Full Score

Flight

tor narrator, three actors and ensemble 1990

to a text by Jonathan Fenton

A Note on its Original Performance

This version of *Flight* was conceived for the actors and musicians of the Guildhall Ensemble, which gave the work's world première on June 1, 1990. In this performance, musicians acted the parts of the shepherds, Minos played the Tenor Saxophone in Bb, Mission Control played Flute 2, Pasiphae played percussion and the composer played Synthesizer II and the suspended cymbal. This following score is the one used for the Guildhall Ensemble production and for the recording of *Flight*.

Certain parts of the first performance of *Flight* also incorporated music improvised by members of the ensemble under the supervision of the composer:

Part 1, Bar 141: Clarinet

Piano, Synthesizer I

Part 2, Bars 26-63: Percussion

Part 2, Bars 27-130: Clarinet, Piano, Synthesizer I, Violin, Violoncellos

11 & III

Part 2, Bars 134-156: Piano, Suspended Cymbals, Oboe, Synthesizer I

Part 2, Bars 213-216: Pasiphae (singing), Flute, Violin

Part 2, Bars 219-223: Pasiphae (singing), Flute, Violin

There are also sections of *Flight* where the conductor's beat is marked throughout the bar and the players asked to match their music to it in a fluid way (eg Part 1, bars 37-39) or where gestures in the music are indicated in a graphic way (ie Part 2, bars 138-139).

At the moment I am preparing a new version of *Flight*, filling out certain of the improvised passages and taking the opportunity to reorchestrate the music for a more standard instrumental line-up. Here are the players of the Guildhall ensemble for the first performance of *Flight*:

John Miles

Minos :

