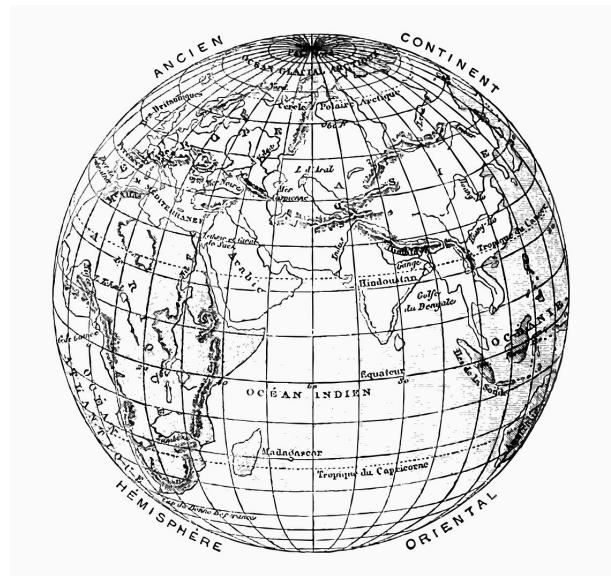


# Ben Morris

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*for the Boulder Altitude Directive (B.A.D.) Ensemble*

## A (Short) Story of Earth



for piccolo/alto flute/flute, clarinet in B<sub>b</sub>/  
bass clarinet in B<sub>b</sub>, violin, violoncello,  
piano, and percussion

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# A (Short) Story of Earth

for piccolo/alto flute/flute, clarinet in B<sub>b</sub>/

bass clarinet in B<sub>b</sub>, violin, violoncello,

piano, and percussion

**Total Duration: ca. 10'20"**

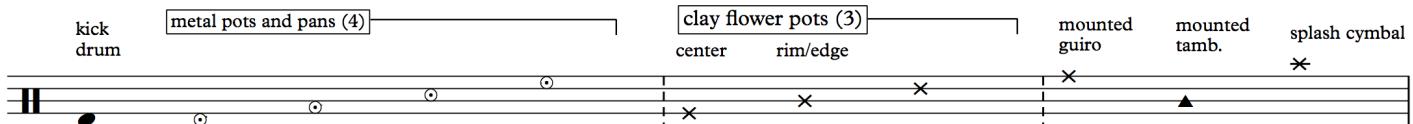
## Program Note

Inspired by Robert M. Hanzen's nonfiction book The Story of Earth: The First 4.5 Billion Years, from Stardust to Living Planet, *A (Short) Story of Earth* throws together the formation of the earth and moon, five ice ages, the evolution of life, five mass extinctions, the age of the dinosaurs, and the age of man in about 10 minutes.

## Percussion List

Mounted guiro, mounted tambourine, kick drum (muted with towels), xylophone, tam-tam, bass drum, kitchen pots and pans (4), clay pots (3), vibraphone, splash cymbal, glockenspiel, suspended cymbal

## Percussion Notation Key



### *for the Boulder Altitude Directive (B.A.D.) Ensemble*

## Transposed Score

# A (Short) Story of Earth

for piccolo/alto flute/flute, clarinet in B $\flat$ /bass clarinet in B $\flat$ , violin,  
cello, percussion, and piano fl.t.

Ben Morris  
(b. 1993)

## Chaotic, wild $\bullet=92$

5

Picc. *ff* *ffp*

Bs. Cl. *ffz sempre*

Vln. 0 *ffp* *ff* 6 6 6

Vc. *ffp* (k.d.+tb.)

Perc.

Pno. (8) *loco* *ff* *ff* *ffz sempre* *ff*

Picc. *p* *fp* *fp* *f* *fp*

Bs. Cl. 3 *v* *v* *v* *v*

Vln. *ffp* *ff* *ffp* *ff*

Vc. spicc. *ff* 3 5 5 *ffp* *ff*

Perc. (8) *loco* *v* *v* *v* *v*

Pno. 3 *v* *v* *v* *v*

*A (Short) Story of Earth* | Ben Morris

13

Picc. *ff*  
Bs. Cl. *bring out overtones*  
Vln. *ff*  
Vc. *gliss.*  
Perc. (Xyl.) Xylophone *fp*

(8)

Pno. *crazy* *double-handed gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

**B** fall away from pitch

15

Picc. *sfpz sempre*  
Bs. Cl. *sfpz sempre*  
Vln. *sfpz sempre*  
Vc. *sfpz sempre*  
Perc. (Xyl.) (guiro)  
Pno. *ff* *loco* *ff*

17

Picc. fl. t. fall away

Bs. Cl. f ffp ff

Vln. 6 ffp ff

Vc. 3 ffp ff

Perc. (k.d. + tb.)

