.

2

1.
Cl.
mfpp

2

1
Bn.

2

1
Hn.
mf espr.

3

2
4

1
Tpt.

2
3

1
Tbn.

2

Tbn.3
Tuba

Timp.

96

Vn. I
mfpp *mfpp* *mfpp* *pp*

Vn. II
mf espr.

Va.
pp

Vc.
mfpp *mf espr.*

Cb.
div.
mfpp *pp*

104

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. 2

1 Bn. 2

1 Hn. 3

2 Hn. 4

1 Tpt. 2

3 Tpt. 3

1 Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp.

1. *mf legato*

p

1. *mf legato*

p

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 104, 105, and 106 for woodwinds and percussion. The Piccolo, Flutes 1 and 2, Oboes 1 and 2, and Timpani parts are silent throughout. Clarinet 1 and Bassoon 1 play a melodic line starting in measure 104, marked *mf legato*. Clarinet 2 and Bassoon 2 play a similar line, marked *mf legato*. Horns 1, 2, 3, and 4, Trumpets 1, 2, and 3, and Trombones 1, 2, and 3 are silent. Tuba and Timpans are also silent. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at the beginning of measure 106. Dynamics include *mf legato* and *p*.

104

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

mf legato

mf

p

p

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 104, 105, and 106 for the string section. Violin I and Violin II play sustained notes, with Violin II marked *mf legato*. Viola and Violoncello play sustained notes, with Violoncello marked *mf legato*. Contrabass plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes, marked *mf legato*. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at the beginning of measure 106. Dynamics include *mf legato*, *mf*, and *p*.

108

Picc.

1 Fl. 2

1 Ob. 2

1 Cl. 2

1 Bn. 2

1 Hn. 3

2 Hn. 4

1 Tpt. 2

3 Tpt. 3

1 Tbn. 2

2 Tbn. 3

Tuba

Timp.

mf legato

108

Vn. I

Vn. II

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

mp *pp*

mp *pp*

mp *pp*

112

Picc. *pp* **rit.**

Fl. 1 *pp*

Fl. 2 *pp*

Ob. 1 *pp*

Ob. 2 *pp*

Cl. 1 *pp*

Cl. 2 *pp*

Bn. 1 *pp*

Bn. 2 *pp*

Hn. 1 *p legato* 1. 3 *pp a2*

Hn. 2 *p legato* 2. 3 *p a2*

Hn. 3 *p legato* 3. 4 *pp*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

Tuba *pp*

Timp. (soft mal.) II. *pp*

112

Vn. I *pp* *div.* *pp* *unis.* **rit.**

Vn. II *pp* *pp* *p unis.* *div.*

Va. *pp* *p*

Vc. *p legato* 3 *p*

Cb. *pp*

116 **Meno mosso** (♩ = 60)

Picc. *f*

1 Fl. 2 *ff* *p legato* 1.

1 Ob. 2 *ff* *p legato* 1.

1 Cl. 2 *ff* *p legato*

1 Bn. 2 *ff*

1 Hn. 3 *ppp*

2 Hn. 4 *ppp*

1 Tpt. 2 *ppp*

3 Tpt. 3 *ppp*

1 Tbn. 2 *ppp*

3 Tbn. 3 *ppp*

Tuba *ppp*

Timp. *ppp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for woodwinds and brass instruments. It starts at measure 116, marked 'Meno mosso' with a tempo of quarter note = 60. The Piccolo part has a forte (*f*) dynamic. Flute 1 and 2, Oboe 1 and 2, Clarinet 1 and 2, and Bassoon 1 and 2 all play a melodic line starting with a first ending bracket and a *p legato* dynamic. Horns 1-4, Trumpets 1-3, Trombones 1-3, and Tuba all have a *ppp* dynamic. Timpani also has a *ppp* dynamic. The score spans four measures.

116 **Meno mosso** (♩ = 60)

Vn. I *ff* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vn. II *ff* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Va. *ff* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Vc. *ff* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Cb. *ff* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for the string section. It starts at measure 116, marked 'Meno mosso' with a tempo of quarter note = 60. The Violin I and II parts have a *ff* dynamic followed by a *pp* dynamic. The Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass parts also have a *ff* dynamic followed by a *pp* dynamic. The score includes 'div.' (divisi) markings for the Violin I and II parts and 'unis.' (unisono) for the Viola part. The strings play a melodic line with long notes and slurs. The score spans four measures.

120

Picc.

1 Fl. 2 *mf espr.* *p* *pp*

1 Ob. 2 *p espr.*

1 Cl. 2 *mf espr.* *p*

1 Bn. 2

1 Hn. 3

2 Hn. 4

1 Tpt. 2 3

1 Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp.

120

Vn. I unis. *pp* *div.*

Vn. II unis. *p espr.*

Va.

Vc.

Cb.

124 **rit.** **Molto rit.**

Picc.

1 Fl. 2 *mfpp*

1 Ob. 2 *mf* *pp*

1 Cl. 2 *mf*

1 Bn. 2 *pp*

1 Hn. 2 3 4

1 Tpt. 2 3

1 Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3 Tuba

Timp. *pp*

124 **rit.** **Molto rit.**

Vn. I *mfpp*

Vn. II *mf* *pp* *div.*

Va. *mf* *pp* *div.*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *div.*

Cb. *mf* *pp*