

Shared moments

for double bass and tape

Håkon Thelin, 2009

In Luciano Berio's *Naturale* (about Sicilian melodies), a work for viola, percussion and recorded voice, the performers play together with prerecorded Sicilian traditional folksong. *Naturale* sparked my imagination to write *Shared moments*, where I used a similar strategy by letting the double bass play together with a recording of the Indian tabla, as well as prerecorded bass sounds. In *Shared moments* I experiment with harmonics, multiphonics and percussive techniques, and the work is composed on the basis of an intuitive approach, in which improvisation and experimentation with the playing techniques form the basis. Two different thematic sections, one being played arco and the other pizzicato, consisting of rhythmical and timbral elements are set against each other, and the material within these is varied and developed as the piece unfolds. Towards the middle of the piece, a contrasting third part emerges, which is, interacting with the tabla, represented by an adapted Indian melody. Reminiscences of the melody appear later in the piece, this time in the tape part. The process of composing *Shared moments* was more about putting together a unique soundscape than presenting the more conventional musical narratives. The recorded sounds usually functions as an additive to the acoustical sound. They alter the original sound in varying degrees, create either gradual or overlapping transformations between sounds or change completely the auditory effect. Often one does not know whether one can distinguish between the acoustic and electroacoustic tone. The intermingling and interrelated compound of (novel) sounds can perhaps broaden our perception of the double bass, and to me it certainly underpins my quest in creating a folk music for the double bass.

Playing instructions:

Equipment and set-up:

- CD player
- 2 small loudspeakers (with stands) of good quality
- Small mixer
- Cables

The loudspeakers are placed on each side, and in the height of the head, of the player. The CD is either triggered by an assistant (sound engineer) or by the player himself (on the stage). The solo double bass is not amplified (although a subtle amplification is possible if required). Anyhow, the sounds from the bass and tape should blend together, as if coming from one source.

The stopwatch must be activated so that the seconds are synchronised with the CD. The piece starts at 10 seconds, and coinciding events between the player and the tape are time-marked in the score. The player is relatively free in shaping the time between the coinciding events.

All sounds on the tape originate from the double bass, except for a tabla drum (that enters towards the middle of the piece) and a short sample of an Indian melody being played on the violin.

Explanations with examples from the score:

Time: 0.10"

Left-hand flageolet pizzicato.

Left-hand open string pizzicato.

Tempo: ♩ = ca. 60 poco rubato

Tape:

Arco Ric. → RV

SP

I II Sim.

N.b.

Arco Ric. → RV

SP

I II Sim.

cl.b.

Arco Ric.

III M.

Arco ond.

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Double bass:

mf

ca. 8"

sub. mf

ord.

ca. 8"

sub. mf

0.50"

Ricochet to rimbalzo verticale. Let the bow bounce from tasto to ponticello for about 8 seconds.

Ricochet on a multiphonics on the third string.

Hit the open string with the ebony of the tip of the bow.

These figures combine left-hand flageolet pizzicato and col-legno battuto on flageolet tones. Place thumb on string I, the first finger on string III, and pluck with the ring finger.

In all the sections marked *pizzicato sempre*, the notes in the lower stave are played by the right-hand while the left-hand plays the upper stave. Let the notes ring as much as possible.

Open string pizzicato

Percussive sound. Hit with the finger on the body of the bass.

Col-legno battuto

Flageolet pizzicato

Hammer-on

Pizz. sempre Più mosso

sempre "f"

(pizz. ottava)

Octave pizzicato

Place thumb on string and pluck with index or ring finger.

Left-hand flageolet pizzicato.

"Spazzolato". Two movements of the bow on each note.

"Spazzolato". Three movements of the bow on each note.

1.56"

Pizz. sempre Più mosso

sempre "f"

2.50"

p III T=p

II

ord. mp

T=p 3

p

Left-hand hammer-on. Imitate the sound of the tabla drum.

Move bow vertically on the third string, from ponticello to tasto. Scratch sound.

mf

sim.

Time: 0.10"

0.20"

0.30"

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Tuning: Tempo: $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 60$ Tapes

Double bass:

Arco Ric. RV SP Sim. ord. pizz. sempre Piu mosso

mf mf sub. mf mf mf

ca. 8" ca. 8" ca. 8"

0.50" 1.10" 1.17"

mp

Handwritten musical score for a 14-stave Oblong. The score is written on 14 staves, with various musical notations, dynamics, and performance instructions. The notation includes notes, rests, and fingerings. Dynamics range from *pp* (pianissimo) to *mf* (mezzo-forte). Performance instructions include *tr.* (trills), *espressivo*, *Arco Ric.* (Arco Ricordo), *Sim.* (Simile), *Arco*, *Pizz.* (Pizzicato), *Sempre Più mosso*, *Ca. 8"* (approximately 8 seconds), *Tpo 1* (Tempo 1), *Ord.* (Ordinary), *Ric.* (Ricordo), *Arco Ric. → RV* (Arco Ricordo to Ritornello), *Sp.* (Spontaneo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *pp* (pianissimo), *f* (forte), *ca. 8"* (approximately 8 seconds), *Tpo 1* (Tempo 1), *Ord.* (Ordinary), *Ric.* (Ricordo), *Arco Ric. → RV* (Arco Ricordo to Ritornello), *Sp.* (Spontaneo), *mf* (mezzo-forte), *p* (piano), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *pp* (pianissimo), *f* (forte).