Pno.

19

Picc. fall away

Bs. Cl. fall away

Vln. fall away

Vc. fall away

Perc. fall away

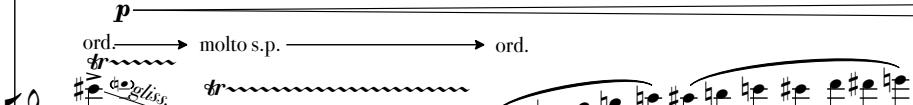
Pno.

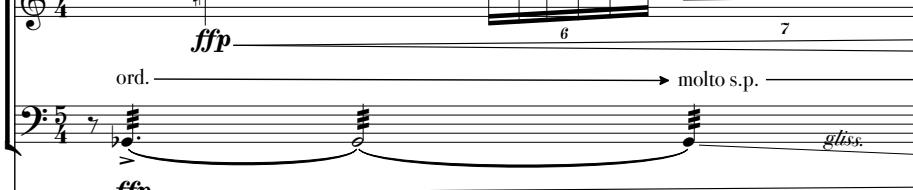
molto rit.

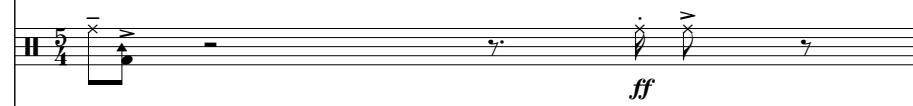
20

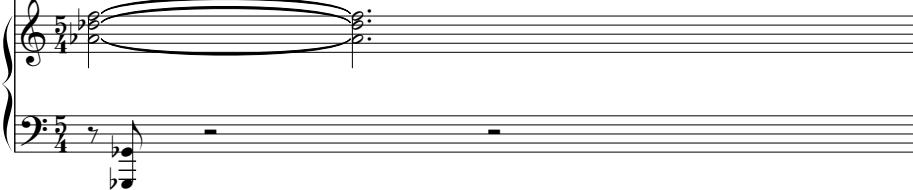
Picc. 

Bs. Cl. 

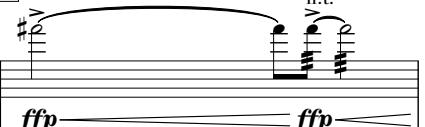
Vln. 

Vc. 

Perc. 

Pno. 

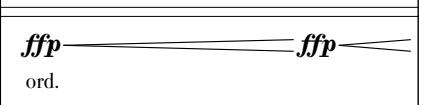
**C** meno mosso  $\text{♩} = 84$

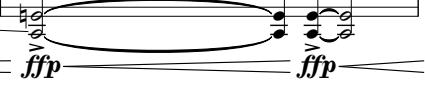
fl.t. 

bring out overtones (like didgeridoo)

ff 

senza vib. 

ffp 

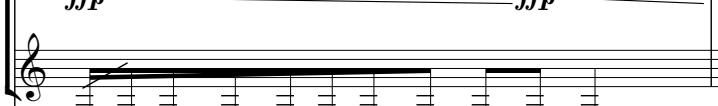
ord. 

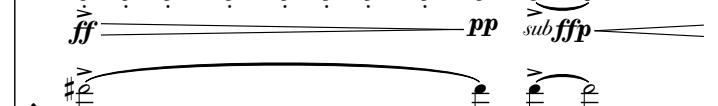
ffp 

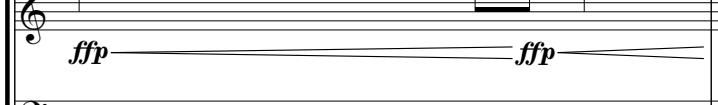
**molto rit.**

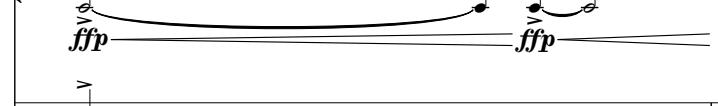
22

Picc. 

