

SAM GREENING

LOW

for Plus Minus

(2022)

Perusai
Perusai Score
Perusai Score

Composer's Note

Low opens with a vicious accelerando, before settling into a somewhat Feldman-esque pointillist world. The initial kernel of an idea came from listening back to some of my earlier pieces, when I began to pick out certain interests and idiosyncrasies that I returned to repeatedly. Two of these particularly stood out: an interest in and general propensity to choose low, rumbly, clusters at the bottom of an ensemble's register, and an interest in constantly shifting tempi.

In this work, constantly shifting does not mean many metric modulations or tempo changes; instead, I am interested in the smooth transitions of ritardandi and accelerandi.

Therefore, this piece is built over a constantly shifting structure. Apart from a brief spell-breaking coda, we are within a ritardando or accelerando at every moment. Sometimes these are clearly audible (particularly when they take place over a short period of time), while sometimes they are totally unidentifiable. Yet they always contribute some kind of slippery element to the music.

Low was premiered by Plus-Minus Ensemble on Friday 1st July 2022 at Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

Forces

Bass Clarinet in B \flat , Electric Guitar, Percussion, Violin, Cello

Percussion

Bass drum
Tom
Suspended cymbal with chain
Four wood blocks

Guitar

The electric guitar part requires a fuzz pedal. The sound should generally be clean.

Notes for Performance

This piece should to be performed with a conductor, who conducts to a click track (this is available on request).

Accidentals are valid until the next bar line. \flat indicates a quarter-tone flat and \sharp indicates a quarter-tone sharp.



Small noteheads in the string parts indicate to place the fingers as close together as possible, producing a very compact microtonal scale.



Guitar harmonics are notated at sounding pitch using diamond noteheads.



An arrow indicates a smooth transition between playing techniques.

c. 6 minutes

Low

Transposing Score

Sam Greening

A

Very slow $\text{♩} = 40$ **molto accel.** $\text{♩} = 180$ Very fast $\text{♩} = 240\text{rit.}$

Bass Clarinet (Bb) *f* *ff* *pp*

Electric Guitar fuzz pedal ON Very fast percussive strumming on muted strings *pp* *f* *pp* fuzz pedal OFF

Bass Drum *f* *p* *p* *fff* To Sus. Cym. (hard beaters) choke immediately To W. Bl.

Violin *f* *ff* *pp* sul pont. (place fingers as close together as possible) IV ord. 1 2 3 4

Violoncello *f* *pp* overpressure ord.

($\text{♩} = c. 222$)

B. Cl. (Bb) *pp*

E. Gtr *mp* *p*

W. Bl. W. Bl. 1 W. Bl. 2 W. Bl. 3 W. Bl. 4 *mp* *mf* *pp*

Vln (IV) 1 2 3 4 *sim.*

Vc. *pp*

B (♩ = c. 208)

Musical score for section B, measures 13-21. The score is in 3/4 time with a tempo of approximately 208 beats per minute. The instruments are B. Cl. (Bb), E. Gtr, B. Dr., Vln, and Vc. The B. Cl. part features a melodic line with dynamics *mp*, *pp*, and *p < mf*. The E. Gtr part has a sustained chord. The B. Dr. part has a simple drum pattern with dynamics *p* and *p*. The Vln part has a sustained chord with dynamics *(pp)*. The Vc part has a bass line with dynamics *p* and *p*. There are annotations "To B. Dr." and "B. Dr." above the drum staff, and "To W. Bl." above the woodwind staff.

(♩ = c. 177)

Musical score for section B, measures 22-26. The score is in 3/4 time with a tempo of approximately 177 beats per minute. The instruments are B. Cl. (Bb), E. Gtr, W. Bl. 1-4, Vln, and Vc. The B. Cl. part features a melodic line with dynamics *ppp* and *pp*. The E. Gtr part has a sustained chord. The W. Bl. 1-4 part has a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *p*. The Vln part has a sustained chord with dynamics *p*. The Vc part has a bass line with dynamics *p* and *p*. There is an annotation "W. Bl." above the woodwind staff.

C (♩ = c. 154)

Musical score for section C, measures 27-30. The score is in 4/4 time with a tempo of approximately 154 beats per minute. The instruments are B. Cl. (Bb), E. Gtr, W. Bl. 1-4, Vln, and Vc. The B. Cl. part features a melodic line with dynamics *p < mf*. The E. Gtr part has a sustained chord. The W. Bl. 1-4 part has a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *mf*, *pp*, *mp*, and *mf > pp*. The Vln part has a rhythmic pattern with dynamics *p <*. The Vc part has a bass line with dynamics *p* and *p*. There are annotations "3" above the woodwind and violin staves.

