

# LIMBO

*Commissioned by the Manchester University Music Society*

composed by  
**James Keirle**

Composed for:

Solo Marimba

10 Bb clarinets (parts 1,3,8 and 10 also have kick bass drums)  
and 2 Bb Bass Clarinets

Programme note:

Limbo: A state of non-existence, uncertainty, neglection, abandonment, waiting. It is neither heaven nor hell.

Performance Notes:

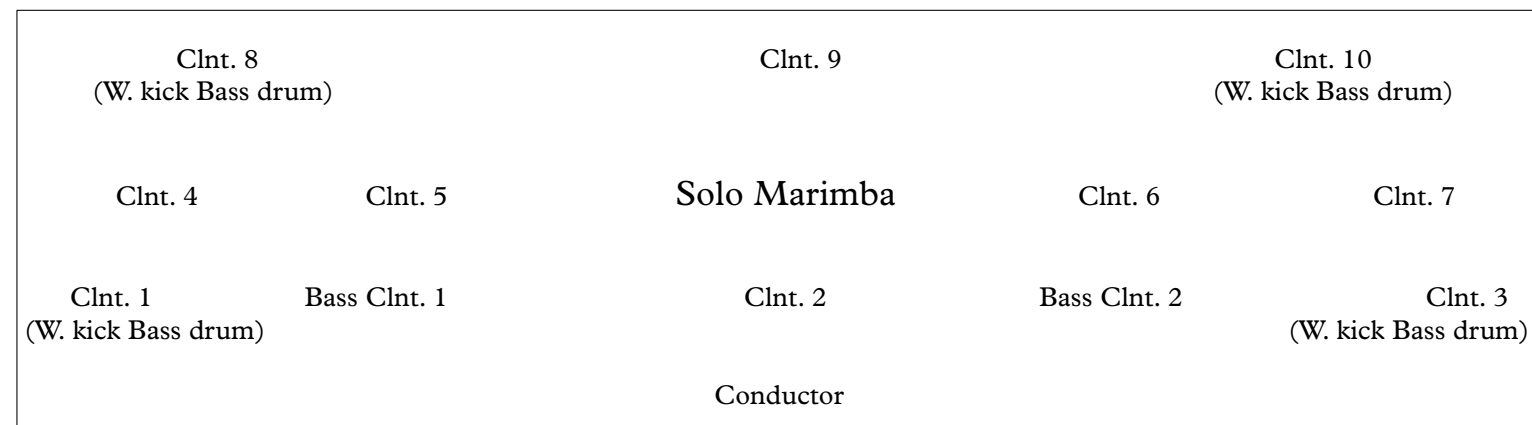
1. Coordination between parts is not necessary unless specified. Each player has specific tempos, articulations and entries that will often conflict with others.
2. Rests with specified time lengths are approximate only. Players do not require stopwatches, inaccuracies will not affect the success of the piece. Simply count approximate lengths and enter.
3. Boxed notation indicates players should repeat material in the box until cued to continue.
4. For Bb Clarinet parts 1,3,8 and 10, Crossed notehead notation indicates a bass drum kick.
5. Glisses in the Bb Clarinet parts are done by sliding fingers on and off of keys.
5. Semi-brieve rests with pauses do not denote exact timings, merely that the player does not play for a while and should refer to cues for their next entry.
6. Score is at transposed pitch.

Conductor's note:

The role of the conductor is intentionally limited although crucial at specific times that are listed below:

1. The first time he is needed for direct corrdination is at D where he conducts parts 1,3,4, and Bass clarinet 1 in a quartet. Everyone else should ignore them here.
2. Also the pause before E which should be held as long as the conudctor would like, and then brought off.
3. The subsequent entry after the 25 seconds of silence should be marked.
4. The next marked entry are is the brieve and marimba entry roughly 8 beats before H.
5. Finally, he is responsible for the cut-off after the bass drum frenzy at I and the final entry after the last 3 second pause.

