

The Garden of Forking Paths

for Ensemble for New Music Tallinn

Elo Masing (2021)



Instrumentation:

Flute/Piccolo

Clarinet in E-flat/Bass Clarinet

Piano/Keyboard sampler + speaker

Violin

Viola

Cello

Characteristics of sections:

A – insistent

B – very insistent

C – subdued melodrama

C' – boisterous, bordering on frantic

D – alert

D' – alert

E – extremely insistent

F – subdued frenzy

F' – frantic

G – melting

G' – listening to nature

H – intense longing

Q – bending time-space

Q' – time stops warm

Most of the sections in the piece last ca. 30'', with the exception of D (40''), F' (40-45''), G (40''), Q and Q'' (50'' – 60'') and H (at least 90'')

Material in boxes is to be repeated for the duration of a section. If precise number of repeats is desired, it is indicated with repeat barlines and additional instructions.

Metronome marks are just guidelines, to give a feel of the speed of the material, not to be followed religiously.

At times, different instruments/instrument groups have different metronome marks simultaneously.

Quick stagger entries are mostly fine in starting all sections, it's not important who is first.

Only when Keyboard sample starts section, it should clearly be first.

Piano preparations:

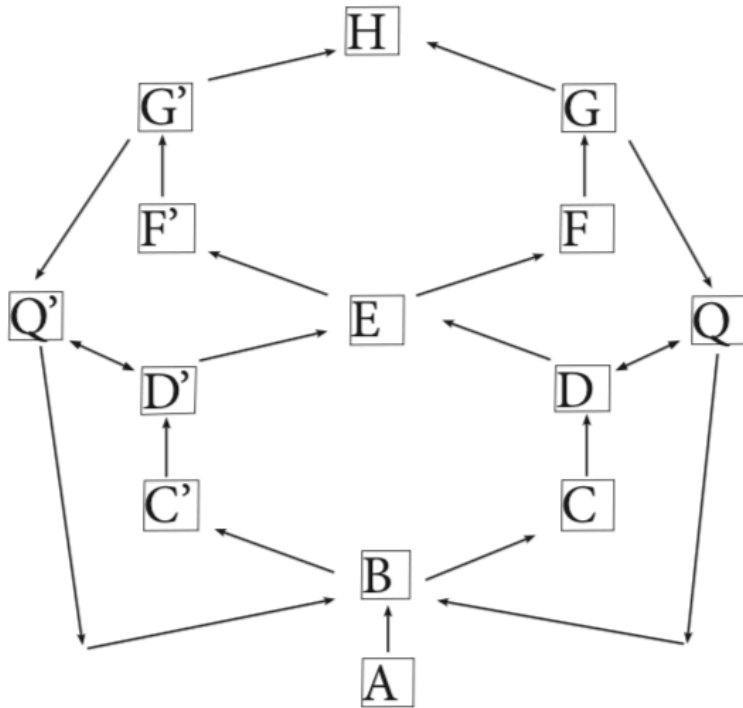
Blue-tack

Credit card

1 hard round plastic object, e.g. handle of screw driver

Keyboard sound should be localised and come from one speaker near the piano. The samples should be carefully balanced to blend with the rest of the instruments.

The labyrinth of possibilities:



One proposed path to execute the piece: A-B-C-D-Q-B-C'-D'-E-F'-G'-Q'-D'-E-F-G-H (duration c. 12')

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Transposing score

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Flute = 112 - 120, each instrument/pair of instruments chooses exact tempo freely

Clarinet in E \flat

Violin = 112 - 120, each instrument/pair of instruments chooses exact tempo freely

Violoncello

Piccolo

B Repeat as long as section B lasts, Piccolo and E \flat Clarinet always tightly together!

Repeat each motif 4x vary freely between sul tasto - ord - sul pont change dynamics freely *p-f*

Repeat each motif 8x vary freely between sul tasto - ord - sul pont change dynamics freely *p-f*

Repeat each motif 4x change dynamics freely *mp-f*

Glissando freely and continuously in the given range during sections A and B, vary pressure and dynamics slightly. At **B**, change to double stopping. lots of bow pressure, distorted sound!

sul D

change dynamics freely *mf-f*

sul A, D



Fl. = c. 104 Flute in C

Cl. Bass Cl. in B \flat

Pno.

