
a Strange Peace (2009)



Jonathan Sokol

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Written in collaboration with the Indiana University Contemporary Dance Program and the Jacobs School of Music "Hammer and Nail" Project.



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Instrumentation

Soprano, doubling Suspended Crotales (B and F)

Viola, doubling Large and Small Triangles

Violoncello, doubling Large and Small Triangles

Percussion:

Crotales (2-octaves), Glockenspiel, Large and Small Triangles, Sizzle Cymbal, 2 Med. Sus. Cymbals



Piano

Performance Notes

Duration: 7 minutes



: as fast as possible. **Crotales:** top octave; **Glockenspiel:** any notes; **Piano:** LH C6-C7, RH C7-C8.

“Z” markings on the stem: tremolo (unmeasured always) for strings and piano, roll for percussion.

Stems without note-heads, found in the presence of glissandi, serve as rhythmical landmarks and are written for the player’s benefit.

Figures bracketed by repeat-barlines (or boxed in) are to be repeated at a tempo decided by the performer (preferably slow, as to remain in context of the piece) for the duration of the thick bar following the figure.

◇: Diamond-shaped note-heads in the **voice** indicate sibilant-heavy sounds (sss).

Mallet abbreviations:

TB: Triangle Beater (String players will always use Triangle Beaters with their Triangles)

SYM/MYM/HYM: Soft/Medium/Hard Yarn Mallet

HPM: Hard Plastic Mallet

Program Note

Washes of metallic resonance and forlorn melodies constitute the material present in **the Strange Peace**, based on selected text from Gunnar Ekelöf’s *En Mölna-Elegi*.

Three of the four non-percussionists in the quintet double on percussion instruments (finger cymbals and triangles) to provide a static atmosphere that begins the piece and comprises much of the following ambience. This texture increases slowly, and its climax is interrupted by the soprano who, hovering above reinterpreted sonorities, carries the piece to its conclusion.

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Be still my child, there is nothing
all is as you see: forest, smoke and the flight of the rail-
road tracks.

Somewhere far away in a distant land
there is a bluer sky, a wall with roses
or a palmtree and a warmer wind—
and that is all.

a Strange Peace

Barren, Vast & Empty ♩ = 52 (no greater than 60)

*mm. 5, 9: mute in front of hammer, near pin

a Strange Peace (Score)

A

11

Sop. *f* *f*

Vla. *f* *mp* *mp*

Vc. *f* *ff* *mp*

Perc. *ff*

Pno. *ppp* *emotionless*

(Led.)

to Triangles
Triangles
Triangles
Triangles 2 TB
Triangles 2 TB
to Szl. Cym. (2 TB)
15^{ma}
8^{va}
una corda

15

Sop. *mp* *ff* *ff*

Vla. *p* *mf* *n*

Vc. *mf* *mf* *f* *n*

Perc. *ff* *ff* *ff*

Pno. *ppp*

(Led.)

Viola
Violoncello
Szl. Cym. 2 TB
to Triangles (2 TB)
(scrape)

a Strange Peace (Score)

20

Sop.

Vla. II. *p* *molto* *mf* *n* *ff*

Vc. *mp* *f* *n*

Perc. *ff* *ff* to Szl. Cym. (2 TB) (scrape)

Pno. (8) (Led.)

|| poco rit. . . . A Tempo (♩ = 52) **B**

24

Sop. *ff* *ff* *ff*

Vla. *flautando* *p* *n* *ff* *p* to Triangles Triangles to Viola Viola ord.

Vc. *n* *p*

Perc. to Crotales & Glock. 2 (TB) Crotales 1 HPM Glock. 1 HPM to Triangles (2 TB) *ff*

Pno. (8) *ff* *tre corde* (Led.)

a Strange Peace (Score)

29

Sop.

Vla.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

f *f* *p*

mf *f* *p*

mf *f* *mf (prominent)*

ppp

una corda

(Led.)

sul pont.

to Triangles

Triangles

ord.

34

Sop.

Vla.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

ff *f*

ff *mf dolce*

f *mp* *n*

ff *f*

f *ppp* *n* *ppp* *15^{ma}*

(Led.) * *(Led.)*

to Viola

a Strange Peace (Score)

39

Sop.

Vla. *Viola ord.*

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

mp *p*

p dolce *mf* *f* *gliss.* *molto* *n*

p sub. *mf* *f* *gliss.* *molto* *n*

mf *p* *p*

(ppp) *p*

Red.