Stage  
Plan:



# LIMBO

James Keirle

Ethereal ♩ = 57

Solo Marimba

Clarinet 1 with Kick Bass Drum

Clarinet 2

Clarinet 3 with Kick Bass Drum

Clarinet 4

Clarinet 5

Clarinet 6

Clarinet 7

Clarinet 8 with Kick Bass Drum

Clarinet 9

Clarinet 10 with Kick Bass Drum

Bass Clarinet 1

Bass Clarinet 2

**Ethereal** ♩ = 57  
Repeat until Bass Clarinet flourish, exploring the dynamics *pp-mp* at will

ca. 15" 6"

ca. 45" 8"

ca. 35"

ca. 10" 6"

ca. 25" 5"

ca. 50"

All as above

Mar. {

Cl.1+Bd

Cl.2

Cl.3+Bd

Cl.4

Cl.5

Cl.6

Cl.7

Cl.8+Bd

Cl.9

Cl.10+Bd

B. Cl.1

B. Cl.2

*mp* *mf*

3 3

ca. 15"

*p* *mf*

Mar. {

Cl.1+Bd 4" silence ca. 20"

Cl.2 4" silence

Cl.3+Bd 4" silence ca. 30"

Cl.4 4" silence As before 3"

Cl.5 4" silence

Cl.6 4" silence

Cl.7 4" silence

Cl.8+Bd 4" silence ca. 15" 3"

Cl.9 4" silence

Cl.10+Bd 4" silence ca. 6" 4"

B. Cl.1 3 *f*

B. Cl.2 3 *p* *sf*

Mar. {

Cl.1+Bd

Cl.2

Cl.3+Bd

Cl.4

Cl.5

Cl.6

Cl.7

Cl.8+Bd

Cl.9

Cl.10+Bd

B. Cl.1

B. Cl.2

Bass drum, steadily, just audible

*mp*

2"

4"

5"

10"

10"

10"

10"

10"

Hold until end of bass clarinet line  
breath when necessary

*poco vib*

(On Bass Clarinet cue)

*p* *f*

*p* *f*

A

Mar.

A

Cl.1+Bd *mp-mf*

Cl.2 *mp-mf*

Cl.3+Bd Hold until Clarinet 4 entry   
*mp-mf*

Cl.4 *mp-mf*   
 Hold until Clarinet 4 entry

Cl.5 *mp-mf*

Cl.6 *mp-mf*

Cl.7 *mp-mf*

Cl.8+Bd Hold until Clarinet 4 entry

Cl.9 *mp-mf*

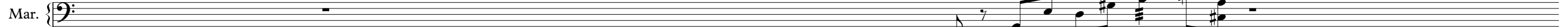
Cl.10+Bd Hold until Clarinet 4 entry

B. Cl.1

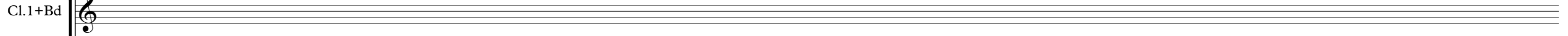
B. Cl.2 *p*

15" after clarinet 8 enters

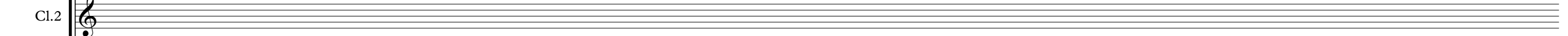
20"

Mar. 

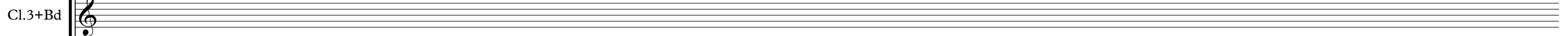
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 4" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

Cl.1+Bd 

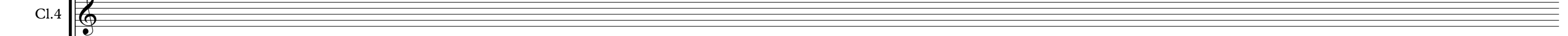
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 11" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

Cl.2 

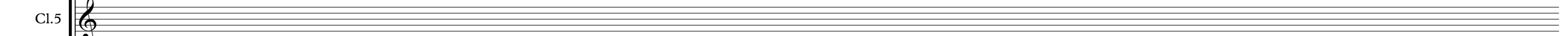
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 10" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

Cl.3+Bd 

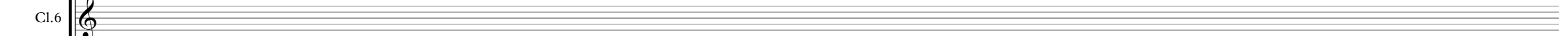
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 7" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

