

MAJA S. K. RATKJE

# Breaking the News

Flute, Piano, Violin, Violoncello





Maja S. K. Ratkje 2010:

# Breaking the News



*written for The peärlns before swine experience  
with support from NOMUS*

The performers must get hold of a newspaper, preferably local, from the same day as the performance. It must be written in a language that is understood by at least one of the performers. English speaking news services on the net can be used if no other option.

The newspaper must be covering the following topics:  
International Politics, Sports, Culture and Environmental Politics.  
One article for each topic is chosen and prepared for the performance.  
The piece will always change according to the news of the day.

*Breaking the News* is written for Flute (+piccolo), Piano, Violin and Violoncello.  
The performers take turns in reading the articles in the performance.  
A megaphone may be used, but not for the whole piece.

The piece can be performed without amplification, but the text must be heard.



# Breaking the News

## 1. International Politics

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Make an entrance. Show the newspapers, hand them out, turn pages etc. When ready, start to play.

Flute

Piano

Violin

Tempo is calculated with the following equation:

$$\text{Tempo} = \text{number of different names in article} \times \text{number of countries involved} \times 10$$

Each time a country or ethnic group is mentioned, the reader stops and one or two of the performers (can also be the violinist) improvise something that could be taken for folk music from that region. The reader gives cue when to go on. Start always again from letter A! Make no unnecessary pause before and after intersection! When text ends, make a decrescendo till out through Coda.

Improvise with dynamics and articulations according to tempo and what is read.

**A**

If tempo  $\geq 200$ , use Piccolo Flute (8va)

### Maestoso, like a National Anthem

(From the national anthems of Belgium and Thailand.)

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*p*

*f*

*Ped.*

*Ped. ad lib.*

*molto espress.*

*f*

2

3

Play top note (high D) only if tempo  $\geq 200$  (with Piccolo Flute (8va)).  
If not, stay on low D for one quarter note.

6

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

11

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

Jump to Coda on last pass

16

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

(dim.)

Rep. x times | Coda

22

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

## Breaking the News

### 2. Sports

♩ = 100 Menuett

28

Fl. *pizz.*

*mp*

Pno. *mf*

*inside the piano, plucked, with nails or similar*

*(keep sust. pedal down)*

*con sord.*

*lightly*

*pizz.*

*p*

34 Flute player starts reading from the top of the chosen article, interrupted by playing.  
Sound almost as eager as a real sports commenter, make it a part of (as a contrast to) the music!

34

Fl.

Pno. *sempre Ped.*

*(ord.)*

Vln. *arco*

*pp*

*pizz.*

*p*

42 (stop reading)

(continue reading)

Fl. *f* *mp*

Pno. *l.v.*

Vln. *chicharra (Tango technique)* *mf* *p* *arco*

Vc. *mf* *pizz.* *p*

49

(stop reading)

Fl. *p* *f*

Pno. *l.v.*

Vln. *pizz.* *hard crush tone (no particular pitch)* *chicharra* *p* *f* *f*

Vc. *mf*

Repeat only if the article is long enough.

57

tongue ram  
(sounding pitch major seventh below)

Fl. *f*

Pno.

Vln. *senza sordino* *pitched crush tone* *arco* *mf* *5* *3*

Vc. *f*

62 (continue reading)

jet-whistle!

Fl. *ff*

Use four numbers (W, X, Y, Z) from the article and repeat each chord w, x, y and z times.  
 If no numbers or not enough numbers, repeat a chord five times.  
 Repeat till end of article and make variations with dynamics and tempo. More and more dramatic.

Phno. **W X Y Z**

Vln. *arco*  
*legato*

Vc. *mp*

Cello and violin improvise as if making a soundtrack for a cartoon with the sport mentioned in the article.  
 Continue till the end of the article.

# Breaking the News

3. Culture

**Jazz-rock** ♩ = 140

(From Rage Against the Machine, Eurovision Song Contest, Olivier Messiaen)

68 sing through the flute, "out of tune", like humming loudly to a song on headphones

Fl. *mf*

74 ♩ = 120

Fl.

Phno. *mp*  
*Red.*

Vln. *mf*  
*hard crush tone*  
*(no particular pitch)*

Vc. *mf*

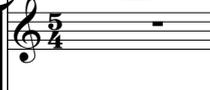
Flute player imitates the reading as accurate as possible using key-clicks and other percussive sounds on the flute. Follow and vary dynamics. Fast passages.

78

Fl. 

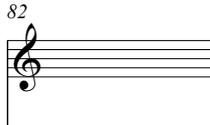
Piano starts reading from the top of article.

Pno. 

Vln. 

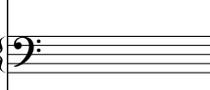
Vc. 

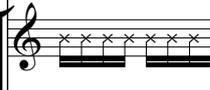
82

Fl. 

continue singing through the flute

*mf*  
(stop reading)

Pno. 

Vln. 

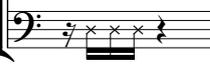
Vc. 

86

Fl. 

Pno. 

