

a thing that splutters

Joel Kirk (2021-22)

clarinet, accordion, cello

c. 8 minutes

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for the Roadrunner Trio at the 2022 Roadrunner Academy, Amsterdam

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VARIATION I ♩ = 92

ALWAYS PLAYFUL AND CUTE, WITH A SATIRICAL AND WHIMSICAL CHARACTER

slap-tongue;
(S.T.) dry timbre

flz.

S.T.

flz.

S.T.

flz.

S.T.

flz.

sfz *mf* < *mp* < *sfz* *mf* < *mp* < *sfz* *mf* < *mp* < *sfz* *mf* < *mp* <

full/resonant/sonorous/harmonically rich timbre

sfz *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *sfz*

arco (ord.)

s.p. pizz.
(dry sound)

arco (ord.)

s.p. pizz.

arco (ord.)

s.p. pizz.

arco (ord.)

s.p. pizz.

mp *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz*

5

Cl. *sfz* *<sfz* *S.T. sfz* *<sfz* *S.T. sfz* *<sfz* *S.T. sfz* *<sfz* *S.T. sfz*

Accord. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

scratch-tone (arco; ord.) quite noisy but still some pitch *mf*

ord. pizz. (resonant sound) *mp*

arco (ord.) *mf*

ord. pizz. *mp*

arco (ord.) *mf*

ord. pizz. *mp*

arco (ord.) *mf*

ord. pizz. *mp*

10

Cl. *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz*

Accord. *sfz* *mf* *mp* *sfz* *mf* *mp* *sfz* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp*

arco (ord.) *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *mf*

ricochet (simile) *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

18

Cl. *mp sfz* *mp sfz* *mp sfz* *mf* *S.T.* *flz.* *sfz* *mf <* *mp* *mp* *sfz*

Accord. *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *mp <* *mp*

Vc. *sfz >* *sfz >* *sfz >* *mf* *mp* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *sfz*

s.p. pizz. *arco (ord.)*

24

Cl. *flz.* *sfz* *flz.* *sfz* *flz.* *sfz* *S.T.* *flz.* *sfz* *mf <* *mp* *mf* *mp*

Accord. *mp sfz* *mp sfz* *mp sfz* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *mp*

Vc. *sfz* *mp sfz* *mp sfz* *mp* *mp* *sfz* *mp* *mf*

s.p. pizz. *arco (ord.)*

29

Cl. *flz.* *mf* *mp* *sfz* *mp sfz* *mf* *flz.* *sfz*

Accord. *< sfz* *sfz* *mf* *sfz* *mp* *mp sfz*

Vc. *mp* *mf* *sfz >* *mf* *ord.* *sfz* *mp*

scratch-tone
(s.p.) very noisy with
little sense of pitch

37

Cl. *flz.* *sfz* *flz.* *sfz* *flz.* *sfz* *mf* *S.T.*

Accord. *mp sfz* *mp sfz* *mp sfz* *mp*

Vc. *sfz* *mp sfz* *mp sfz* *mp mf*

scratch-tone
(s.p.) very noisy with
little sense of pitch

This musical score is divided into two systems, starting at measure 44. The first system (measures 44-48) features a Clarinet (Cl.) with dynamics *sfz*, *mf*, and *mp*, and articulations *S.T.* and *flz.*. The Accompanying (Accord.) part includes piano and bass staves with dynamics *mp*, *mf*, and *sfz*. The Violoncello (Vc.) part includes dynamics *mf* and *mp*, and articulations *arco (ord.)* and *ord. pizz.*. The second system (measures 49-53) continues with similar dynamics and articulations for all parts. The Cl. part has dynamics *mf* and *mp*. The Accord. part has dynamics *mf* and *mp*. The Vc. part has dynamics *mf* and *mp*, and articulations *arco* and *ord. pizz.*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and fingerings (e.g., 5, 3).

VARIATION II ♩ = 78
WITH A LITTLE LESS ENERGY

54

Cl. *mf* *mp* *smfz* *mp* *p* *smfz* *mp* *p* *smfz* *mp* *p*

flz. flz. flz.

5

7 3 7 3 7 3

Accord. *mf* *mp* *smfz* *mp* *smfz* *smfz* *mp* *smfz* *smfz* *mp* *smfz*

a little less resonant (possible)

Vc. arco ord. pizz. arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. (IV) arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. (IV) arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. (IV)

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

5 7 7 7

58

Cl. *smfz* *mp* *p* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz*

flz.