Cl.4 

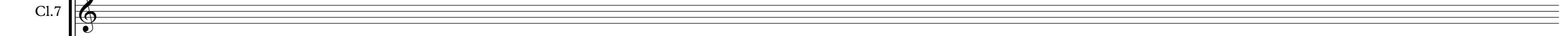
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 6" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

Cl.5 

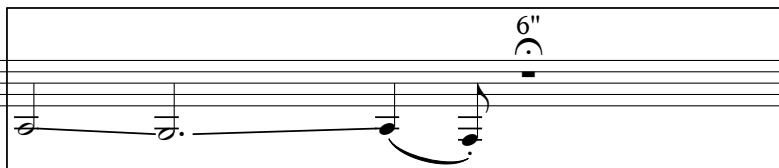
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 5" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

Cl.6 

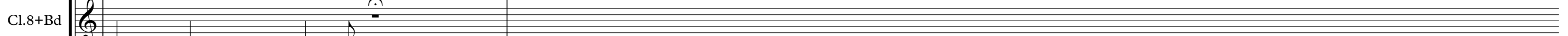
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 10" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

Cl.7 

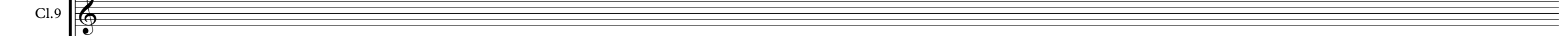
*mp-mf*



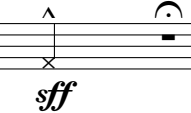
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 4" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

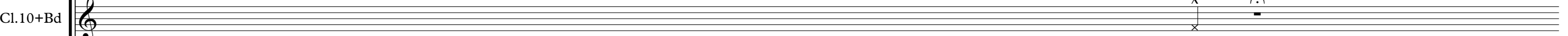
Cl.8+Bd 

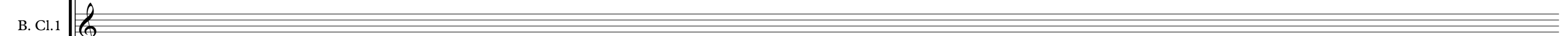
Stop when you hear the Marimba,  
Resume 9" after the bass drum *pp-mp*

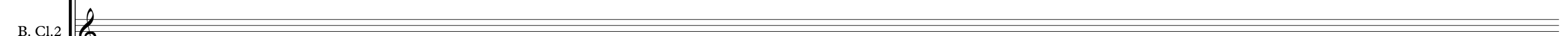
Cl.9 

Bass drum,

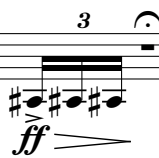


Cl.10+Bd 

B. Cl.1 

B. Cl.2 



Mar. 

Cl.1+Bd

Cl.2

Cl.3+Bd

Cl.4


Cl.5

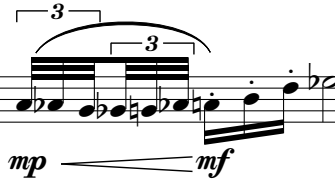
Cl.6


Cl.7

Cl.8+Bd

Cl.9

Cl.10+Bd 

B. Cl.1 

B. Cl.2 

*ff*

*pp-mp*

*mp* *mf*

*p* *mf*

3

5

3

3

10"

**B**

Mar.

Musical notation for the Marimba part, featuring a treble and bass clef. It includes a triplet of eighth notes in the bass line and a five-note melodic line in the treble line.

**B**

Cl.1+Bd

Musical notation for Clarinet 1 and Bass Drum, showing a treble clef and a single note with an accent and dynamic marking.

*sf*

Stop with the marimba entry

Cl.2

Cl.3+Bd

Musical notation for Clarinet 3 and Bass Drum, showing a treble clef and a single note with an accent and dynamic marking.

*sf*

continue through marimba this time, but drop to Pianissimo

Cl.4

Musical notation for Clarinet 4, showing a treble clef and a melodic line with a dynamic marking.

Detailed musical notation for Clarinet 4, showing a treble clef, a melodic line with a dynamic marking, and a measure with a 3-measure rest.

Cl.5

Musical notation for Clarinet 5, showing a treble clef and a melodic line with a dynamic marking.

continue through marimba this time, but drop to Pianissimo

Cl.6

Musical notation for Clarinet 6, showing a treble clef and a melodic line with a dynamic marking.

