

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:

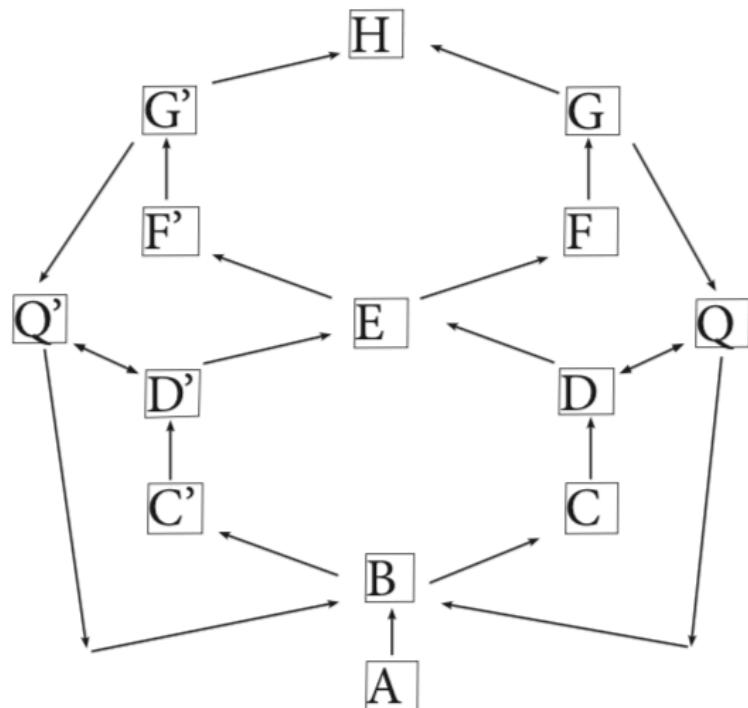
Blue-tack

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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B

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

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

Clarinet in E♭

B

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

Violoncello Glissando freely and continuously in the given range during sections A and B, vary pressure and dynamics slightly. At B, change to double stopping.
sul D
change dynamics freely **mf - f**

=

C $\text{d} = \text{c. } 104$
Flute in C

Bass Cl. in B♭ Repeat multiphonics freely, play each for the duration of a long breath
pp

C' $\text{d} = \text{c. } 104$
jet whistle
f

Cl.

Pno.

Vln. Trill freely but continuously between high harmonics and low G
sul G
mf

Vla. molto vibrato
mp flautando

Vc. sul G, D
f leggiero, brillante

C' $\text{d} = \text{c. } 104$
alter distance between 4th and 1st finger continuously while glissandoing
f

no pedal
glissando on the string, looking for very high harmonics near the bridge/tuning pegs
mf

C' $\text{d} = \text{c. } 104$
alter distance between 4th and 1st finger continuously while glissandoing
f

sul C
ff con forza

D Section D ends when Bass Clarinet has finished her part.

D

D' = c. 60

Fl. ♫ = 84 - 92, fluctuating meter, very alert
Repeat both phrases 2x and then start again from the beginning pizz. pizz. pizz. 3 3

Bass Cl. in B♭ ♫ = c. 56 airy 3 1. 5 2. 5

Cl. ♫ = 84 - 92; fluctuating meter, very alert una corda + mute strings with right hand 5 5

Pno. ♫ = c. 56

D On Left Hand's glissando, Right Hand freely improvises, using the given phrases as inspiration col legno, continuous movement sul tasto - sul pont - sul tasto right hand jeté jeté left hand 3

On Left Hand's glissando, Right Hand freely improvises, using the given phrases as inspiration col legno, continuous movement sul tasto - sul pont - sul tasto right hand jeté jeté left hand 3

D' = c. 60

una corda mp secco

Very slow gliss lasting the entire duration of section D'

ppppp

E = c. 104

Winds keep repeating their material in the indicated relationship to each other

Piccolo ♫

Cl. in E♭ sff sff

Fl. ♫

Ci. ♫

Pno. ♫ = c. 104

Q

Flute in C 8" - 20" explore the liminality between breathy tone and whistletones

Bass Cl. in B♭ breathy, almost tonlos

Fl. ♫ pppppp

Cl. ♫ pppppp

Pno. ♫

E = c. 104

Strings keep repeating their material in the indicated relationship to each other