+ Tenor Saxophone, Percussion

Ismail Taylor-Kamara

Daedalus

Marcina Arnold

lcarus

+ Gato Drum, Didgeridoo

Sally Adams

Chorus

Philippa Gibson

Mission Contol

+ Flute, Percussion

Andrea Groves

Pasiphae

+ Drum Kit

Andrew Cruickshank

Shepherd 1

+ Doublebass, Percussion

Gertrude Le Tourneau

Shepherd 2 + Flute

Claudia Tacke

Shepherd 3

+ Violoncello III

Susannah Hunt

Oboe

Nick Hayes

Clarinet in Bb

Naheed Shaikh

Bassoon, Percussion

Donald Manson

Tenor Trombone, Percussion

Anthony George

Tuba, Percussion

Joanna Woolgar

Piano

Jacqueline Turner

Synthesizer 1

Martyn Harry

Synthesizer 2, Percussion

Jacqueline Walduck

Vibrphone, Percussion

Lucy Waterhouse

Violin

Laura Fairhurst

Violoncello I

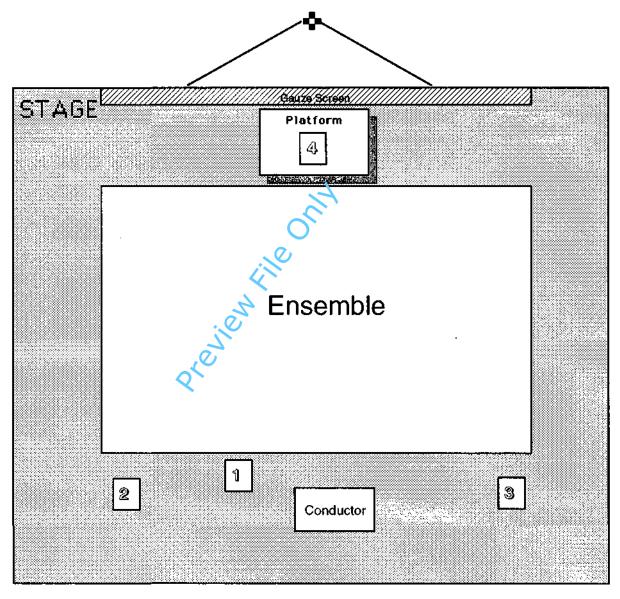
Kate Shortt

Violoncello II

Peter Wiegold

Conductor

Suggested Staging

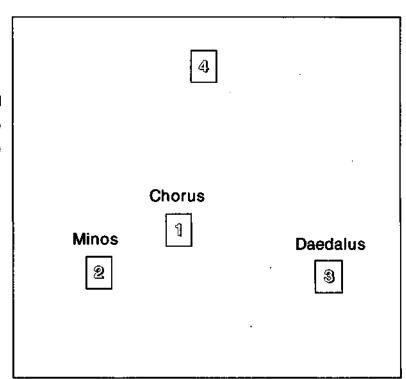


There are four microphones, marked 1, 2, 3 and 4. Microphones 2, 3 and 4 should ideally be cordless, so that they can be removed easily from their stands. Microphone 4 is placed on a platform high enough for Icarus to be seen easily above the orchestra. Behind Icarus is a gauze screen, upon which images can be projected from behind.

Trial

Part 1, Bars 1-109

Chorus takes 1, Minos 2 and Daedalus 3. Icarus prepares to take 2 for the beginning of the Labyrinth scene.



Minos:

Daedalus, how do you plead?

(No answer)

Daedalus, how do you plead?

(No answer)

It doesn't matter. This coud has no real interest in the defendent's opinion of his guilt or the guilt of his son.

You aided a sexual liaison built a prison that's not all

Long ago you killed a boy not unlike your son.

Talus was your apprentice.

Do you remember?

No?

Funny thing, memory

He was your nephew.

He might have been your heir.

He wished to know

Anguish, geometry and striking ideas

The grief of the whole nation.

You took him up on the Acropolis

showed him the world promised it to him shoved him off into the void for what reward?

Can't remember? Odd thing, memory

Daedalus:

You have no jurisdiction over me

Minos:

This is the ego of the artist

ladies and gentlemen the fool who believes no tyrant can still him or silence his voice

Daedalus:

But the only crime alleged took place in Athens ...

Minos:

Even in Crete you committed crimes every day of your life.

How many times

did you hear someone cry and not look for them?

How many times

did you see someone missing

and not wonder

whether you'd ever see them again?

No?

Don't remember? Funny thing, memory.

Weren't you simply looking after number one?

Daedalus:

That is not a crime.

Minos:

It is when you are on trial.

Daedalus:

I protest!

Minos:

You are accused of not protesting.

Daedalus:

To whom could I have protested?

Minos:

To me.

It is the opinion of this court that you may be a murderer that you have connived

in the disappearance of your colleagues and friends

and that chiefly you helped Zeus fuck my wife!

And the sins of the fathers will fall on the sons.

The judge's decision is final.

Remove them.

Chorus:

Daedalus and Icarus are locked in the Labyrinth.

Minos:

The greatest craftman of his age

he built for me

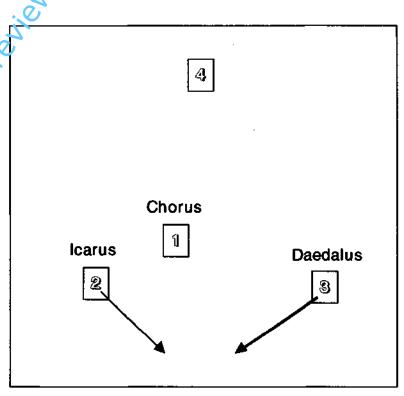
the Minos Memorial Maze

A world of a maze the labyrinth.

Labyrinth

Part 1, Bars 109-148

During the extended ensemble cadenza of bar 148, Icarus and Daedalus take 2 and 3 from their stands and move front stage to their positions for "Leavetaking and Takeoff".



Icarus:

There is so much

you never told me

Daedalus:

Trapped in a maze

of my own devising

Icarus:

You are my father

I have no mother

Daedalus:

Talus

so much you never told me

if you loved me

you never reminded me

never

lcarus:

Who was Talus?