Bs. Cl. 

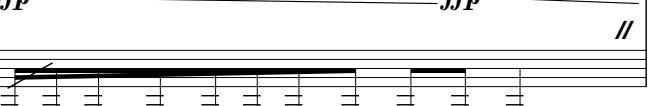
Vln. 

Vc. 

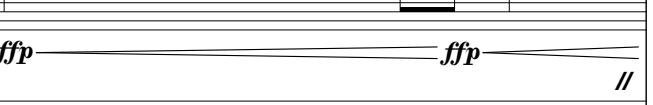
Perc. 

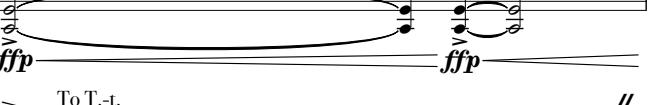
Pno. 

fl.t. 

(ord.) 

ff 

pp sub ff 

ffp 

ffp 

To T.-t. 

**Cataclysmic**

24

**D** [10"]

Picc. *fff* — decay naturally with breath —

Bs. Cl. *fff* — decay naturally with breath —

Vln. *fff* — decay with piano low C —  
molto s.p. → ord.

Vc. *fff* — decay with piano —

Perc. (T.-t.) Tam-tam To B. D.  
dampen along with tutti dim. and piano resonance

Bass Drum (while tam tam is still ringing)

(bass drum rings through caesura) // to metal pots and pans

Pno. *fffff* l.v.

*n* *ppp* like a distant rumble slow roll  
(piano rings through caesura) //

*n* *ppp* slowly, una corda, like a distant rumble slow trill

*pp* icy and alone, freely (una corda)

**Quirky**

[12"]

space proportionally, interact with percussion and piano in between gaps

27

Picc. *ppp* as short as possible, sparkling, in the background

B♭ Cl. Clarinet in B♭

Vln.

Vc.

with rods, space proportionally, interact with piccolo and piano in between gaps

metal pots and pans (4)

clay flower pots (3)

Perc. *p* freely, like debris floating in space

interact with piccolo and perc. in between gaps

8va applies to both staves until F

Pno. *like debris floating in space*

(R) slowly release pedal - half pedal to no pedal

10"

rit.

28

Picc.  
Bb Cl.  
Vln.  
Vc.  
Perc.  
Pno.

*8va*

*senza ped.*

**F** Clarinet, violin, and cello with conductor  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 68$  ca. 20"

29

Picc.  
Bb Cl.  
Vln.  
Vc.  
Perc.  
Pno.

*pp* in background, play in gaps between tune  
*senza vib.* → *con vib.*  
w/ cello + violin

*pp* → *mf*  
s.t., *senza vib.* → *ord. vib.*  
w/ clarinet + cello

*pp* → *mf* *folksy*, bring out slides  
s.t., *senza vib.* → *ord. vib.*  
w/ clarinet + violin

*pp* → *mf* *folksy*, bring out slides  
clay flower pots (wait until after piano gesture)

*jazzy bend*

*pp* in background

*loco*

*pp* in background  
*(senza ped.)*

34

*rit.* ca. 12

Picc. B♭ Cl. Vln. Vc. Perc. Pno.

To A. Fl. jazzy bend (wait for piano) To Vib. Vibrphone (soft/yarn mallets)

*ppp*

**G** Primordial, icy  $\text{♩} = 44$

38 senza vib.

