

CHIRP

for Piccolo and Fixed Media

Willyn Whiting

2023

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Written for Robin Meiksins. Commissioned for the SPLICE Institute 2023.

Duration ~8'

PROGRAM NOTE

CHIRP depicts a sunrise in three short scenes. It explores two birdsong quotations from Olivier Messiaen's Orchestral work *Réveil des oiseaux* (1953), the Nightjar, representing the night, and the Woodlark, representing the day. Through various means I try to create a liminal space between Messiaen's interpretation of birdsong and my own.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

1/4 tone sharp ♯ | 3/4 tone sharp $\sharp\sharp$

1/4 tone flat ♭ | 3/4 tone flat $\flat\flat$

All microtonal fingerings written in this score are taken from Gillian Sheppard's Dissertation, *The Modern Twig: Extended Techniques for Piccolo* (2019).

The piece exists in two versions, with either 2 or 4-channels of fixed media. The setup listed is for the 4-channel version.

EQUIPMENT

- 1 Computer, running MAX
- 1 Midi Foot Pedal
- 1 USB Audio Interface with four outputs
- 1 USB Cable
- 4 Speakers
- 9 Audio Cables
- 1 or 2 Music Stands
- 1 or 2 Laptop Stands
- 1 Microphone
- 1 Mic Stand
- 1 Mixer with five inputs and four outputs

ROUTING

Foot Pedal → (midi signal) → MAX

MAX → (fixed media) → USB Interface

outputs 1,2,3,4 USB Interface → (fixed media) → inputs 1,2,3,4 Mixer → outputs 1,2,3,4 Mixer

Microphone → input 5 Mixer → outputs 1,2 Mixer

output 1 Mixer → speaker 1 Front Left

output 2 Mixer → speaker 2 Front Right

output 3 Mixer → speaker 3 Back Left

output 4 Mixer → speaker 4 Back Right

DEPENDENCIES

This piece uses a custom file player by Patrick Reed called **Pr.MCPlayer~**

SOUND FILE PLAYBACK

In the max patch **CHIRP.maxproj** all sound files are referred to as *sf_*. *Start* designates where in the soundfile a cue will start in milliseconds. *Vol* designates the amplitude in decibels. *Stop* designates a linear fade out in milliseconds. *Play* can also designate a fade in if desired.

sf1	C01	Slowed Down Nightjar (SDN)	to 2
sf2	C02	SDN	to 3
sf3	C03	SDN	to 4
sf4	C04	SDN	to 5
sf5	C05	SDN	to 6
sf6	C06a	SDN	to 7
sf7	C06b	Sine Tone (ST)	to 10
sf8	C07	SDN	to 8
sf9	C08a	SDN	to 9
sf10	C08b	ST	to 11
sf11	C09	SDN	to 10
sf12	C10a	SDN	to 11
sf13	C10b	ST	to 12
sf14	C11a	SDN	to 12
sf15	C11b	ST	to 13
sf16	C11c	Pitched Down Nightjar (PDN)	to 14
sf17	C11d	PDN	to 14
sf18	C11e	PDN	to 14
sf19	C12a	SDN	to 14
sf20	C12b	ST	to 13
sf21	C12c	PDN	to 14
sf22	C13a	SDN	to 14
sf23	C13b	PDN	to 14
sf24	C13c	Low Frequency (LF)	past 14
sf25	C14a	Piccolos (P)	to 15
sf26	C14b	Nightjar (N)	to 15
sf27	C15a	P	to 16
sf28	C15b	N	to 16
sf29	C15c	LF	to 16
sf30	C16a	P	to 17
sf31	C16b	N	to 17
sf32	C16c	LF	to 17
sf33	C17a	P	to 18
sf34	C17b	N	to 18
sf35	C17c	LF	to 18
sf36	C18a	P	to 19
sf37	C18b	N	to 19
sf38	C18c	LF	to 19
sf39	C19a	P	to 20

sf40	C19b	Nightjar (N)	to 20
sf41	C19c	Low Frequency (LF)	to 20
sf42	C20	Piccolos (P)	to 21
sf43	C20c	LF	to 21
sf44	C21	P	to 22
sf45	C21c	LF	to 22
sf46	C22a	P	to 23
sf47	C22b	Pink Noise (PN)	to 23
sf48	C23a	P	to/past 24
sf49	C23b	Sound-scape	past 30
sf50	C23c	PN	starting 23
sf51	C24	P	to/past 25
sf52	C25	P	to/past 26
sf53	C26	P	to/past 27
sf54	C27	P	to/past 28
sf55	C28	P	to/past 29
sf56	C29	P	to 30
sf57	C30	Woodlark	