Stop with the marimba entry

Cl.7

Musical notation for Clarinet 7, showing a treble clef and a melodic line with a dynamic marking.

continue through marimba this time, but drop to Pianissimo

Detailed musical notation for Clarinet 7, showing a treble clef, a melodic line with a dynamic marking, and a measure with a 5-measure rest.

Cl.8+Bd

Musical notation for Clarinet 8 and Bass Drum, showing a treble clef and a single note with an accent and dynamic marking.

Bass drum

*sf*

Stop with the marimba entry

Cl.9

♩=120, rhythmically,  
Prominent tongue

Musical notation for Clarinet 9, showing a treble clef and a melodic line with a dynamic marking.

Cl.10+Bd

Musical notation for Clarinet 10 and Bass Drum, showing a treble clef and a single note with an accent and dynamic marking.

*sf*

B. Cl.1

Musical notation for Bass Clarinet 1, showing a treble clef and a melodic line with dynamic markings.

*p* < *f* *p* < *f*

B. Cl.2

Musical notation for Bass Clarinet 2, showing a bass clef and a melodic line with a dynamic marking.

*f*

*ff*

Mar.

Cl.1+Bd

Cl.2

Cl.3+Bd

Cl.4

Cl.5

Cl.6

Cl.7

Cl.8+Bd

Cl.9

Cl.10+Bd

B. Cl.1

B. Cl.2

$\text{♩} = 57$ , deliberate

*mf*

*f* *p*

Deliberately

$\text{♩} = 120$ , rhythmically, Prominent tongue

*p*

Deliberately

$\text{♩} = 120$ , rhythmically, Prominent tongue

*p*

$\text{♩} = 120$ , rhythmically, Prominent tongue

*p*

$\text{♩} = 120$ , rhythmically, Prominent tongue

*p*

**C** ♩=168, Articulated, unrelenting

The second time, the clarinets will grow to fortissimo. After a long pause, the conductor will take off the clarinets. Stop here regardless of your position in the repeat.

Mar.

**C**

Cl.1+Bd

Cl.2

Cl.3+Bd

Cl.4

Cl.5

Cl.6

Cl.7

♩=120, rhythmically,  
Prominent tongue

Cl.8+Bd

Cl.9

Cl.10+Bd

B. Cl.1

B. Cl.2

**D**

Mar.

**D** ♩=57 Conducted, lilting malevolently

Cl.1+Bd

*mf*

Stop at conductor's pause

Cl.2

Cl.3+Bd

♩=57 Conducted, lilting malevolently

*mf*

Cl.4

♩=57 Conducted, lilting malevolently

*mf*

Cl.5

Stop at conductor's pause

Cl.6

Cl.7

Cl.8+Bd

Stop at conductor's pause

Cl.9

Stop at conductor's pause

Cl.10+Bd

Stop at conductor's pause

B. Cl.1

♩=57 Conducted, lilting malevolently

*mf*

B. Cl.2

Stop at conductor's pause

**E**

ca. 25"  $\text{♩}=57$ , Forcefully

Mar.

$\text{♩}=57$  slap note with hands, unrelenting

Parts are brought in by the conductor here

**E**

ca. 25"  $\text{♩}=57$ , Forcefully

*pp*

Cl.1+Bd

Cl.2

Cl.3+Bd

Cl.4

Cl.5

Cl.6

Cl.7

Cl.8+Bd

Cl.9

Cl.10+Bd

B. Cl.1

B. Cl.2

more movement ( $\text{♩}=68$ )  
solo, mysteriously

*p*

*mp*

*p*

A technical diagram showing a sequence of notes on a staff, representing a 'slap note with hands, unrelenting' technique. The notes are beamed together and include various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals).

**F**

Interject with soft stick  
marimba mallet in right hand

Mar.

Musical notation for Marimba (Mar.) in bass clef. It features a melodic line starting with a piano (*p*) dynamic and a fermata. An arrow points to the right, indicating a continuation of the line.

**F**

more movement (♩=68)  
mysteriously

Cl.1+Bd

Musical notation for Cl.1+Bd in treble clef. It features a melodic line with dynamics *sff*, *p*, and *mp*. A fermata is present over the first measure. The dynamic *mf* is indicated at the end of the line.

Cl.2

Musical notation for Cl.2 in treble clef, currently blank.