A. Fl.  $\text{♩} = 4$  *ppp*

B♭ Cl. senza vib.  $\text{♩} = 3$  *ppp*

Vln. senza vib., flaut., rebow as needed  $\text{♩} = 3$  *ppp*

Vc. senza vib., flaut., rebow as needed  $\text{♩} = 3$  *ppp*

Vib.  $\text{♩} = 4$  *mp*  $\text{♩} = 3$  *mf*

Pno.  $\text{♩} = 4$  *p*  $\text{♩} = 3$  *8va*  $\text{♩} = 3$  *pp*  $\text{♩} = 4$  *con vib.* *emerging mf solo*

46 **H**

A. Fl. *lyrical* 3

B♭ Cl. *n* **ppp**

Vln. *n* **ppp** *gliss.*

Vc. *n* **ppp** *gliss.*

Vib. **pp** (*pedal on chord changes*)

Pno. *8va* **(p)** <sup>6</sup>*freely*

*loco*

(8)

This section of the score begins with measure 46, labeled 'H'. The instrumentation includes an A. Flute, B♭ Clarinet, Violin (Vln.), Cello (Vc.), Vibraphone (Vib.), and Piano (Pno.). The flute has a lyrical line with grace notes. The bassoon plays sustained notes with dynamic markings 'n' and 'ppp'. The violin and cello provide harmonic support with sustained notes and glissandos. The vibraphone maintains a pedal on chord changes with dynamic 'pp'. The piano plays eighth-note chords with dynamic '(p)' and '6 freely', followed by 'loco' (location) and a dynamic '(8)'.

50

A. Fl. *mf* **3**

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib. **mf** **p**

Pno. *8va* *loco* **tre corde**

This section continues from measure 46. The flute has a melodic line with dynamic 'mf' and a triplet marking '3'. The bassoon provides harmonic support with sustained notes. The violin and cello play sustained notes. The vibraphone has sustained notes with dynamics 'mf' and 'p'. The piano plays eighth-note chords with dynamic 'mf', followed by 'p', 'loco' (location), and 'tre corde' (three chords).

56 overblow octave

A. Fl. (ff) *poco accel.* (no trill)

B♭ Cl. *tr*

Vln. *mf* *f* *ff* *n*

Vc. *mf* *f* *ffp* *n* ord., ord. vib. *fp* *ord., ord. vib.* *fp* *lyrical, express.* *ffp*

Vib. *mf* *p* *f* to splash cymbal (w/ back of brush) splash cymbal

Pno. *sub pp* *ff* *pp*

**Più mosso**  $\text{♩} = 52$

A. Fl. *ffp* jet whistle

B♭ Cl. *ffp* *ff* *fp* *fp*

Vln. *ffp* *ffp* *sfz sempre* *fp*

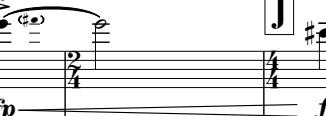
Vc. *ffp* *ff* *ffp*

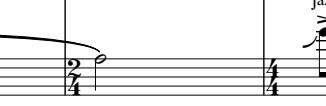
Dr. *ff* *ff*

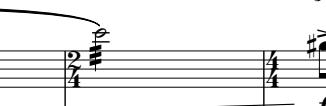
Pno. *sub pp* *ff* *sub pp*

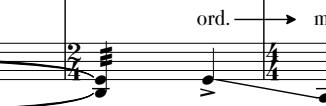
poco accel.

jet whistle

A. Fl. 63  **J** 

B♭ Cl. **fp** 

Vln. **fp** 

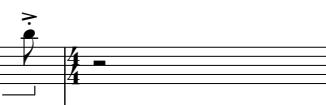
Vc. **fp** 

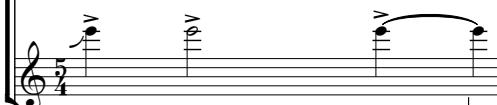
Dr. 

Pno. 

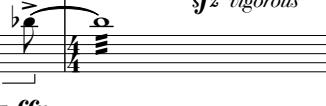
(8) **ff** **sub pp**  **ff** 

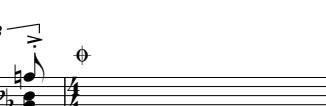
To Vib.

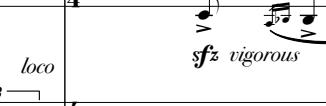
A. Fl. 66  **f** 

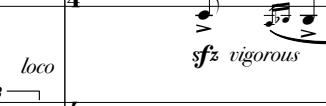
B♭ Cl.  **f** 

Vln.  **f** 

Vc.  **ff** 

Vib. Vibraphone  **f** **ff** **sfz** 

Pno.  **ff** **sub pp**  **ff** 

*loco* 

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 68, measures 68-70.