Vln. 

Vc. 

89

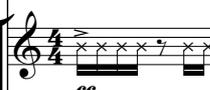
Fl. 

*ff* jet-whistle!

*ff* continue reading

Pno. 

*Red.* *l.v.*

Vln. 

*ff*

Vc. 

*ff* jet-whistle! *fl.*

Like in rap music, the flutist should repeat or say simultaneously some of the words together with the main reader (pianist).

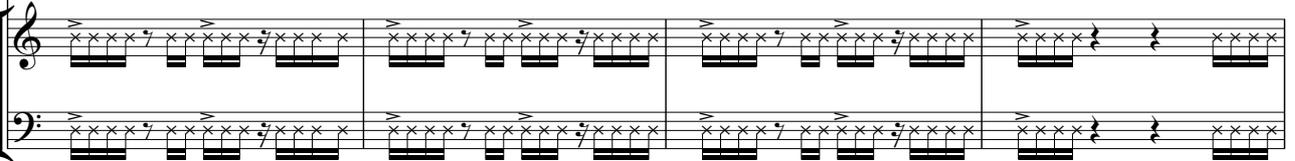
(jet-whistle!)

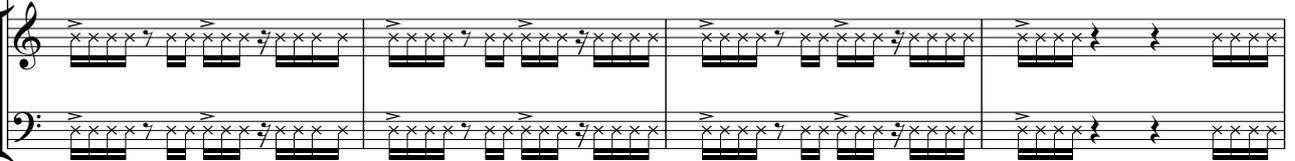
93

Fl. 

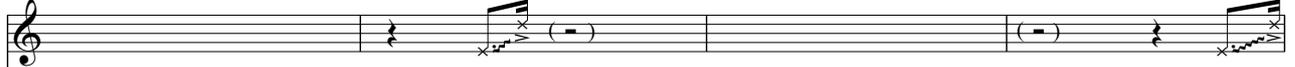
*continue reading, but take breaks when necessary in order to play correctly if the article is related to jazzmusic, let eight notes swing*

Pno. *mp*   
*Red. ad lib.*

Vln. 

Vc. 

97

Fl. 

Pno. 

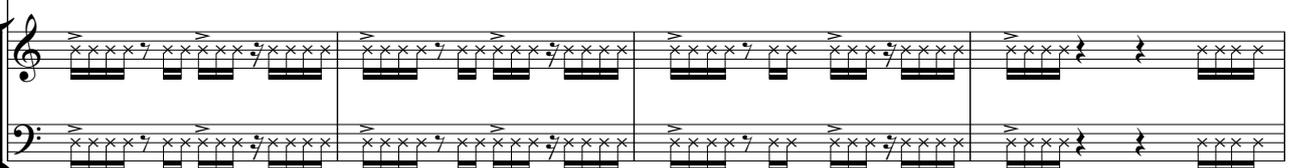
Vln. 

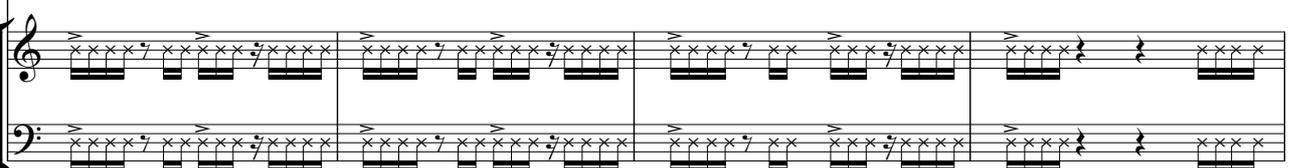
Vc. 

101

Fl. 

Pno. 

Vln. 

Vc. 

Every time a Name is mentioned by the main reader, the other musicians respond to the name by repeating it loud, can be unsynchronised. Flutist continue repeating other words as before in addition to this.

105

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

109

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

113

Rep. x times

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

117

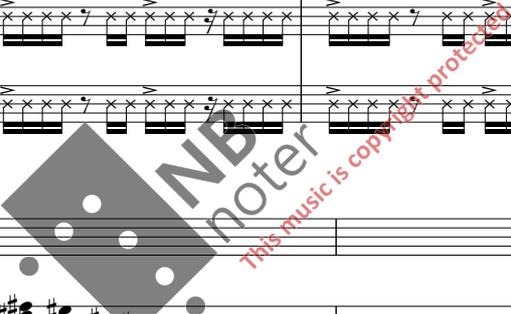
Continue when article is finished.

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.







Coda ♩ = 120

150

Fl. *mp*

Pno. *pp*

Vln. *con sord.*

Vc. *mp*

156

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

162

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

168

Fl.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*l.v.*