Cl.3+Bd

Musical notation for Cl.3+Bd in treble clef, currently blank.

Cl.4

Musical notation for Cl.4 in treble clef, currently blank.

Cl.5

Musical notation for Cl.5 in treble clef, currently blank.

Cl.6

Musical notation for Cl.6 in treble clef, currently blank.

Cl.7

Musical notation for Cl.7 in treble clef, currently blank.

Cl.8+Bd

Musical notation for Cl.8+Bd in treble clef, currently blank.

Cl.9

Musical notation for Cl.9 in treble clef. It features a melodic line with a piano (*pp*) dynamic and a triplet of eighth notes.

Cl.10+Bd

Musical notation for Cl.10+Bd in treble clef, currently blank.

B. Cl.1

Musical notation for B. Cl.1 in treble clef. It features a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *p*, and *mp*. Performance markings include "Passionately" and "Sighing".

B. Cl.2

Musical notation for B. Cl.2 in bass clef. It features a melodic line with a piano (*pp*) dynamic.

Mar.

Cl. 1+Bd

Cl. 2

Cl. 3+Bd

Cl. 4

Cl. 5

Cl. 6

Cl. 7

Cl. 8+Bd

Cl. 9

Cl. 10+Bd

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

Passionately

Sighing

Return to ♩=57, unrelenting

more movement (♩=68) mysteriously

more movement (♩=68) mysteriously

more movement (♩=68) mysteriously

Passionately

Return to ♩=57, unrelenting

*p* *f* *mp* *pp* *sff* *p* *mf* *p* *f* *mp* *sff* *mf* *p*



G

This chord is conducted

Mar.

G

This chord is conducted

Cl.1+Bd

5

p

Breathe when necessary,  
change note at will

Cl.2

Return to ♩=57, unrelenting

*sfp*

Cl.3+Bd

p

p

Cl.4

*sfp*

Passionately

Cl.5

more movement (♩=68)  
mysteriously

p

mp

mf

p

Passionately

f

more movement (♩=68)  
solo, mysteriously

Cl.6

p

mp

p

mp

Passionately

f

Cl.7

Breathe when necessary

Cl.8+Bd

Sighing

mp

p

*sfp*

Breathe when necessary

*sfp*

Cl.9

p

3

f

mp

p

Passionately

Cl.10+Bd

Passionately

f

mp

p

Breathe when necessary

B. Cl.1

mp

mf

f

*sfp*

Breathe when necessary

B. Cl.2

p

mf

p

*sfp*

*sfp*

**H**

Mar. *f* =57, Playfully

**H**

Cl.1+Bd *ff* 5 fast crescendo and diminuendo to fortissimo at random

Cl.2 *pp* (< *ff* >)

Cl.3+Bd 5 fast crescendo and diminuendo to fortissimo at random

Cl.4 *pp* (< *ff* >)

Cl.5 Sighing *p* *pp*

Cl.6 *mp* Sighing *p* *pp*

Cl.7 fast crescendo and diminuendo to fortissimo at random *pp* (< *ff* >)

Cl.8+Bd fast crescendo and diminuendo to fortissimo at random *pp* (< *ff* >)

Cl.9 fast crescendo and diminuendo to fortissimo at random *p* *pp* (< *ff* >)

Cl.10+Bd fast crescendo and diminuendo to fortissimo at random *p* *pp* (< *ff* >)

B. Cl.1 *pp* (< *ff* >)

B. Cl.2

**I**

Mar. *fff* as loud as possible

Parts are brought in by the conductor here

Cl. 1 + Bd *ff*

Bass drum frenzy as soon as marimba stops play rhythm of your choice, continue for 5"

Parts are brought in by the conductor here

Cl. 2 *fff* as loud as possible

Cl. 3 + Bd *ff*

Bass drum frenzy as soon as marimba stops play rhythm of your choice, continue for 5"

Cl. 4 *fff* as loud as possible

Cl. 5 *fff* as loud as possible

Cl. 6 *fff* as loud as possible

Cl. 7 *fff* as loud as possible

Cl. 8 + Bd *ff*

Bass drum frenzy as soon as marimba stops play rhythm of your choice, continue for 5"

Cl. 9 *fff* as loud as possible

B. Cl. 1 *fff* as loud as possible

B. Cl. 2 *fff* as loud as possible

Slowly dim to nothing in your own time