3

7 3 7 3 7 3

Accord. *smfz* *mp* *smfz* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

7 3 5 5 5 3

Vc. arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. (IV) scratch-tone (ord.) quite noisy but still some pitch ord. pizz. arco (simile) ord. pizz. arco ord. pizz.

p *sfz* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

7 7

63

Cl. *< smfz smfz p smfz p smfz smfz mp smfz mp*

Accord. *p mp smfz mp < p smfz mp < p smfz smfz p smfz p*

Vc. *arco mp ord. pizz. p arco (ord.) smfz mp smfz smfz mp mp (ricochet) smfz > smfz >*

69

Cl. *smfz mp smfz mp smfz mp smfz mp smfz mp mp smfz mp < p*

Accord. *smfz p smfz p smfz p smfz p smfz p smfz p smfz mp smfz*

Vc. *smfz > smfz > smfz > smfz > smfz > smfz > mp arco (ord.) p s.p. pizz. (IV) sfz*

77

Cl.

p *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz*

flz. 7 6 6 6 9

Accord.

smfz *mp* *p* *smfz mp* *smfz mp* *smfz mp*

7 3 6 6 6

arco (ord.)

Vc.

smfz *mp* *smfz* *smfz* *p* *smfz* *p* *smfz* *p*

7 6 6 6

81

Cl.

smfz *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *smfz mp* *mp*

flz. 7 3 6 5

S.T.

Accord.

smfz *mp* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *p*

7 6 3 6 6

Accord.

smfz *mp* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *smfz* *p*

7 6 3 6 6

Vc.

p *sfz* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *smfz* *mp*

arco *s.p. pizz. (IV)* *arco* *(ricochet)* *scratch-tone (s.p.) very noisy with little sense of pitch*

7 5 3 5 3 6 5

87

Cl. *flz.* *smfz* *6* *7*

Accord. *smfz mp* *6*

Vc. *ord.* *smfz* *6* *p*

93

Cl. *flz.* *smfz* *6* *mp* *5* *5* *5* *5* *smfz* *3* *mp* *p*

Accord. *smfz mp* *6* *mp* *mp* *p*

Vc. *scratch-tone (s.p.) very noisy with little sense of pitch* *smfz* *6* *p* *mp* *arco (ord.)* *5* *s.p. pizz.* *mp* *p*

100

Cl.

mp p mp p mp p mp p

Accord.

mp p mp p mp p mp p

Vc.

arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. arco (ord.) s.p. pizz.

mp p mp p mp p mp p

104

Cl.

mp p mp p mp p mp p

Accord.

mp p mp p mp p mp p

Vc.

arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. arco (ord.) s.p. pizz. arco (ord.) s.p. pizz.

mp p mp p mp p mp p

VARIATION III ♩ = 66
TENTATIVE; AS IF BREAKING DOWN

Cl. 107

p *mp* *smpz* *p* *mp* *smpz* *p* *mp* *smpz* *p* *mp* *smpz* *smpz*

with a thinner/reedier/weaker timbre

mp *pp* *smpz* *mp* *pp* *smpz* *mp* *pp* *smpz* *mp* *pp* *smpz* *p*

bellows shake
(very fast/erratic)

Vc.

arco (ord.);
harmonic finger
pressure (indeterminate
pitch)

s.p.
pizz.
(IV)

smpz *p* *smpz* *p* *smpz* *p* *smpz* *p* *smpz* *p*

Cl. 112

smpz *smpz* *smpz* *smpz* *smpz* *smpz* *smpz* *p* *smpz* *p*

mp *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *mp* *smpz* *p* *mp* *smpz*

Vc.

ord.
pizz.

arco
(m.s.p.)

ord.
pizz.

arco
(m.s.p.)

ord.
pizz.

arco
(m.s.p.)

ord.
pizz.

arco
(m.s.p.)

scratch tone
arco (ord.)

(simile)

p *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *smpz* *mf* *p* *sfz*

118

Cl. *flz.* *flz.*
p

Accord.

smpz

6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz*

Vc.

s.p.
p

○ circular bow (one rotation) ○

p *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz*

127

Cl. *smpz* *p* *mp* *smpz* *flz.* *smpz* *p* *S.T.* *quasi trill (veiled)* *S.T. (simile)*

Accord.

mp *pp* *smpz* *p* *mp* *smpz* (shake) (shake)

6 *smpz* 6 *smpz*

Vc.

m.s.p. *s.p. pizz. (IV)* *arco (ord.)*
p *smpz* 7 *p* *mf* *p* *sfz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz*

132 S.T. *p* *smpz* 6 *p* *mp* *smpz* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *smpz* 6 *smpz* *mp* 5

(shake) *mp* *pp* *smpz* *smpz* <*smpz* *smpz* <*smpz* (shake) *p* 6 *smpz* 6 (bellows shake)

