

Patrick Ellis

Around the Clocks

Guide Score for Ensemble

2020

Around the Clocks

Score in C

Instrumentation:

Flute

Horn in F

Melodica

Tenor

Viola

Violoncello

Duration:

c. 1 hour (each movement performed at the start of each hour on a 24 hour clock)

Programme Notes:

Written as part of Kirkos Ensemble's Biosphere Festival in September 2020, 'Around the Clocks' is a flexible outdoor work for open instrumentation that comments on the gradual rise in the earth's average global temperature.

Taking place over several days in Dublin, Ireland, the performers travelled around the city to perform short musical excerpts in front of 24 different public clocks and sundials at the start of each hour.

Each of the movements are linked to the average global temperatures from the past 24 years (1996 to 2019) by translating the increase in temperature to a subtraction of seconds from 5 minutes. As the piece progresses, the average temperature range increases and thus the duration of each movement on average becomes increasingly shorter.

In conjunction with gradual decreases in the average duration, the material and texture of each movement generally moves from a single, almost completely static chord, to a freer and more deviant material that utilises various timbral techniques.

Performance Notes:

During each movement, the musicians may choose any of the pitches written on the chord, with the reference orchestration as a starting point for each movement. Over the time of the movement, the instrumentalists are allowed to change between the given pitches, and may play them at any octave. However, the referenced orchestration should be the core range of each movement.

When there are three instrumentalists playing a movement there should generally be a full, sustained texture, with any changes in pitches or breaths at points where the other members of the ensemble are sustaining their notes. As the movements of the piece get shorter, then this still texture may be disrupted and be in a more contrapuntal vein, so as long as the notes from the instrumentalists are sustained.

When there are only one or two instrumentalists, the sound should still be full of sustained notes, however there may be more immediate interplay between the two parts. Like with movements with three or more performers, the shorter the movement then the more the texture can be disrupted and be in a more contrapuntal vein.

When the movement is longer (reflecting the lower global temperatures) the performers should play each pitch normale, once you get to the movements that are shorter (i.e. the higher global temperatures), then the performers are encouraged to distort the pitches more, using techniques such as short accented tremolos, crescendos/decrescendos, harder bow pressure, etc.

The dynamics per movement may be freely decided between the members of the ensemble, however it is suggested that dynamically the music gets quieter towards the end of the movement.

Times, Locations, Musicians Used and Performance Notes for Each of the Clocks:

Musicians:

Viola: Sebastian Adams (SA)

Cello: Yseult Cooper Stockdale (YCS) Flute: Miriam Kaczor (MK)

Horn: Hannah Miller (HM)

Melodica: Robert Coleman (RC)

Voice: Tom Roseingrave (TR)

Clock 1: 12:00, noon

Location: Iveagh Gardens Sun Dial

Duration: 3:40

Players: c.6 - JH, MK, YCS, RC, TR

Play completely normale, sustain pitches. Keep very close to the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 2: 13:00

Location: Last Bookshop, Camden Street

Duration: 3:30

Players: c.6 – JH, MK, YCS, RC, TR

Play completely normale, sustain pitches. Keep very close to the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 3: 14:00

Location: Botanic Gardens

Duration: 2:27

Players: c.6 – JH, MK, YCS, TR, HM

Play completely normale, sustain pitches. Keep very close to the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 4: 15:00

Location: Botanic Gardens (2)

Duration: 3:22

Players: c.6 – JH, MK, YCS, TR, HM

Play completely normale, sustain pitches. Keep very close to the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 5: 16:00

Location: Clerys Clock

Duration: 3:22

Players: c.5 – JH, HM, MK, TR, RC

Play normale and sustain pitches. Generally, keep to the suggested starting orchestration, but deviate occasionally.

Clock 6: 17:00

Location: Harbour Master Bar and Restaurant

Duration: 2:45

Players: c.5 – HM, MK, TR, RC

Play normale and sustain pitches. Generally, keep to the suggested starting orchestration, but deviate occasionally.

Clock 7: 18:00,

Location: McDowell's Jewellers, O'Connell Street

Duration: 2:22

Players: c. 5 – HM, MK, TR, RC

Play normale and sustain pitches. Generally, keep to the suggested starting orchestration, but deviate occasionally.

Clock 8: 19:00

Location: Mayes Pub

Duration: 2:25

Players: c.5 – HM, MK, TR, RC

Play normale and sustain pitches. Generally, keep to the suggested starting orchestration, but deviate occasionally.