CHIRP

for Robin Meiksins

Wilyn Whiting

SCENE 1: Night

Cue **1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6**

11" - 15" each time

6x

Piccolo

mp *pp* *mp* *pp*

7

7"

mf *p* *mf* *pp*

8

5"

p *fp* *fp* *pp*

9 4"

p *f* *pp* *f* *p*

10 3.5"

f *p*

11 5"

ossia

f *p* *f* *p*

5"

f *pp* *f* *pp*

4"

f *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

5"

f *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp* *f* *pp*

5"

This system contains two staves of fingerings and two staves of musical notation. The first two staves show fingerings for the right and left hands, with circles and squares indicating finger placement. The musical notation consists of two staves, each with five measures. The notes are grouped in pairs with slurs. The dynamic marking *f* is placed below each pair of notes.

5"

This system contains two staves of fingerings and two staves of musical notation. The first two staves show fingerings for the right and left hands. The musical notation consists of two staves, each with seven measures. The notes are grouped in pairs with slurs. The dynamic marking *f* is placed below each pair of notes.

5"

This system contains one staff of musical notation with eight measures. Each measure contains a pair of notes with a slur. The dynamic marking *fp* is placed below each pair of notes.

use diaphragm

5"

sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz

12 *sixteenth notes are in time with the electronics*

~30"

sfz sfz sfz sfz sfz f

13 *wait for build up in the electronics*

15

~16"

9/**4**

SCENE 2: Sunrise/ The Nightjar

♩ = 60

14

Musical notation for measures 14-15. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is a grand staff with two treble clefs, containing four measures of chords. The lower staff is a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 9/4 time signature. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first two measures, followed by a dotted half note, a whole note, and a dotted half note. The dynamic marking *ff* is placed below the first measure. The measure numbers 14 and 14 are written at the beginning and end of the system respectively.

15

Musical notation for measures 15-16. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is a grand staff with two treble clefs, containing four measures of chords. The lower staff is a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 14/4 time signature. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first two measures, followed by a dotted half note, a quarter note, a half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, and a quarter note. The dynamic marking *f* is placed below the first measure. The measure numbers 14 and 7 are written at the beginning and end of the system respectively.

16

17

Musical notation for measures 16-17. The system consists of two staves. The upper staff is a grand staff with two treble clefs, containing four measures of chords. The lower staff is a single treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 7/4 time signature for the first measure, which then changes to 6/4 for the second measure. It contains a melodic line with a slur over the first two measures, followed by a dotted half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, a quarter note, a dotted half note, and a quarter note. The dynamic marking *f* is placed below the first measure. The measure numbers 7 and 6 are written at the beginning and end of the system respectively.

18 19

5

14 7

mf

20 21

7

7 14

mp

22

9

14 4/8

p

SCENE 3: Day/ The Woodlark

$\text{♩} = 92$

23

10

4/8

f

8

12

Musical staff 12-16: Treble clef, five measures of music. Each measure contains a half note, all connected by a single slur. The notes are G4, A4, B4, C5, and B4. The dynamic marking *ppp* is located below the first measure.

17

Musical staff 17-22: Treble clef, six measures of music. The first measure has a quarter rest. Measures 18-21 each contain a whole rest. Measure 22 contains a quarter note G4 with a flat, followed by a fermata. The dynamic marking *f* is located below the final measure.