D (♩ = c. 122)

32

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1
W. Bl. 2
W. Bl. 3
W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

Musical score for measures 32-36. The score includes parts for B. Cl. (Bb), E. Gtr, W. Bl. 1-4, Vln, and Vc. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *(mf)*, *pp*, and *mf*. A triplet of eighth notes is marked in measure 34. The Vln part has a *p* dynamic and a slur over measures 34-35. The Vc. part has a *p* dynamic and a slur over measures 34-35. Measure 36 has a 4-measure fingering: 1 2 3 4.

E (♩ = c. 101)

37

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1
W. Bl. 2
W. Bl. 3
W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

Musical score for measures 37-42. The score includes parts for B. Cl. (Bb), E. Gtr, W. Bl. 1-4, Vln, and Vc. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *fp*. The Vln part has a *p* dynamic and a slur over measures 38-42. The Vc. part has dynamics *mp*, *mf*, *f*, and *fp*.

43

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1
W. Bl. 2
W. Bl. 3
W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

Musical score for measures 43-47. The score includes parts for B. Cl. (Bb), E. Gtr, W. Bl. 1-4, Vln, and Vc. The key signature has one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 3/4. Dynamics include *pp*, *p*, and *ppp*. The Vln part has a *ppp* dynamic and a slur over measures 43-47. The Vc. part has a *pp* dynamic and a slur over measures 43-47. Measure 45 has a 6-measure fingering: 6.

(♩ = c. 77)

49

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1
W. Bl. 2
W. Bl. 3
W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

(♩ = c. 57)

55

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1
W. Bl. 2
W. Bl. 3
W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

F

Very slow ♩ = 40 accel.

(♩ = c. 80)

63

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1
W. Bl. 2
W. Bl. 3
W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

G

Fast ♩ = 120 rit.

69

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1
W. Bl. 2
W. Bl. 3
W. Bl. 4

B. Dr.

Vln

Vc.

mf *ppp* *ppp* *mf* *p* *pp*

pp *ppp* *pp*

8va⁷

H

Very slow ♩ = 40 accel.

(♩ = c. 88)

76

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

B. Dr.

Vln

Vc.

mp *mf* *p* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

mp *ppp* *pp*

sul pont

sul tasto

I

(♩ = c. 152)

♩ = 200

Suddenly slow ♩ = 60 accel.

83

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

B. Dr.

Vln

Vc.

mp *p* *pp* *pp*

8va

3

88 $\text{♩} = 200$

B. Cl. (Bb) *p*

E. Gtr

B. Dr.

Vln

Vc.

J Suddenly slow $\text{♩} = 60$ accel. **K** Very fast $\text{♩} = 240$ rit.

92

B. Cl. (Bb) *mf* *p* *f*

E. Gtr *mf*

B. Dr.

Vln *mp* *mf*

Vc. *f*

L Slow $\text{♩} = 80$ accel.

99

B. Cl. (Bb) *mf* *f* *ff*

E. Gtr

B. Dr. *mp* *f*

Vln

Vc.

103 Very fast ♩ = 200rit.....

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1

W. Bl. 2

W. Bl. 3

W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

To W. Bl.

W. Bl.

fff

ff

ff

f

ppp

N

108 ♩ = 50 Very fast ♩ = 200 rit.....

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1

W. Bl. 2

W. Bl. 3

W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

mf

pp

(pp) < mf

pp < mf

pp < mf

ppp

p

p

3

(♩ = c. 169)

114

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

W. Bl. 1

W. Bl. 2

W. Bl. 3

W. Bl. 4

Vln

Vc.

pp

f

pp

To Sus. Cym.

pp < mf

pp

f

f

f

mf

O (♩ = c. 138)

118

B. Cl. (Bb) *f* *p* *mf* *pp*

E. Gtr *mf*

Sus. Cym. *pp*
Sus. Cym. soft beaters, chain on cymbal

Vln *ppp* *mf* *ppp* *mf* *mf* *pp* *mp*
sul pont. IV III

Vc. *pp*

(♩ = c. 100)

123

B. Cl. (Bb) *mf* *pp* *mf* *p*

E. Gtr *mf*

Sus. Cym. *pp*

Vln *mf* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *p* *pp*

P

(♩ = c. 55) Very slow ♩ = 40 Brisk ♩ = 100

129

B. Cl. (Bb) *ff*

E. Gtr *p*

Sus. Cym. *ppp*
Tom Cym
ord.

Vln *mp* *pp* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *gliss.*

134

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

Tom

Vln

Vc.

6

6

gliss.

ff

mf

139

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

Tom

Vln

Vc.

3

ff

p

mp

mf

f

mp

pp

mp

6

sul pont.

ricochet sul pont.

145

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

Tom

Vln

Vc.

p

5

ff

p

5

ppp

p

ff

p

151

R

rit. molto, independently

pp

rit. molto, independently

pp

rit. molto, independently

pp

Vc. pp

156

long pause

B. Cl. (Bb)

E. Gtr

Tom

Vln

Vc.