44

Sop.

Vla.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

f

p *fp* *f* *ff*

p *fp* *f* *ff*

to Crotales and Glock. 2 HPM

Crotales 1 HPM

Glock. 1 HPM

ff

mp *ff* *ff*

8va

Red. *tre corde*

a Strange Peace (Score)

49

Sop.

Vla.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

f espr.

f espr.

ff

ff

add 3rd HPM

Glock. 3 HPM

p

15^{ma}

8^{va}

15^{ma}

8^{va}

ppp

una corda

Ped.

54

Sop.

Vla.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

p sub.

f

n

p

f

p static

sul pont.

sul pont.

ord. I. II. I. II. I. II.

a Strange Peace (Score)

E

59

Sop. *ff* *ff*

Vla. I. II. *n* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Vc. *n* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Perc. Crotales 2 HPM *ff* to 2 Med. Sus. Cym. 2 MYM *mf* *p*

Glock. 1 HPM *ff* *mf* *p*

Pno. *ff* *ppp*

tre corde *una corda*

64 *hysterically f*

Sop. Be

Vla. *p* *n* **Bow behind bridge* *f* *molto* *p* (*p*) *f* *molto* *p* (*p*)

Vc. *p* *n* **Bow behind bridge* *f* *molto* *p* (*p*) *f* *molto* *p* (*p*)

Perc. 2 Med. Sus. Cym. 2 HPM *f* (*scrape*) *f* (*scrape*) *ff*

to Szl. Cym. 1 HPM Szl. Cym. 1 HPM *ff*

Glock. *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Red.

*The *f* > *p* in the string parts should occur only once throughout the repeated figure.
The remaining duration of the figure should be played *p* until the crescendo in m. 70.

a Strange Peace (Score)

69 *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

Sop. Be. Be. Be. *to Crotales* *Crotales* *ff*

Vla. *Grind!! non-vib.* *fff*

Vc. *Grind!! non-vib.* *fff*

Perc. *ff* *ff* *ff*

Pno. *Gliss. w/ fingertips inside piano* *Cluster: inside with palms* *15^{ma}* *8^{va}* *fff*

tre corde *8^{va}*

F Without Meter (♩ = 52)

73 *f* *p* *pp* (quasi-whisper)

Sop. Be. sss - till

Vla. *!!!*

Vc. *!!!*

Perc. *ff* *p* *fff* *to Triangles 2 Tb*

Pno. *15^{ma}* *8^{va}* *fff*

*With as little vibrato as possible throughout!

a Strange Peace (Score)

Sop. *f* *p* *gliss. (close mouth)* *sub. open (f)* *n* *mp*

Be sss- till (mm) my Child There is(ss)

Sop. *f* *p* *pp*

noth- ing there is noth- ing all is as you

G On cue

S. *mf* *n* *mf* *p*

see Fo- rest Smoke and the flight

Vla. *molto sul pont.* *p* *ff* *p*

Vc. *molto sul pont.* *p* *ff* *p*

Perc. *Crotales* *p* *Triangles 2 TB* *mp*

Pno. *ppp*

Ad.

*Piano: steady but very slow rhythm.
This rhythm should exist in a temporal world separate from the other players
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a Strange Peace (Score)

H A Tempo ♩ = 52

76 *f* *somewhat hurried* *pp* *mp* *p sub. mouth closed*

of the rail road tracks Some-where (mm)

Vla. *n* ord. non-vib. *ppp*

Vc. *n* ord. non-vib. *ppp*

Perc. *n* *ppp*

Pno. *n* *ppp*

(Ped)

78 *mf sub. with restrained elation (open)* *p* *mf*

Far a-way in a dis-tant land there is a blu-er sky a wall with

Vla. *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* (smooth changes)

Vc. *mf* *p static*

Perc. *p* *mp*

Pno.

(Ped)

*m. 79: to be played as if the meter were still absent; the pattern should not fit within the 4/4 measure.

a Strange Peace (Score)

82

S. *p* *f* *mp* *f* *p sub.* *mf*

ro - ses or a palm-tree and a warm-er wind and

Vla. *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *fpp* prepare triangle beater

Perc.

Pno.

(Ped)

86

S. *n* (open) closed to Crotales Crotales *p* *n* * 6"

that is all (mm)

Vla. *n*

Vc. *n*

Perc. *n*

Pno. *n*

*m. 89: repeat the given patterns for at least 6 seconds, preferably more.
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