

H u m

by Scott Smallwood

for string quartet

SCOTT SMALLWOOD

HUM

(CA 9:00)

NOTES

- 1.) This piece is scored for a standard string quartet. No amplification should be used.
- 2.) Each player is contributing to an overall texture of sound. Players should listen carefully to the texture and adjust their playing intuitively in order to maximize the effectiveness of the texture and its shape. The performers should listen carefully to how the sound interacts acoustically in the space.
- 3.) All players except the cello are playing very long loops. Timing is determined by the cello, whose part is continuous (no repeats/loops). The cellist is responsible for cueing the others into each new section. Once a cue is given, all players should proceed to the next section when ready (i.e. it does not need to be abrupt, but it should happen within 10 seconds or so). Upon receiving a cue, a player does not need to complete a loop iteration before proceeding to the next section. (♩ = 60)
- 4.) Dynamic markings should be carefully heeded. In general this piece is very quiet. Vibrato should never be used except as indicated.
- 5.) This piece features an extensive amount of rhythmically-notated bow changes. These should be carefully followed. It may be useful and effective to breathe with your bowing.
- 6.) The cello part is scordatura as follows: III and IV should be tuned to octave B-flats. Thus, you will be bowing two open strings.

Hum

for string quartet

♩ = ca. 60, tempo rubato molto, ad lib

Vn I
n. vib.
ppp
continue this, or similar, until head cue from CELLO

Vn II
10-15" 20-30" 10-15"
n. vib.
ppp
repeat until head cue from CELLO

Va
n. vib., sul ponticello
repeat
continue bowing in this pattern, or similar, ad lib until head cue from CELLO
ppp p

Vc
n. vib., sempre
(III, IV)
ppp pp ppp p
CUE (ca 4') next section

A

15-20"
n. vib., col legno tratto battuto

10-15"
behind bridge (III)

repeat until head cue from CELLO (ca. 2')

10-15"
n. vib.

20-30"
extremely slow vibrato.....slowly increase speed (only a little)

repeat until head cue from CELLO (ca. 2')

repeat entire line until cue from CELLO (ca 2')

n. vib., punta d'arco

n. vib., sul ponticello

n. vib., punta d'arco

n. vib., sul ponticello

n. vib., punta d'arco

n. vib., sul ponticello

p ppp p ppp p

CUE others

(ca 2')

p pp mp

B **C**

tremolo, col legno tratto, punta d'arco → continue until head cue from CELLO

norm., n. vib, sul pont. → continue until head cue from CELLO

pp *p*

n. vib., sul tasto flautando

repeat until CELLO cue

n. vib., sul pont.

repeat until CELLO cue

pp *p* *pp*

norm., n. vib.

repeat until CELLO cue

n. vib.

repeat until CELLO cue

p *mp*

CUE others

CUE others (ca I')

mp *p*

D

norm, n. vib

pp

(\flat) (\flat) (touch harmonic occasionally) (\flat) (\flat)

continue for 60-90"
fading to nothing

n. vib., sul pont.

pp

continue for 60-90"
fading to nothing

n. vib.

p *ppp*

repeat until end (ca. 90")

CUE others

tremolo

continue tremolo for approximately 60 seconds,
increasing speed, decreasing volume, until just a whisper

(ca 90")

p *pp* *ppp*