Vln. = c. 104

Vla. = c. 104

Vc. = c. 104

C Repeat multiphonics freely, play each for the duration of a long breath

jet whistle

Repeat frantically, but with swiftly fluctuating meter glissando on the string, looking for very high harmonics near the bridge/tuning pegs

no pedal

Trill freely but continuously between high harmonics and low G

sul G

alter distance between 4th and 1st finger continuously while glissandoing

alter distance between 4th and 1st finger continuously while glissandoing

sul G, D

sul C

pp

pp

mf

mp flautando

f *leggiere, brillante*

mf

f

f

ff con forza

F ♩ = c. 160 for everyone except Viola

G ♩ = c. 56 for everyone

Pno. scrape strings with edge of credit card

Keyboard sample G

F ♩ = c. 120

Repeat 3x *spiccato* *p*

Repeat 3x *mf* *p*

Repeat 3x *spiccato* *mf*

Repeat 2x *detaché* *p*

Repeat 5x *p* *mf*

mute strings with palm near end of fingerboard. very strong bow pressure, very little bow, distorted sound. sul G, D

Repeat the cycle 2x repeat 2x

repeat 2x

Repeat 10x *tr*

repeat 4x

Repeat 10x *tr*

Repeat 8x seagull (keep 4th finger in same position) sul *tasto* *mf* *p*

Repeat 7x seagull (keep 4th finger in same position) *mf*

F' ♩ = 80 - 88

G' ♩ = c. 56

Fl. Piccolo Repeat 6x *ff*

Cl. in Eb *ff*

Cl. *fff* *fff* *fff* *fff*

right hand ♩ = c. 112 *ff*

left hand ♩ = c. 160, frantic and not necessarily rhythmically accurate prepare harmonic on string near bridge with blue-tack *ff*

Repeat material for the duration of the sound file

Flute in C *mf* *mf*

Bass Cl. *p*

Keyboard sample G'

F' ♩ = 80 - 88

G' ♩ = c. 56

Repeat cycle 3x *detaché* *f*

simile, spiccato

right hand *f* *flautando*

left hand *f* *sul D spiccato* *sul A detaché*

Repeat insistently but irregularly with slightly different intonation, like a bird calling *mp*

freely move on high harmonics on C and G, like sparrows squawking *mf*

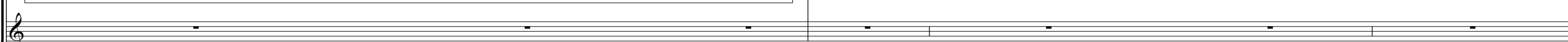
H

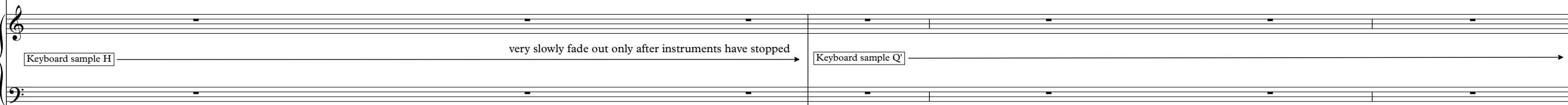
♩ = c. 56

Repeat material for at least 60"

Flute in C

Fl.  **Q'**

Cl. 

Pno. 

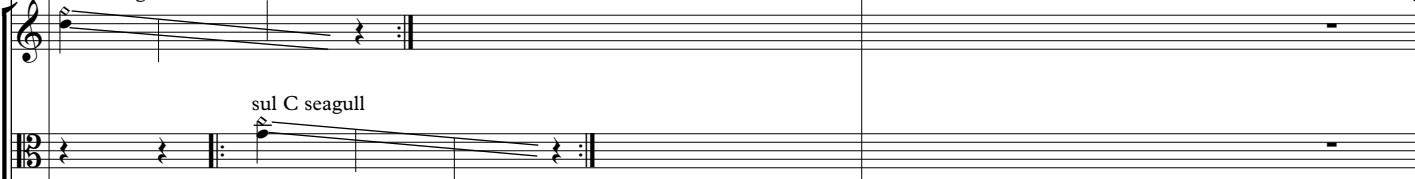
Keyboard sample H very slowly fade out only after instruments have stopped Keyboard sample Q'

H

♩ = c. 56

Repeat material for at least 60"


sul G seagull

 **Q'** ♩ = c. 56

10" 20" 30"

pizz. arco

p *ppppp*



ppppp