Clock 9: 20:00

Location: Rushe's Supervalu Dalkey

Duration: 2:45

Players: c.4 - SA, RC, TR, JH

Play mostly normale, but have occasional instances of other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Sustain pitches, but have a few more changes than previously. Allow some deviation from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 10: 21:00

Location: Sundial Dun Laoghaire Pier

Duration: 2:10

Players: c.4 - SA, RC, TR, JH

Play mostly normale, but have occasional instances of other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Sustain pitches, but have a few more changes than previously. Allow some deviation from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 11: 22:00

Location: Nancy Hands Bar and Restaurant

Duration: 2:20

Players: c.4 - MK, HM, YCS, SA

Play mostly normale, but have occasional instances of other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Sustain pitches, but have a few more changes than previously. Allow some deviation from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 12: 23:00

Location: Patriots Inn

Duration: 2:15

Players: c.4 – Whoever is available during the night vigil

Play mostly normale, but have occasional instances of other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Sustain pitches, but have a few more changes than previously. Allow some deviation from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 13: 24:00, midnight

Location: The Obelisk Fountain

Duration: 2:45

Players: c.3 – Whoever is available during the night vigil

For the most part play normale, but allow some instances of other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Sustain pitches, but change fairly frequently, and have some deviation from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 14: 01:00

Location: The Clock Pub

Duration: 2:15

Players: c.3 - Whoever is available during the night vigil

For the most part play normale, but allow some instances of other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Sustain pitches, but change fairly frequently, and have some deviation from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 15: 02:00

Location: Decwell's Hardware, Georges Street

Duration: 2:00

Players: c.3 – Whoever is available during the night vigil

For the most part play normale, but allow some instances of other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Sustain pitches, but change fairly frequently, and have some deviation from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 16: 03:00

Location: Molton Brown, Grafton Street

Duration: 2:27

Players: c.3 – Whoever is available during the night vigil

For the most part play normale, but allow some instances of other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Sustain pitches, but change fairly frequently, and have some deviation from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 17: 04:00

Location: Trinity City Hotel

Duration: 2:20

Players: c.2 – Whoever is available during the night vigil

A blend between normale and other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). A slight distortion to the sounds are encouraged (e.g. harder bow pressure, sul pont., relaxing embouchure, etc.). Frequently change pitches, but maintain a mostly sustained texture and regularly deviate from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 18: 05:00

Location: St Stephens Church

Duration: 2:10

Players: c.2 – Whoever is available during the night vigil

A blend between normale and other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). A slight distortion to the sounds are encouraged (e.g. harder bow pressure, sul pont., relaxing embouchure, etc.). Frequently change pitches, but maintain a mostly sustained texture and regularly deviate from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 19: 06:00

Location: Old Post Office, Blackrock

Duration: 1:52

Players: c.2 – Whoever is available during the night vigil

A blend between normale and other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). A slight distortion to the sounds are encouraged (e.g. harder bow pressure, sul pont., relaxing embouchure, etc.). Frequently change pitches, but maintain a mostly sustained texture and regularly deviate from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 20: 07:00

Location: Rathfarnham 56 Main Street

Duration: 1:15

Players: c.2 – RC, TR

A blend between normale and other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). A slight distortion to the sounds are encouraged (e.g. harder bow pressure, sul pont., relaxing embouchure, etc.). Frequently change pitches, but maintain a mostly sustained texture and regularly deviate from the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 21: 08:00

Location: St Joseph's Church Terenure

Duration: 0:45

Players: c.1 – RC, TR

Mostly distort the sound or use other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Regularly change the sustained pitches. Ignore the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 22: 09:00

Location: Sean O'Casey Park

Duration: 1:10

Players: c.1 – JH, YCS

Mostly distort the sound or use other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Regularly change the sustained pitches. Ignore the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 23: 10:00

Location: Beach Drive (Sean O'Casey Park)

Duration: 1:27

Players: c.1 – JH, YCS

Mostly distort the sound or use other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Regularly change the sustained pitches. Ignore the suggested starting orchestration.

Clock 24: 11:00

Location: St Anne's Park Clock Tower

Duration: 0:55

Players: SA, HM

Mostly distort the sound or use other techniques (e.g. short tremolos and harmonics). Regularly change the sustained pitches. Ignore the suggested starting orchestration.

Total Playing Time: 54:44

With thanks to:

Kirkos Ensemble, particularly Robert Coleman

Around the Clocks

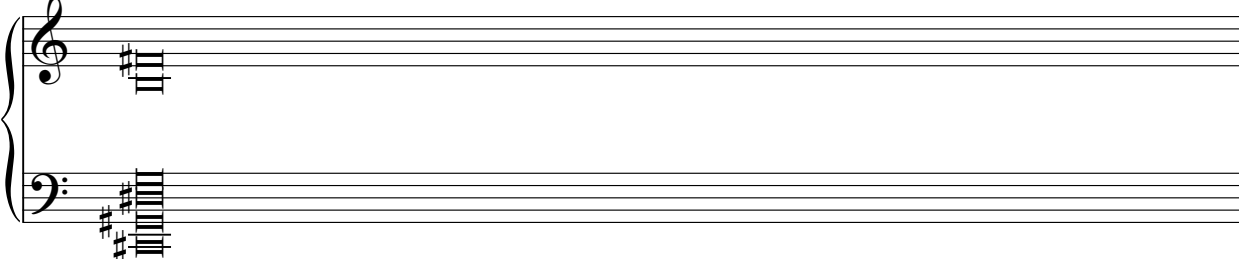
for Kirkos Ensemble

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Pitches / Chord to play for each movement:

Ensemble



Musical notation for the Ensemble part, showing a treble and bass clef with a chord of D major (F#4, A4, C#5) in the treble and a chord of D major (F#2, A2, C#3) in the bass.