23

Musical staff 23-24: Treble clef, two measures of music. Above the staff are two systems of fingering diagrams for the right hand, each showing a sequence of five fingers (1-2-3-4-5) with circles indicating finger positions. The first measure contains a half note G4 with a flat, followed by a slur over two eighth notes (A4, B4), then a slur over two eighth notes (C5, B4), and finally a quarter note G4 with a flat. The second measure contains a half note G4 with a flat, followed by a slur over two eighth notes (A4, B4), then a slur over two eighth notes (C5, B4), and finally a quarter note G4 with a flat. The dynamic marking *ppp* is located below the final measure.

25

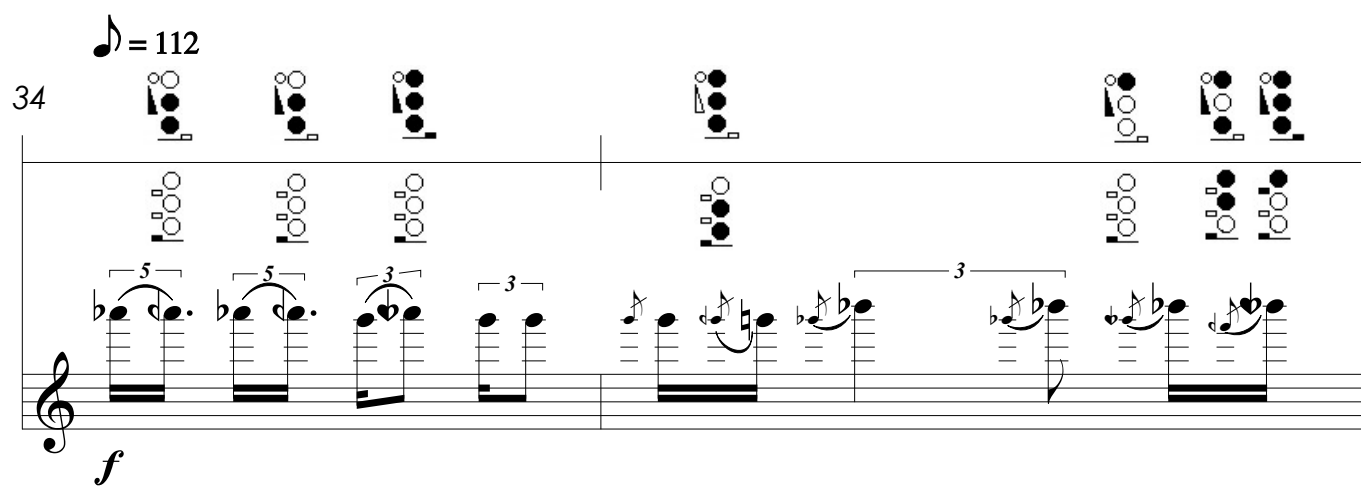
Musical staff 25-28: Treble clef, four measures of music. The first measure contains a half note G4 with a flat. The second measure contains a half note A4. The third measure contains a half note B4. The fourth measure contains a half note C5. A slur connects the first three measures. The dynamic marking *ppp* is located below the first measure. The marking *accel.* with a dashed line is located above the staff.

24

29

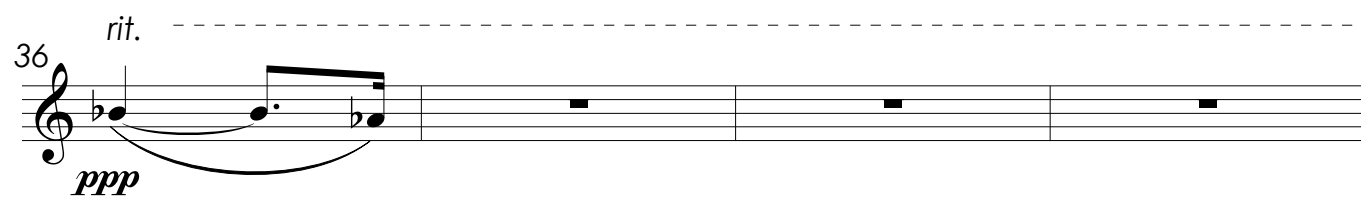
Musical staff 29-32: Treble clef, four measures of music. Measures 29-31 each contain a whole rest. Measure 32 contains a quarter note G4 with a flat, followed by a slur over two eighth notes (A4, B4), and finally a quarter note G4 with a flat. The dynamic marking *ppp* is located below the first measure.