Daedalus:

He was young like you

my apprentice gifted, very gifted

he met with an accident

Icarus:

He fell from the roof?

Daedalus:

He was looking at the city

at the world.

He fell ...

Icarus:

He fell? Father? He fell?

Daedalus:

From the roof.

(to Icarus)

I won't make you an artist. I won't train you up. It's too personal a matter. Being an artist should be raw and dangerous. And underneath the lies an artist should believe in something – something extremely subversive.

You don't. It makes you a nicer person.

Don't be greedy for it. Why stand up to be counted by the innumerate?

Icarus:

I don't understand ...

Daedalus:

In the meantime, well, we'd better get out of here fast. And I have a plan.

We'll be free in one bound, and we'll fly.

Chorus:

Daedalus stole beeswax and made the bees mad

He lured down birds and took their feathers

At noon he made two sets of beautiful wings

One for himself one for his son

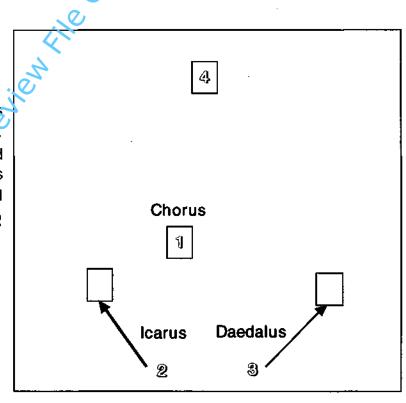
Wrought wonderfully sun shimmering light

The colours of every bird dancing within them

Leavetaking and Takeoff

Part 2, Bars 1-108

After bar 33 Icarus and Daedalus return 2 and 3 to their stands. Icarus moves backstage and stands by the platform. Daedalus stays by 3 to become Shepherd 2. Shepherd 1 moves to 2 between 98 and 108.



Daedalus:

Don't fly up to the sun

Stay away from him

Take care Fly low

Under the radar

Take care Don't explore

Be content

With just escaping

Take care

Remember the rocks

Poseidon and his Tridents and the wrath of God.

lcarus:

These things will be in my heart

The early sun in my heart

So let's leave
And rise up
Like the dead
Like the morning

Chorus:

In the early hours

they hovered over the walls

and began to look out for thermals.

A watchman

on a roof saw them

wondered what their flight portended

A youth returning

from his mistress's house

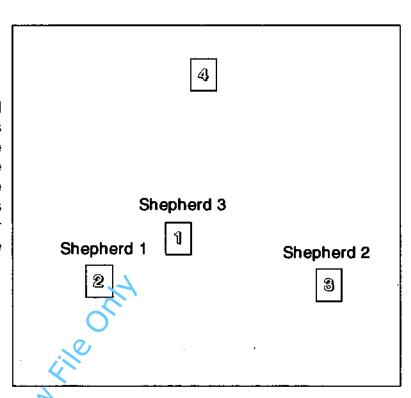
thought they were Time fleeing him.

The river grew lighter as the sun came up

and shepherds sitting in the fields saw them.

Part 2, Bars 108-131

Here Chorus becomes Shepherd 3. In bar 108 Shepherd 1 sees figures flying behind the audience. In bars 119-121 the shepherds' reactions reflect the flight path of Icarus and Daedalus from behind the audience over towards the orchestra the backstage. bars 126-131 In Icarus moves to 4.



Shepherd I: Is it a bird, is it a plane?

Shepherd 2: He's off again.

Shepherd 1: No. Really. Up there.

Shepherd 3: They're angels.

I've seen them before.

Shepherd I: They're the future.

All: A triumph over nature

the bonds of earth broken forever dropping away

Shepherd 3: There they are

Shepherd 2: There they go

Shepherd 3: Hoil

Shepherd I: Were they Gods?

