

Ming Tsao

Plus Minus

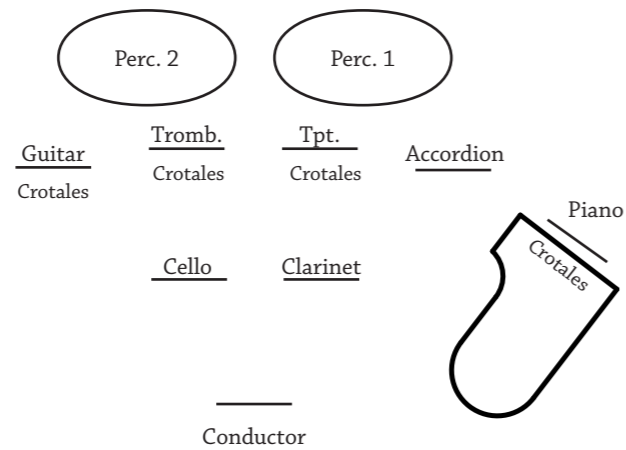
Litolff / Peters

Plus Minus was commissioned by ascolta with the help of an Ernst von Siemens grant.

Plus Minus is a full realization of Stockhausen's Plus Minus (1963). All seven symbol pages are realized with two layers, where layer 1 is represented by the trio clarinet, cello and piano and layer 2 is represented by the remaining instruments.

First performance: April 26, 2013
Wittener Tage für neue Kammermusik
ascolta


Seating arrangement




Instrumentation

Clarinet in B \flat (also Bass clarinet in B \flat)

Trumpet in C (straight, plunger and cup mutes, one thick metal wire clothes hanger and a cello or bass bow) Plus 2 crotales suspended in front of the performer for ease of striking.

The crotales are tuned to the following pitches 

Trombone (with straight, plunger and cup mutes, one thick metal wire clothes hanger and a cello or bass bow) Plus 2 crotales suspended in front of the performer for ease of striking.

The crotales are tuned to the following pitches 

Piano (with sostenuto pedal, plectrum and rubber hammer) Four strings detuned by one quarter-tone

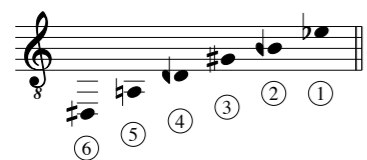


Plus 12 crotales mounted on a board and arranged in front of the performer (on the piano above the keyboard).

The crotales are tuned to the following scale of pitches



Guitar – Classical guitar and electric guitar with Whammy Bar, volume pedal, tremolo, distortion and delay effects, (all independently controlled with a footswitch), glass slide, ebow. The classical guitar may require amplification.



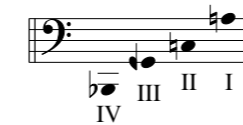
– Scordatura for both electric and classical guitars

Plus 11 crotales mounted on a board and suspended in front of the performer for ease of striking.

The crotales are tuned to the following pitches



Violoncello — Scordatura:



Accordion (one thick metal wire clothes hanger, cello or bass bow)

Percussion — two players

Percussion 1

- Celesta *)
- Vibraphone (with functioning motor)
- Crotales (a full set) *)
- Timpani (four drums)
- thick metal wire coat hanger
- large Tam-Tam
- Marimba
- Steel-string guitar, laid level on a table (with glass slide and plectrum)
- 2 Bass bows
- 2 superballet mallets and 1 metal rod of medium thickness
- 2 Reibstocks (threaded wooden dowels)

Timpani range:



Table-top steel-string guitar:
Scordatura:

Percussion 2

- Vibraphone (with functioning motor)
- Crotales (a full set) *)
- Glockenspiel *)
- Timpani (one large drum)
- Marimba
- thick metal wire coat hanger
- Two Tom-toms (1 large and 1 small)
- snare drum
- Triangle
- large Tam-Tam
- Steel-string guitar, laid level on a table (with glass slide and plectrum)
- 2 Bass bows
- 2 superballet mallets and 1 metal rod of medium thickness
- 2 Reibstocks (threaded wooden dowels)

Timpani range:



Table-top steel-string guitar:
Scordatura:

*) Celesta and Glockenspiel sound one octave higher than written, crotales sound two octaves higher than written. A separate celesta performer may be used.

Note: the score is in C, except for the violoncello and guitars which are transposed to standard tuning.

Duration: approx. 30 minutes

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♩ = 76

♩ = 92

The score is for a multi-instrument ensemble. The tempo starts at 76 bpm and changes to 92 bpm. The time signature is 2/4. The instruments and their parts are:

- Clarinet (also Bass clarinet):** Features a long melodic line with dynamic markings from *p* to *pp*. Includes a **Cl.** box and a **(o)** box.
- Cello (Scordatura):** Includes fingering numbers (I-IV) and dynamic markings from *p* to *fp*. Includes a **sul pont. (III, II)** instruction and **pizz. III** and **pizz. (IV-II)** markings.
- Piano (also 12 crotales):** Features a complex accompaniment with dynamic markings from *ff* to *f*. Includes **Ped.** and **3. Ped.** markings.
- Trumpet (also 2 crotales):** Includes a **Crotales** box and dynamic markings from *mp* to *p*. Includes a **Tpt. con sord.** marking.
- Trombone (also 2 crotales):** Includes a **Whammy bar** marking and dynamic markings from *p* to *pp*.
- Classical guitar and electric guitar (scordatura):** Includes a **Volume pedal** marking, **med. tremolo on**, **Whammy bar**, **(P4)**, **ord.**, and **tremolo off** markings.
- Timpani (Timp.) 1 and 2:** Includes **Crotales**, **Vibr.**, **Bow**, **arco**, **Motor on fast**, **Motor off**, **arco**, and **Bow** markings. Dynamic markings range from *pp* to *f*.
- Accordion:** Features a harmonic accompaniment with dynamic markings from *ppp* to *pp*.

accel.

(♩ = 100) ♩ = 76

The musical score consists of the following parts and markings:

- Cl.:** Starts at measure 9 with a slur over two notes. Later features sixteenth-note runs with dynamics *mp* and *f*.
- Vc.:** Includes pizzicato passages with dynamics *mp* and *f*, and arco passages with dynamic *p*. A 7:6 ratio is indicated.
- Pno.:** Features dynamic markings *mf*, *mp*, and *ff*. Includes a *Ped.* (pedal) marking with a 6-measure span.
- Tpt.:** Enters with a dynamic marking of *f'*.
- Tbn.:** Features dynamic markings *mf* and *pp*.
- Git.:** Includes *Crotales* and *E. guitar* markings with dynamic *p*.
- Perc.:** Part 1 includes dynamics *pp* and *f*. Part 2 includes *Marimba* with dynamics *p* and *mf*, and *Crotales* with dynamic *mp*.
- Acc.:** Features dynamic markings *ppp* in both staves.