34 $\text{♩} = 112$



f

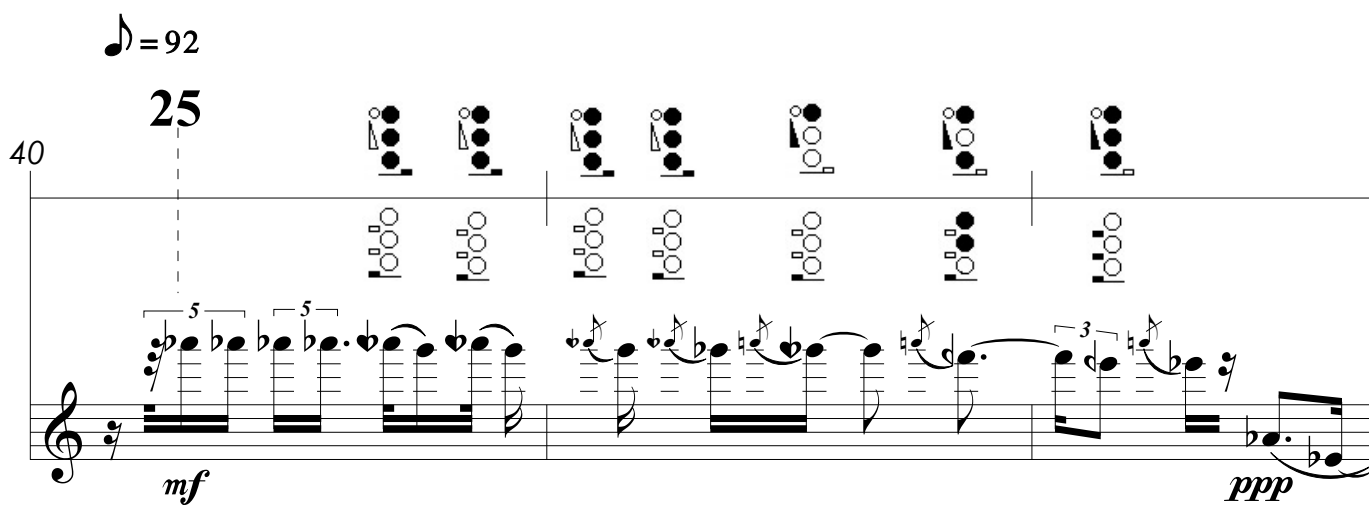
36 *rit.*



ppp

40 $\text{♩} = 92$

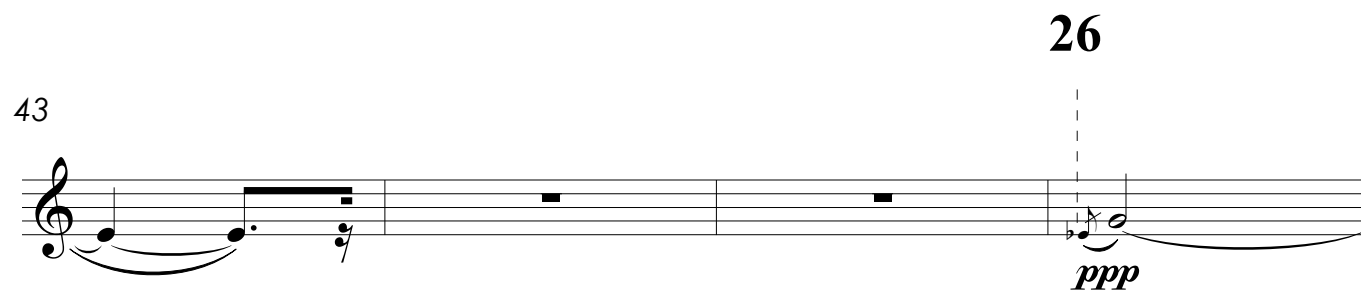
25



mf *ppp*

43

26



ppp

47

mf

49

rit.

ppp

52

ppp

56

$\text{♩} = 76$

mf

58

rit.

ppp

27

28

61

mf *ppp*

63

♩ = 60

29

mp

66

mp

68

30

G.P.

ppp