Vc. *smpz* 6 *smpz* 7 *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *s.p. pizz. (IV)* *arco (ord.)* *s.p.* 6 *m.s.p.* *p* *smpz* *mp*

139 S.T. *p* *smpz* 6 S.T. *p* *smpz* 6 S.T. *p* *smpz* 6 S.T. *p* *smpz* 6

(shake) *smpz* 6 (shake) *smpz* 6 (shake) *smpz* 6 (shake) *smpz* 6

Vc. *ord.* *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6 *smpz* 6

146 S.T. 15

Cl. *mp* 5 5 5 5 *p* *flz.* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Accord. *smpz* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vc. *m.s.p.* *mp* *p* *s.p. pizz.* *pp* *s.p. arco* *p* *s.p. pizz.* *pp* *s.p. arco* *p*

153

Cl. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Accord. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vc. *s.p. pizz.* *pp* *s.p. arco* *p* *s.p. pizz.* *pp* *s.p. arco* *p* *s.p. pizz.* *pp* *s.p. arco* *p*

16 156

Cl. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Accord. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

Vc. s.p. pizz. *pp* s.p. arco *p* s.p. pizz. *pp* s.p. arco *p* s.p. pizz. *pp* s.p. arco *p*

VARIATION IV ♩ = 56
WEAK; EXHAUSTED; FLIMSY; AIRY

159 S.T. flz. flz. flz. flz. flz.

Cl. *spz* *pp* *pp* *spz* *pp* *pp* *p* *spz* *p* *spz*

very muffled/thin/weak/harmonically dead timbre;
8VA AL FINE!

Accord. *spz* *pp* *spz* *spz* *pp* *pp* *spz* *spz* *pp* *pp* *spz* *pp* *pp*

Vc. arco s.p. *p* s.p. pizz. *spz* arco s.p. *p* s.p. pizz. (IV) *spz* arco (s.p.) *pp* *spz* arco (s.p.) *spz* *pp* *spz*

163 flz. flz. S.T. S.T.

Cl. *pp* *spz* *spz* *spz* *spz* *p* *p* *p* *mp*

Accord. *spz* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *spz* *spz* *spz* *spz*

(shake) (shake)

Vc. *pp* *spz* *p* *spz* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

m.s.p. (ricochet) s.p. s.p.

168 S.T. flz. flz. flz. flz. veiled tone/airy

Cl. *spz* *pp* *pp* *spz* *pp* *pp* *spz* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Accord. *spz* *pp* *spz* *spz* *pp* *spz* *p* *spz* *p* *pp* *spz*

(shake)

Vc. arco s.p. s.p. arco s.p. pizz. (IV) arco m.s.p.

p *spz* *p* *spz* *p* *p* *p* *spz*

(simile)

174

Cl. *pp* *ppz* *spz pp* *pp* *pp* *spz*

Accord. *spz pp* *spz p* *spz p* *pp spz* *spz pp* *pp* (bellows shake)

Vc. *p* *spz* *p* *p* *p* *spz* *p* *spz* m.s.p.

180

Cl. *p* *spz* *p* *spz* *flz.* *pppz* *spz pp* *pp*

Accord. *spz* *pp* *pp* *spz* *pp* *pp* *spz* *p* *spz* *p* *pp* *spz*

Vc. *s.p.* *spz* *pp* *spz* *spz* *pp* *spz* *p* *p* *p* *m.s.p.* *spz*

185 S.T. flz. S.T. flz. flz.

Cl. *spz* *pp* *pp* *spz* *spz* *spz* *spz* *pp*

Accord. *spz* *pp* *spz* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *spz* *spz* *pp*

Vc. arco s.p. s.p. pizz. arco (ricochet) s.p. s.p. m.s.p. *p* *spz* *pp* *p* *spz*

190 legato tonguing; airy/veiled sound flz. flz.

Cl. *pp* *pp* *spz* *pp* *pp*

Accord. (bellows shake) *pp* *pp* *spz* *p* *pp* *spz*

Vc. *pp* *p* *p* *p* *p* *p* *m.s.p.* *p* *spz*

197

Cl. *pp* *pp* legato tonguing; airy/veiled sound

Accord. (shake) *spz pp* (bellows shake) *pp*

Vc. *p* *spz pp* overpressure, m.s.p., very small bow movements

203

Cl. *spz* *pp dim. al fine* molto rall.

Accord. *pp dim. al fine*

Vc. *pp* *pp dim. al fine*

209

Cl.

Accord.

Vc.

pp

Repeat ad infin; moving out of time with each-other;
continue rallentando and diminuendo ; falling apart al fine

213

Cl.

Accord.

Vc.

pp