

Notes for *Spheres*

Sphere's is a piece that sounds different on each playthrough.

Each sphere is a collection of melodies written for viola and cello, characterised by a commonly heard intervals. There are three spheres in this piece.

The performers themselves can make choices that effect the structure of the composition if they follow a few simple rules:

Melodies can be interchanged so that any of the melodies can be played at the same time as long as they belong to the same sphere.

The most basic way to exchange the melodies is to exchange any viola melody with another viola melody from the same sphere. Similarly any cello line can also be exchanged with another.

Melody lines can also be reversed.

Dynamics must be observed and are attached to the melody lines.

Melodies from the cello lines may also be played on the viola and vice versa. If the same melody is played on the viola and cello it must never be played in unison. The melodies must be separated by at least an octave and the performer may choose which octave to use.

This piece is broken up into three spheres each one creating different harmonic qualities. Each sphere also has unique expression markings.

Preparation for performers:

Though the piece is random on each performance, the performer's must prepare the piece and select their favored melodies to be practiced. This will mean although the piece will sound different on each performance depending on individual choice, each performer will have their own practiced version of the piece.

If a melody ends before another melody has finished the performer can choose to remain silent or repeat the melody from the start until the second melody ends or select a new melody and do the same.

To allow for freedom during performance the players are encouraged to substitute a melody they practiced for another one from the same sphere.

Form may be decided by the performers, however here are a few example of forms that may also be used.

Form List (listed by sphere number):

1 2 3 3 2 1 3 3 2 2 1 1

1 3 3 3 1 2 2 2 3 2 3 1

3 2 2 2 3 2 2 2 1 3 3

2 1 2 1 2 3 2 1 3 2 3 2

From each sphere, 2 - 4 melodies may be selected per performer.

Spheres (Original)

Tim Harbour

1A

Tempo = 100 bpm

Viola

Violoncello

sul tasto

f *p* *f*

1B

Vla.

Vc.

f *p* *f* *p*

1C

Vla.

Vc.

p *f* *f*

1D

Vla.

Vc.

mp cresc. *mf*

p cresc. *f*

1E

Vla.

Vc.

f *f*

p cresc.

1F

Vla. 22 *p*

Vc. *p*

1G

Vla. 25 *f* *p* *f*

Vc. *f* *p* *f*

2A

Vla. 29 *ff* *mp*

Vc. *mp* *sul pont.*

Vla. 33 *mp*

Vc. *mp*

2B

Vla. 38 *ff*

Vc. *ff*

2C

41

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

2D

45

Vla. *ff* *mp*

Vc. *ff*

2E

49

Vla. *ff* *ff* *dim.*

Vc. *mp* *cresc.*

2F

53

Vla. *mp* *ff*

Vc. *ff* *ff*

2G

57

Vla. *mp* *mp*

Vc. *mp*

4 61

Vla. *ff*

Vc. *mp*

3A 64 *norm.* *p*

Vla. *norm.* *mp*

Vc. *norm.* *mp*

3B 68

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *p*

3C

72

Vla. *mp* *cresc.* *mf*

Vc. *p* *cresc.* *mp*

3D

76

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mp*

79

Vla. *mp*

Vc.

3E

82

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mf*

3F

85

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

88

Vla.

Vc.

90

Vla.

Vc.