E ♫

Cl. in E♭ ♫

Fl. ♫

Ci. ♫

Pno. ♫ = c. 104

Q

Flute in C 8" - 20" ♫ molto sul pont. tonlos

Bass Cl. in B♭ ♫ pppppp molto sul pont. tonlos

Fl. ♫ pppppp molto sul pont. tonlos

Cl. ♫ pppppp molto sul pont. tonlos

Pno. ♫

D' = c. 60

Fl. ♫

Cl. ♫

Pno. ♫

Q

Flute in C 8" - 20" explore the liminality between breathy tone and whistletones

Bass Cl. in B♭ breathy, almost tonlos

Fl. ♫ pppppp

Cl. ♫ pppppp

Pno. ♫

E = c. 32

one extremely slow gliss together with strings

Fl. ♫ pppppp

Cl. ♫ pppppp

Pno. ♫

Repeat 2x. In that time, strings will make 1 long glissando on 1 string.

extremely slow glissando by pressing a hard round plastic object (e.g. handle of a screwdriver) onto strings very near bridge and sliding it slowly upwards on the string by about 5 cm, this shortening the resonating part of strings

poco accel. poco decel.

pp

Strings: 1 extremely slow glissando on 1 string till Piano finishes

sul G

Q

Flute in C 8" - 20" ♫ molto sul pont. tonlos

Bass Cl. in B♭ ♫ pppppp molto sul pont. tonlos

Fl. ♫ pppppp molto sul pont. tonlos

Cl. ♫ pppppp molto sul pont. tonlos

Pno. ♫

sul C

sul C

sul C

sul C

F ♩ = c. 160 for everyone except Viola

Pno. scrape strings with edge of credit card

G ♩ = c. 56 for everyone

Keyboard sample G

F

Repeat 3x spiccato

Repeat 3x

Repeat 3x spiccato

♩ = c. 120

Repeat 2x détaché

Repeat 5x

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

G

Repeat the cycle 2x repeat 2x repeat 2x Repeat 10x

repeat 4x

Repeat 8x seagull (keep 4th finger in same position) sul taste

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

F' ♩ = 80 - 88

Repeat 6x

Piccolo

Fl.

Cl. in E♭

Cl.

sff right hand ♩ = c. 112

ff sff sff sff

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

G' ♩ = c. 56

Repeat material for the duration of the sound file

Flute in C

Bass Cl.

p

Keyboard sample G'

F' ♩ = 80 - 88

Repeat cycle 3x détaché

simile, spiccato

f flautando

sul D spiccato

sul A détaché

G' ♩ = c. 56

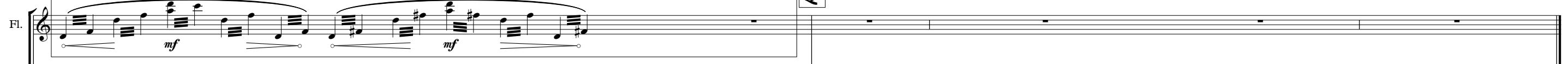
Repeat insistently but irregularly with slightly different intonation, like a bird calling

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

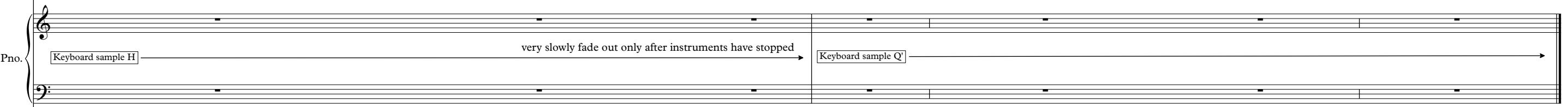
H $\text{♩} = \text{c. 56}$

Repeat material for at least 60"

Flute in C

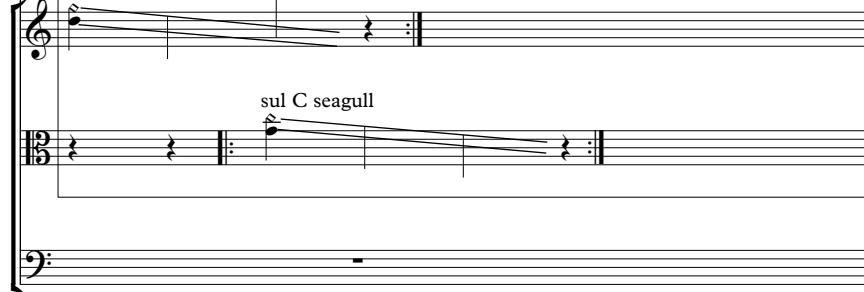


Cl.

**H** $\text{♩} = \text{c. 56}$

Repeat material for at least 60"

sul G seagull

**Q'** $\text{♩} = \text{c. 56}$

10"

20"

30"

pizz.

arco

*p**ppppp**ppppp*