Shepherd 3: If they were

they were deaf Gods

Shepherd 2: I can hardly see them

Shepherd 3: They've gone

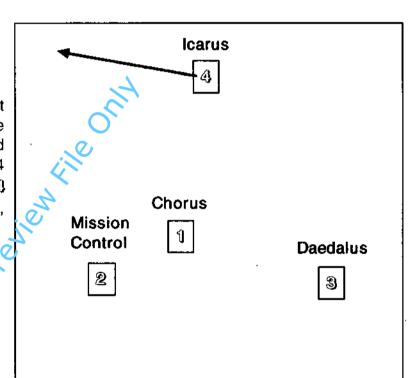
(long pause)

Shepherd I: What shall we do now?

Space

Part 2, Bars 132-213

All three shepherds remain at their microphones to become Mission Control, Daedalus and Chorus respectively. In bar 204 Icarus leaves the platform with 4 to sing Pasiphae at bar 213, unseen by the audience.



Icarus:

Light

Apollo

the blue fades to black

the black to -

Earth
Mother?
Too small
a coloured ball
indescribable

Have I left my body behind?

It's fantastic

flying like dreaming

Out there the Sun, out there the real

Apollo

warming the hull

Mission Control: Hell, we're proud of you report your readings

lift off confirmed

This is Mission Control don't forget to eat

and don't forget to sleep

The president would like to say

hello

Icarus:

Let me be

but there is no day

there is no light

Only stars no words

the book of stars with no beginning

Mission Control: Ground control to Major Tom We've sold the movie rights

The general would like to say hello

but he's busy right now

We think the world of you

Icarus:

I'm the beginning the first word without me here it's not beautiful

No-one has been here no-one has seen this it's turning already busy forgetting me

Daedalus:

This is your father speaking

keep away from the Sun

Mission

We're over the moon, here

Control:

space is an event

this is the missile

with the human warhead

One thousand monitors ten thousand telephones

one hundred thousand plastic cups

for a trip through to the Ozone

Daedalus:

Remember

Apollo's golden, hot chariot

racing up in the east behind you faster than you can possibly flee

lcarus:

No words are

simple enough No books are short enough

Mission Control:

Multiple re-entry

thrust to weight ratios

penetration aids

Marconi avionic systems

Escalation dominance

sub-holocaust engagements

electronic counter-counter-measures

circular error probable

Star wars

Polaris Jupiter Poseidon

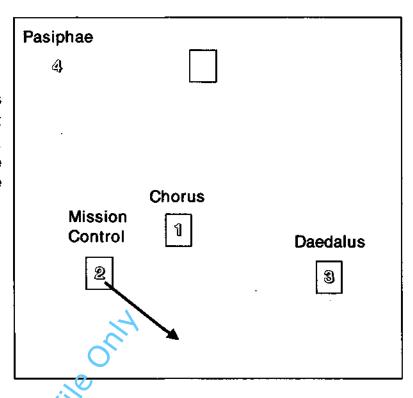
Titan Trident EF one elevens

and El Dorado Canyon

Fall and Lament

Part 2, Bars 213-223

In 221-222 Mission Control takes 2 from its stand and moves front stage to become Minos. Daedalus joins Minos front stage but does not take a microphone with him.



Chorus:

According to Breughei when Icarus fell

it was spring

a farmer was ploughing

his field

the whole pageantry

of the year was awake tingling

near

the edge of the sea

concerned with itself

sweating in the sun

that melted the wing's wax Pasiphae:

Who was his mother?

What was her name?

Where has she gone?

Chorus:

unsignificantly off the coast

there was

quite unnoticed

a splash this was

Icarus drowning

Funeral

Part 2, Bars 223-250

Minos holds the microphone like an interviewer for Daedalus to speak.

a a		
	Minos Daedalus	3

Minos:

The air corps is an elite

like artists

Each an explorer and innovator

They take Life in their hands

like philosophers

And plough the lands with lights and fires

God bless

the helmeted airman

Finding his way to God through the crystal spheres

Daedalus:

I know well

the pathos of music the wide vistas of art

Right now I need neither

I should be as pigin as a small song with wide eyes

Minos:

The artist must be as solitary (to Daedalus) as the swan whose mate has died.

