

Andrew Nathaniel McIntosh

**Five Songs**

*for soprano and three percussionists*

(2015)

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION

*performance notes:*

### **Voice:**

There is no real text for this piece as it is more or less a vocalise. Instead, specific vowels have been written using IPA. Please consider these to be merely a starting point for the sound and modify them as needed for vocal comfort and phrasing.

### **Percussion techniques:**

*legatissimo* gently mute the sound immediately after the next instrument's attack

⊕ (for aluminum pipe and timpani) suddenly and precisely mute the sound

└ (for vibraphones) suddenly and precisely release the pedal

⤴ subtly and slowly mute the sound

l.v. let ring (otherwise a rest always indicates a dampening of resonance)

For bowed notes, the bow should remain in contact for the written duration of the note, letting the sound ring after the bow comes away from the instrument.

Mallet choices are never indicated, but it is assumed that in every case the goal is to minimize attack and prioritize resonance and clarity of pitch.

### **Percussion instruments:**

I: Vibraphone (with motor), two blocks of sandpaper

II: Vibraphone (with motor), two bows

III: Two tuned aluminum pipes (notated below), Fender Rhodes, two timpani (26" and 29"), bowable glockenspiel, two blocks of sandpaper, one bow\*

Pipe tuning:



\*The following substitutions are possible:

- bell plates, almglocken, or other resonant metal objects instead of the aluminum pipes (as long as they are close to the original microtonal pitches)
- Wurlitzer 200A, Nord, or an electronic keyboard with a good Rhodes or Wurlitzer patch and tremolo function instead of a Fender Rhodes
- low toms or other low drums instead of timpani
- crotales instead of a bowable glockenspiel

In Song IV, Percussion I and II need to use a few of Percussion III's instruments.

Duration: 10 minutes

# Five Songs I.

Andrew McIntosh

$\text{♩} = 63$

*soft, pure, clear*

Soprano

"u" "o" *sim.*

Vibraphone (medium motor)

*soft, legatissimo*

Vibraphone (slow motor)

*soft, legatissimo*

Perc. I

Perc. II

Perc. III

6

S

3

I

3

II

*more*

12

S *dim. al fine*  
 "o" "o" "b" (gradually close vowel to "o" by end)

I *motor off*  
*less* *full* *dim. al fine*

II *full* *dim. al fine*

III Aluminum Pipe *full* *dim. al fine*

18

S *very soft*  
 ("o")

I *very soft*

II *very soft*

III *very soft*

# II.

♩ = 63

*soft, resonant*

Soprano

"u"

Vibraphone (*motor off*)

*soft, legatissimo*

Vibraphone (*slow motor*)

*very soft, legatissimo*

Timpani, *medium mallets*

Perc. III

*very soft*

4

S

I

II

III

*increase motor speed to very fast during decay*

4  $\text{♩} = 50$

7 *generous*

S *"b"*

I *less soft* *let decay*

II *let decay* *loud*

III *to Aluminum Pipe* *let decay* *loud*

9 *soft*

S GP *"u"*

I GP *soft*

II GP *very soft*

III GP *very soft*

# III.

♩ = 63

*soft, clear, simple*

Soprano

"u"

Perc. I  
Vibraphone (*motor off*)  
*soft, legatissimo*

Perc. II  
Vibraphone (*motor off*)  
*soft, legatissimo*

Perc. III  
Fender Rhodes (*no tremolo*)  
*soft*

7

S

"o"

I

II

III

6

**molto rit.** . . . . .

12

S "u" "o"

**molto rit.** . . . . .

I

II *motor on, slowly* *fast roll*

III *slow roll*

15 **A tempo**

S "o"

**A tempo**

I

II *motor off* l.v.

III *fast tremolo* l.v.



# IV.

very slow (c. 30-40" per system)

Soprano

*generous*

"o" , "u"

*softer, simple*

Perc. I

Glockenspiel, *arco, resonant*

*soft*

Perc. II

Vibraphone (*motor off*) l.v.

*less soft*

Timpani

Perc. III

*less soft*

2

S

*port.*

"o" "p"

*generous*

I

Aluminum Pipe l.v.

*soft*

Glock. *arco* l.v.

*louder*

II

*arco* l.v.

*softer*

III

*softer*

8

3 *very soft* *louder*

S "u" "u"

I *very soft* Sandpaper circular motion *quiet*

II *very soft* l.v. *increase motor speed with decay* l.v. *strong*

III *very soft* Sandpaper circular motion *quiet*

4

S

I *continue for approximately 1 minute*

II *(reach maximum possible motor speed before all sound is gone)* Aluminum Pipe 10" *extremely soft* l.v.

III *continue for approximately 1 minute*

# V.

♩ = very slow

*warm, but pure, not too soft*

Soprano

"u"

Perc. I  
Vibraphone (*motor off*)  
*soft, legatissimo*

Perc. II  
Vibraphone (*motor off*)  
*soft, legatissimo*

Perc. III  
Timp. *less soft*  
Glock (*rubber mallet*) *very soft*  
Timp. *less soft*  
Glock *very soft*  
Fender Rhodes (*med. slow trem.*)  
*less soft*

## 6 Poco piu mosso

S

I. *warm*

II. *warm (not rolled)*

III. *warm*

10

10 *generous*

S *"o" (opening vowel through phrase)*

I. *soft* *warm*

II. *soft* *warm*

III. *warm* *soft* Glock (arco) 1.v.

13

S *gentle* , *sim.*

*"u" (gradually close vowel to "u" by end)*

I. *A tempo* *sim.* *very soft*

II. *sim.* *very soft*

III. Rhodes (motor off) *sim.* *very soft*

18

S

I.

II.

III.

23

S

I.

II.

III.

("u")

more dim.

more dim.

more dim.

Glock (arco) l.v. very soft