Suggested starting orchestration:

Flute

Horn in F

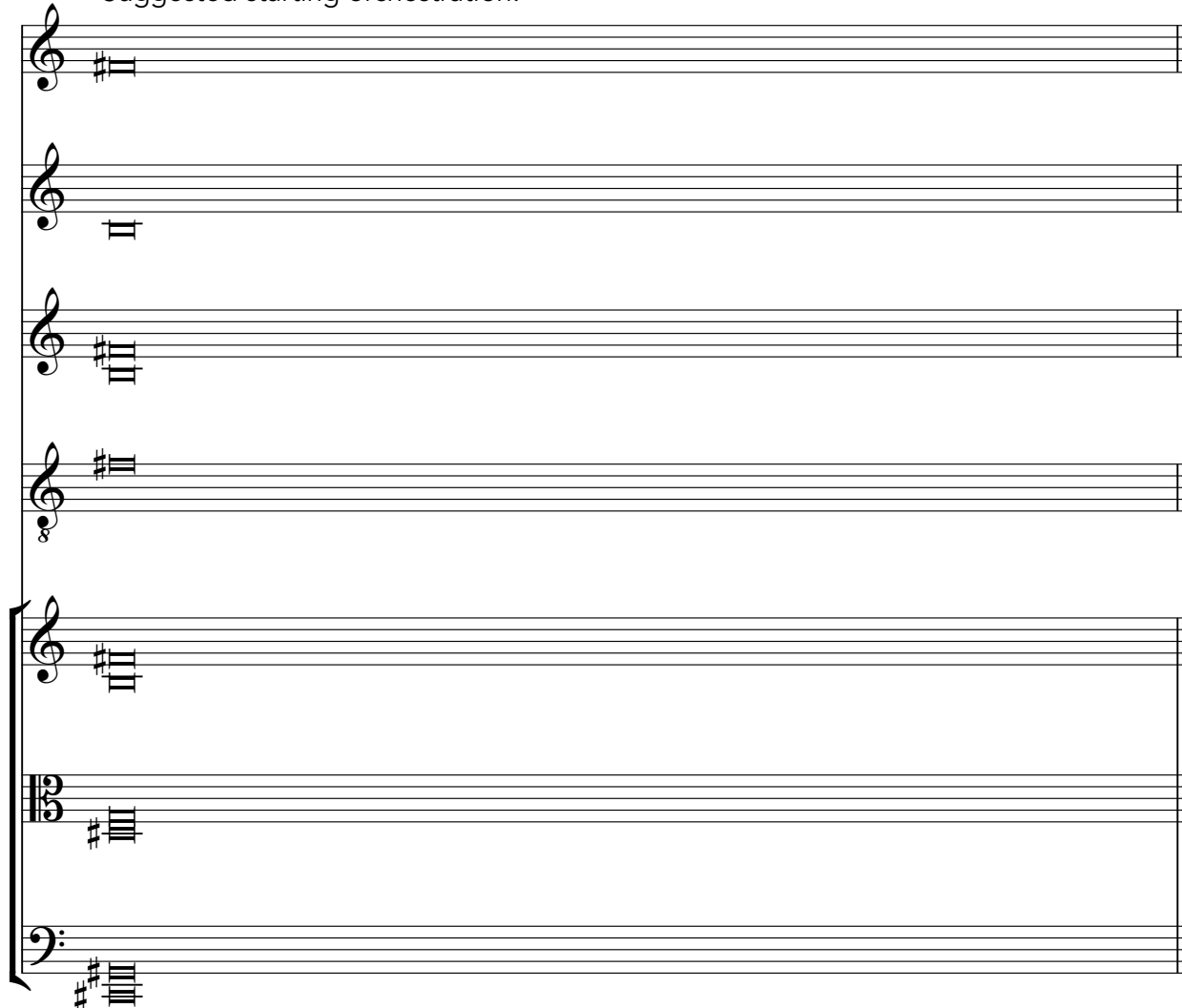
Melodica

Tenor

Violin

Viola

Violoncello



Musical notation for the suggested starting orchestration, showing staves for Flute, Horn in F, Melodica, Tenor, Violin, Viola, and Violoncello, each with a chord of D major.