Images rise up before his eyes all the time.

Store them.

They must not be allowed to pass away like dreams in the mists of the morning.

End.

Suggested Video Imagery

For the original production, video imagery was conceived for the Space sequence, to be projected behind learns and this aspect has been kept in the present staging. If no video is available, then learns should at least be lit up from backstage to form a striking visual image.

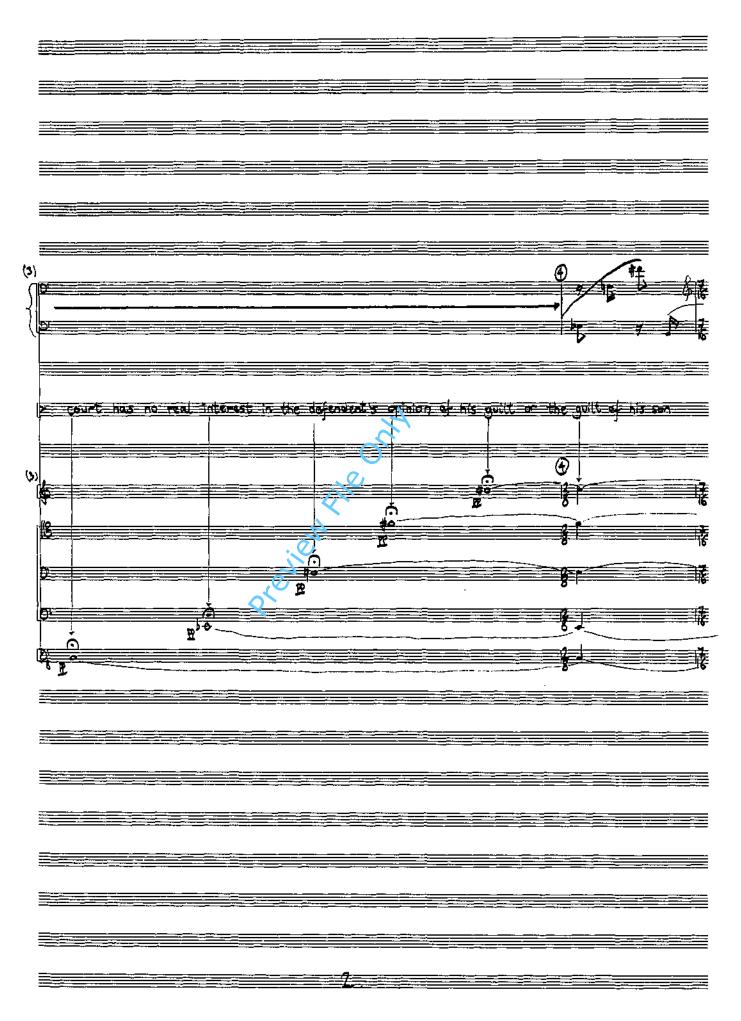
However, if video is available, then it could be extended discretely to form the backdrop of the whole piece. It should clearly follow the sections of the piece in both subject matter and general timing:

1)	Trial	00'00" - 04'45"
2)	Labyrinth	04'45" - 08'00"
3)	Leavetaking and Takeoff	08'00" - 10'30"
4)	Flight	10'30" - 12'50"
5)	Space	12'50" - 16'50"
6)	Fall and Lament	16'50" – 18'35"
7)	Funeral March	18'35" – 21'15"
	(Total time c. 21'15")	

These timings are only approximate and are based on the Guildhall Ensemble recording. For this reason a certain leeway should be built in with gradual transitions between the sections.

