

Thread

retuned electric guitar and ensemble
flute, clarinet, percussion, accordion, violin, and cello

Taylor Brook
2024

electric guitar
flute
clarinet in B^b
percussion
- vibraphone
- sus. cymbal
accordion
violin
cello

about *Thread*

Thread is a five-minute work for solo retuned electric guitar with flute, clarinet, percussion, accordion, violin, and cello. This piece was commissioned by Blueridge Chamber Music for their 2024 festival in Vancouver.

This work draws inspiration from the *Harold's Purple Crayon*, a 1955 children's picture book written and illustrated by Crockett Johnson. This book features a child who creates their reality by drawing simple lines and shapes with a purple crayon, taking themselves on an adventure of their own creation. For this piece I have abstracted this concept of creating a reality with unbroken line from drawing into sound. The solo guitar represents the continuous line, a thread that guides the listener throughout the piece. The instruments in the ensemble contextualize this "thread" throughout the piece by shifting the harmonic and metric terrain underfoot.

13

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Perc.

E.Gtr.

Acc.

Vln.

Vc.

pp

n

pp

n

vib.

s.vib.

ppp

pp

n

ppp

Π^7

n

19

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Perc.

E.Gtr.

Acc.

Vln.

Vc.

wound mallet (baltar green or sim.)

pp

f

p

mp

f

n

pp

p

ppp

p

ppp

p

ppp

p

s.vib.

vib.

s.vib.

vib.

s.vib.

Π^8

25

Fl. *p* *ppp* *p*

B \flat Cl. *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *n*

Perc. with bow *n* *p* (CYMBAL) wound mallet *n*

E.Gtr. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Acc. *n*

Vln. *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

vib. *s.vib.* *vib.* *s.vib.* *vib.* *s.vib.* *vib.* *s.vib.* *vib.* *ricochet s.vib.*

31

Fl. *n* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *n*

B \flat Cl. *p* *n* *mp* *pp* *p* *pp* *n*

Perc. *p* *pp* *mp* *n*

E.Gtr. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Acc. *pp* *p* *mp*

Vln. *pizz.* *mp* *arco* *n* *mp* *n*

Vc. *pizz. hand mute* *mp* *norm. I II* *arco ricochet I II* *norm.* *ppp* *mp* *n*

44

Fl. *p* *ppp*

B \flat Cl. *p* *ppp*

Perc. (CYMBAL) *n* *p* *n*

E.Gtr. *f*

Acc. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Vln. *ppp* *p* *ppp*

Vc. *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

48

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp*

B \flat Cl. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Perc. with wooden end of stick, mute with other hand *p* *mp*

E.Gtr. *pp* *mp*

Acc. *pp* *mp* *p*

Vln. *ppp* *mp*

Vc. *ppp* *mp*

52 *pizz.*

Fl. *mp*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

(VIBRAPHONE)
wound mallet (baltar green or sim.)
(deadstroke) *mp*

E.Gtr.

Acc. *p*

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

58

Fl.

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *M* *M* *mp*

Perc. (bend with second mallet)

E.Gtr.

Acc. *8va* *8va*

Vln. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *pp*

64

Fl. *mp* *pp* *f* Thread bisb.

B♭ Cl. *pp* *p* *mp* *pp* *f* bisb. slight bend up

Perc. *mp* *pp*³ (ped.) *mf* *pp*

E.Gtr. *mp* *p* *f* *ppp* 8va

Acc. *pp* *mf* *ppp* 8va

Vln. *mp* *p* *pp* *f* arco (retake bow with rhythm while glissing upwards)

Vc. *mp* *pp* *f*

70

Fl. *fp* *mf* *mp* *pp* *mf* *n* *pp* aeolian norm. aeolian

B♭ Cl. *n* *mf* *n* gradually emerge multiphonic M

Perc. *mp* *ppp*³ *p* s.vib.

E.Gtr. *pp* *mp* *p* *f* *mp* 8va vib.

Vln. *mf* *mp* *n* arco IV III

Vc. *mp* *n* III II

87

Fl. aeolian norm. aeolian

B♭ Cl. M

Perc. (CYMBAL)

E.Gtr. 5 3 3 3 8^{va} 15^{ma}

Acc.

Vln. IV III mf n pp

Vc. III II mf n pp

(♩ = ♪) = 66

93

Fl. mf > ppp

B♭ Cl. mf > ppp n mp < f > ppp p mp

Perc. l.v. mp

E.Gtr. molto sul pont. norm. molto sul pont.

Acc. mf > ppp ppp p ppp

Vln. mp > ppp pp mf

Vc. mp > ppp pp mf

98

Fl. *ppp* *p* *ppp* *ppp* *p*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *ppp* *f* *ppp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

Perc.

E.Gtr. *mp* *p* *pp* *mf*

Acc. *ppp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *ppp*

Vln. *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

Vc. *pp* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

norm. *δva* *molto sul pont.* *δva*

103

Fl. *ppp* *pp* *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *mp* *ppp* *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *ppp* *mp*

Perc. (CYMBAL) bell rim bell rim *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p*

E.Gtr. *pp* *mp* *f* *p*

Acc. *mf* *p* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vln. *mf* *pp* *p* *p*

Vc. *mf* *pp* *p* *p*

bisb. aeolian

harmonics at XII on strings 2-5

air button open close

hand mute

107

Fl. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp*

B♭ Cl. *ppp* *mp* *ppp* *mp* *M* *mf* *pp*

Perc. bell rim bell rim *ppp* *p* *ppp* *p* *pp* *mf* *mf* *mp*

E.Gtr. *f* *15^{ma}* *8^{va}*

Acc. open *mp* *pp* close *mp* *pp* open *f* close *pp* open *pp*

Vln. *p* *p* *mf*

Vc. *p* *p* *mf*

(VIBRAPHONE)

take cluster of 15-20 bow hairs and weave under the 6th string

111

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Perc. *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

E.Gtr. *ppp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Acc. close *mp* *pp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *p* *poco* *poco*

Vln. *pp* *mp*

Vc. *pp* *mp*

spicc.

12
115

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Perc.

E.Gtr.

Acc.

Vln.

Vc.

Thread

ppp

gradually emerge multiphonic

n

mf

gradually add higher strings

shift bow hairs up neck
bring out upper harmonics

f

poco

poco

mf > *ppp*

pp

mf

ppp

arpeggiate randomly and rapidly
very high harmonics

p

p

IV⁸ III⁸ I⁸
15^{ma}

IV⁷ III⁷ I⁷
15^{ma}

arpeggiate randomly and rapidly
very high harmonics

III¹⁶ I¹⁶
IV¹⁶ II¹⁶
8^{va}

III¹⁵ I¹⁵
IV¹⁵ II¹⁵
8^{va}

120

Fl.

B \flat Cl.

Perc.

E.Gtr.

Acc.

Vln.

Vc.

mp

gradually remove multiphonic

ppp

n

ppp

mp

ppp

remove upper strings

3

mp

pluck with one hand, releasing one end of the blow hair cluster
see video linked in frontmatter of score

ppp

pp

mp

ppp

IV⁶ etc
8^{va}

IV⁵ etc
8^{va}

II⁴
III⁴

II³
III³

3

IV¹⁴ etc
8^{va}

IV¹³ etc
8^{va}

IV¹² etc
8^{va}

II¹¹
III¹¹

etc

3

ppp

ppp