**Measure 68:** *To Picc.* Dynamics: *f*, *fp*, *f*, *pp*, *fpp*. Articulations: slurs, grace notes, accents. Instruments: A. Fl., B♭ Cl., Vln., Vc., Vib., Pno.

**Measure 69:** *poco rit.* Dynamics: *p*. Instruments: Piccolo.

**Measure 70:** Dynamics: *f*, *6*, *5*, *6*, *0*, *0*, *0*. Articulations: slurs, grace notes, accents. Instruments: A. Fl., B♭ Cl., Vln., Vc., Vib., Pno.

**Measure 71:** Dynamics: *pp*, *f*. Articulations: slurs, grace notes, accents. Instruments: Vib., Pno.

## K Exploding and dissipating $\bullet=72$ rit.

*etc., trailing off*

Musical score for orchestra and piano, page 70. The score includes parts for Picc., B♭ Cl., Vln., Vc., Perc., and Pno. The Picc. and B♭ Cl. parts begin with a dynamic of ***ff***, followed by ***p***. The Vln. and Vc. parts also begin with ***ff***, followed by ***p***. The Perc. part features a bass drum with a splash and a k.d. (kettle drum) at ***ff***, followed by ***pp*** and a transition to Vibraphone. The Pno. part is marked ***ff earth-shattering*** and includes dynamic markings ***7*** and ***8va***. The score concludes with a dynamic of ***8vb***.

Musical score page 14, measures 71-72. The score includes parts for Picc., B♭ Cl., Vln., Vc., Perc., and Pno. Measure 71 starts with a ritardando (rit.) instruction. The Picc. and B♭ Cl. parts have dynamic markings "place freely within bar". The Vln. and Vc. parts play sustained notes with dynamic markings "fff" and "ff". The Perc. part has a dynamic marking "ppp". The Pno. part has a dynamic marking "p". Measure 72 begins with a tempo change to  $\text{♩} = 44$ . The Picc. and B♭ Cl. parts play eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings "bisbig." and "n". The Vln. and Vc. parts play sustained notes with dynamic markings "III." and "IV.". The Perc. part has a dynamic marking "p". The Pno. part has a dynamic marking "p". A Vibraphone part is introduced with a dynamic marking "Vibraphone". Measure 73 continues with the Vibraphone part. The Perc. part has dynamic markings "ppp" and "p". The Pno. part has a dynamic marking "p". Measure 74 concludes with a dynamic marking "ppp". The Pno. part also has a dynamic marking "p". The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

## Like rays of light

75 L  $\text{♩} = 72$

C Flute      senza vib.

Picc.      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

B♭ Cl.      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

Vln.      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

Vc.      flaut.      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

Tam-tam      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

T.-t.      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

To Vib.      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

Vibrphone (with slow motor)      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

Pno.      loco      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

$p$  una corda      -      -      -      -      -      -      -      -

81

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Pno.

p — fp

mf

p — fp

n

p — fp

3

p — fp

3

p — fp

3

p — fp

3

poco accel.

85

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Pno.

#

p — fp

p — fp

f — p — fp

p — fp

3

p — fp

3

p — fp

ord.

mf solo. express., folksy

3

loco

f — p — f

3

8va

3

3

3

3

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4+3  
N  $\downarrow = \text{ca. } 108 \quad \overline{\text{3}} = \text{J}$

96

Fl. *ff*  
B♭ Cl. *ff*  
molto vib.  
Vln. *ff*  
molto vib.  
small gliss. down  
Vc. *ff*  
 $\gg pp$   
*f*  
 $\gg pp$   
Perc. *ff*  
metal pot  
Pno. *ff*  
(8)

101

Fl. *f*  
B♭ Cl. *f*  
senza vib.  
Vln. *mf*  
flaut.  
Vc. *mf*  
 $\gg pp$   
*p*  
To Glock.  
Perc. *mf*  
*f*  
Pno. *mf*  
*p*  
*loco*

poco accel.

106

p  
p  
*n*

spicc.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.