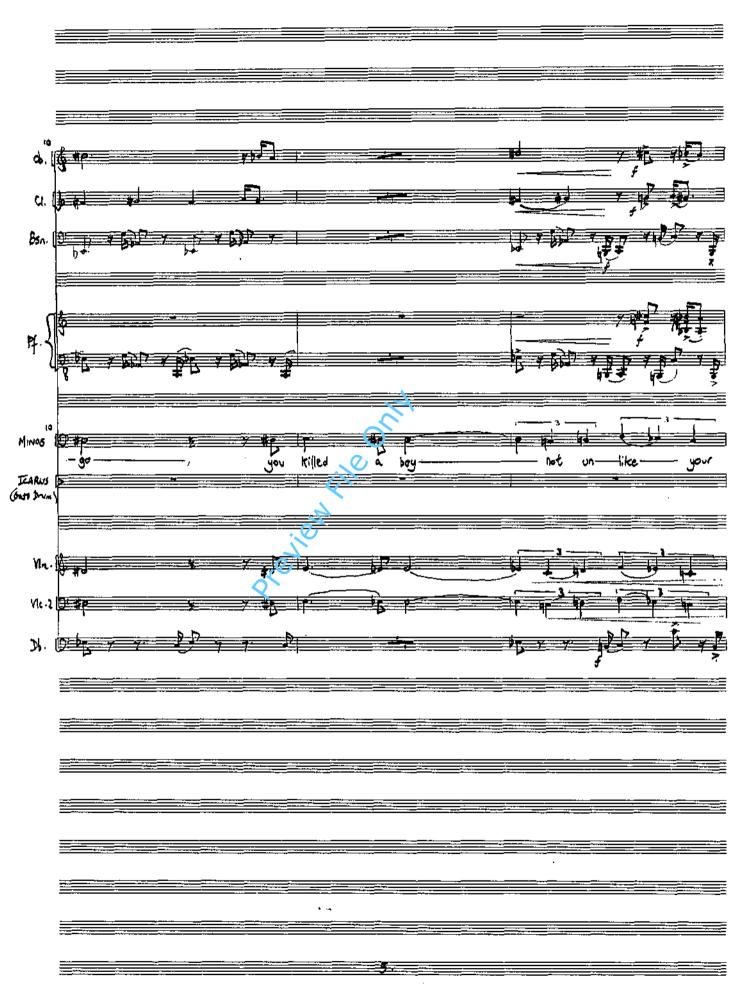
The only limitation on the video material imposed by the staging is the necessity for Icarus to mount the platform discretely in Part 2, bars 126-131. For this reason, the video at this point should be reasonably dark (perhaps based on the image of the night sky that the shepherds are describing) so as to present a definite contrast to the beginning of Space: "Light!"