14 stave Oblong
Pizzicato No. 12

Handwritten musical score for 14 staves, featuring various musical notations, dynamics, and performance instructions.

Key Performance Instructions and Dynamics:

- 2.59" (pizz)**: Pizzicato instruction at the top.
- Arco SP**: Arco (bowed) and Spiccato (spiccato) instructions.
- (harmonic gliss.)**: Harmonic glissando instruction.
- mf**: Mezzo-forte dynamic.
- mp**: Mezzo-piano dynamic.
- ST**: Staccato instruction.
- Arco ord.**: Arco ordinario (normal bowing) instruction.
- Rh. pizz**: Right hand pizzicato instruction.
- (tremolo)**: Tremolo instruction.
- (precise)**: Precise instruction.
- (harmonic gliss)**: Harmonic glissando instruction.
- Poco ST**: Poco staccato instruction.
- ord.**: Ordinato instruction.
- Sub.**: Subito instruction.
- M.**: Marcato instruction.
- 8va**: Octave up instruction.
- 8va**: Octave down instruction.
- vib.**: Vibrato instruction.
- 3**: Triplet or third measure instruction.
- 5**: Fifth measure instruction.
- 7**: Seventh measure instruction.
- 3.34"**, **(3.35")**, **(3.37")**, **(3.40")**, **(3.43")**, **(3.46")**, **(4.00")**, **(4.04")**, **(4.17")**, **(4.18")**: Time signatures or measure numbers.
- ca. 3.27"**: Approximately 3.27 seconds.
- mf**, **mp**: Dynamics repeated throughout the score.

Handwritten Notes and Annotations:

- (all glissandos are non harmonic)**: Note about glissandos.
- Pizz. ottavato**: Pizzicato ottavato instruction.
- Arco Ric.**: Arco Ricco instruction.
- Sim.**: Simile instruction.
- clb.**: Clarinet instruction.
- I III 5**: Fingering instructions.
- II**, **III**, **IV**: Measure or finger number instructions.
- mf**, **mp**: Dynamics repeated throughout the score.

Page Information:

14 stave Oblong
Pacantino Pad 12

Handwritten musical score for 14 staves. The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs. Dynamics include *mf*, *poco f*, and *molto*. Performance instructions include *vib.*, *on the beat*, *Tabla:*, *poco vib.*, *S.v.*, *molto vib.*, and *l.v.*. The score is written on 14 staves, with some staves containing multiple systems of music. A large, diagonal watermark reading "NB: no copyright protected" is visible across the middle of the page.

Sitar fades
7.23"

(chord)

Handwritten musical score for Sitar. The score is written on a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Key annotations include:

- Tpo7 (Rubato)**: Tempo marking.
- Arco**: Bowing instruction.
- Arco Ric.**: Arco Ricordo (recalling) instruction.
- Sim.**: Simile instruction.
- cl.b.**: Clarinet instruction.
- mf**: Mezzo-forte dynamic.
- p**: Piano dynamic.
- 7.29"**: Time signature or measure marker.
- Arco SP**: Arco Spontaneo instruction.
- (harmonic sliss)**: Harmonic sliss instruction.
- Sfz**: Sforzando dynamic.
- (pizz)**: Pizzicato instruction.

7.48"

Pizz sempre Più mosso

Handwritten musical score for Sitar. The score is written on a grand staff. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Key annotations include:

- sempre "f"**: Always forte dynamic.
- cl.b.**: Clarinet instruction.

Handwritten musical score for Sitar. The score is written on a grand staff. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Key annotations include:

- (pizz ottavata)**: Pizzicato ottavata instruction.
- cl.b.**: Clarinet instruction.

Handwritten musical score for Sitar. The score is written on a grand staff. It includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Key annotations include:

- cl.b.**: Clarinet instruction.

Arco

mp

Arco

II

8ba

tr.

Arco Ric.

Arco Ric → RV

Ca. 8"

Pizz (empre) Più masso

mf

tr.

9.38"

mf

tr.

9.47" (Tpa)

Arco

I 3

T=p

p

ord.

tr.

f

9.57"

tr.

10.00"

mf

Arco Ric → RV

Arco Ric → RV

(pizz)

7

(Pizz ottavato)

Handwritten musical notation on a grand staff. The first system includes a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a series of notes with fingerings (I, II, III) and a dynamic marking of *mf*. A handwritten note "Tape finished, Arco Ric → RV" is present. The second system continues the notation with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It includes a dynamic marking of *sub. mp* and a handwritten note "Pizz Sempre Più mosso".

Handwritten musical notation on a grand staff. The first system includes a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a series of notes with fingerings (IV, III, II, I) and a dynamic marking of *mf*. The second system continues the notation with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp, and a common time signature. It includes a dynamic marking of *sub. mp* and a handwritten note "Pizz Sempre Più mosso".

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