**O** Mechanical  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 120$  poco accel.

110

Fl.  
Bb Cl.

Vln.  
Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

3  
3

(8)  
15ma-

**P** Sparkling ♩ = 136

Fl. 113

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Glockenspiel

Pno.

poco accel.

*mf secco*

*fp* → *f*

*mf secco*

*sforzando*

*mp secco*

(15)

♩ = 156

Fl. 117

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Glock.

Pno.

*f*

*fp* → *f*

*ff sharp*

*f*

*ff sharp*

(8)

(15)

120

Fl.      Bb Cl.      Vln.      Vc.      Glock.      Pno.

**Q** Settle back into groove  $\text{♩} = 136$

jazzy fall from pitch  
To Picc.

ff  
jazzy fall from pitch  
To bs. cl.

harmonic gliss.  
II. ord.

ff fp

To Xyl. Xylophone  $\# \text{♩}$

ff high C muted with eraser or putty

(15)

white key gliss.  
w/thumb  
p

ff

125

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Xyl.

Pno.

sul pont.      ord.      con vib.      port.      port.      loco

mounted tambourine      Xylophone      kick drum

(15)      ff

f      p

ff

ff

ff

ff

129

**R Grooving**

3+2+2

Piccolo

Fl.

B♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

bend from pitch

pitchless fiddle chop - "chicharra"

Guiro      Kick drum and mounted tambourine

pp      ff

pp

I.      II. harmonic gliss.

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

ff

133 (3+2+2)

Picc.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

*sim.*

*ff*

*fp*

*harmonic gliss.* I.

*fp*

*ff*

*harmonic gliss.* II.

*ff*

**S**

137

Picc.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Perc.

Pno.

*ff*

*pp*

*ff*

*ff*

*fp*

*ff*

*harmonic gliss.* I.

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

141

Picc.  $\frac{2}{4}$

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

Vln.  $\frac{2}{4}$

Vc.  $\frac{2}{4}$

Perc.  $\frac{2}{4}$

Pno.  $\frac{2}{4}$

*p*

*sub p*

*p*

*fp*

*sfz*

*sub p*

splash cymbal (with mallets)

*pp*

*f*

*sub p*

**T Soaring**  $\downarrow = 128$

144

Picc.  $\frac{2}{4}$

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

Vln.  $\frac{2}{4}$

Vc.  $\frac{2}{4}$

Perc.  $\frac{2}{4}$

Pno.  $\frac{2}{4}$

*f*

*p*

*f*

*p*

*f*

*p*

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

*fp*

To Glock.

Glockenspiel

*f*

*loco*

*f*

*8va*

*8va*

*sub p*

148

Picc.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Glock.

Pno.

152

Picc.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Glock.

Pno.

## **U** Grooving ↘ = 136

30-32

160

Picc. ff

B. Cl. ff

Vln. ff

Vc. ff

Perc. ff

Pno. ff

I. harmonic gliss.

molto accel.

164

Picc. -

B. Cl. -

Vln. ↓ 6 6 7

Vc. -

Perc. -

Pno. -

167

Picc. ff 5 6 6 6

B. Cl. ff 6 6 6 6

Vln. sfz sempre ff 6 6 6 6

Vc. v. sfz sempre ff p

Perc. -

Pno. -

V

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169

Picc. *spiraling*

B. Cl. *spiraling*

Vln. *spiraling*

Vc. *spiraling*

Perc.

Pno.

random ascending chromatic notes

random ascending chromatic notes

random ascending chromatic notes

random ascending chromatic notes

*ff*

W

highest notes possible

Sudden

Out of time  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 88$ 

rit.

171

Picc. highest notes possible

B. Cl. highest notes possible

Vln. highest notes possible

Vc. highest notes possible

Perc. Bass Drum  $\text{fff secco}$

Pno. suspended cymbal (swipe with triangle beater)

To Vib. Vibraphone

subtone

*sotto voce*  $n - p - n$  die out with piano

*sotto voce*  $n - p - n$  die out with piano

Bass Drum  $\text{fff secco}$

pizz.  $\text{f a question mark}$  l.r.

$\text{sotto voce}$   $n - pp - n$

*p*  $8^{\text{th}}$