Martyn Harry 3/1994

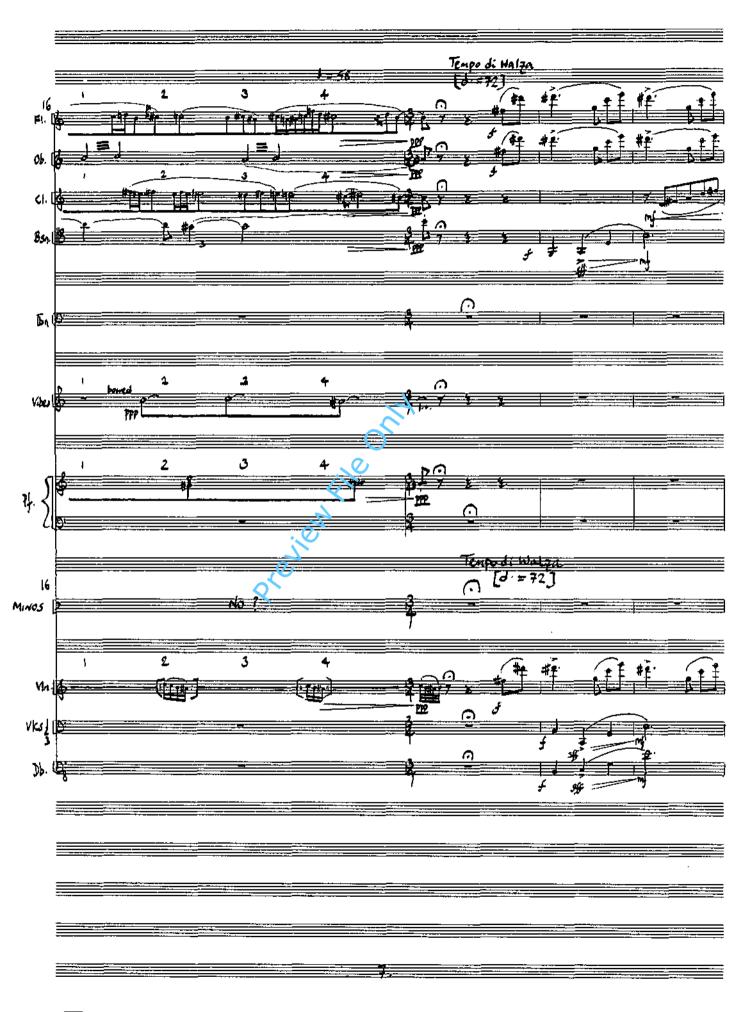










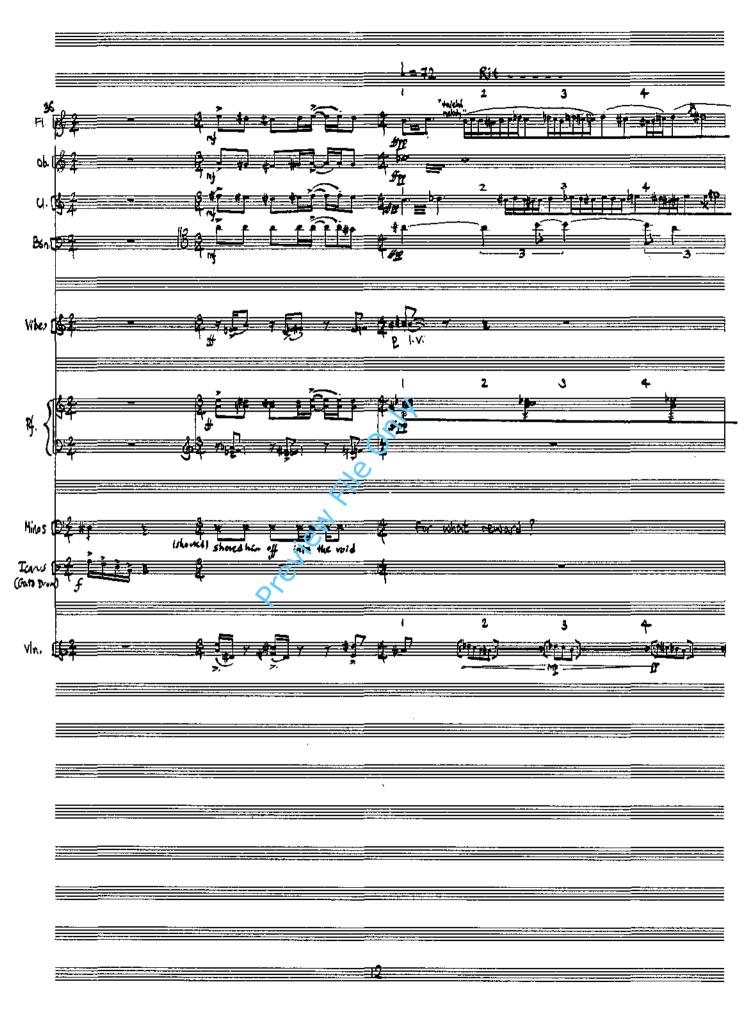




























Conductor: we wind chards from dialogue - Piano + Percussione cues re parts

