

Mazed Bedlam

For String Quartet and Fixed-Media

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Program Notes:

Mazed Bedlam was composed for the 2012 HighSCORE festival held in Pavia, Italy. The work strives to meld the string quartet with a fixed-media accompaniment consisting of sounds that are derived solely from violin samples.

The title is inspired by the works of the contemporary writer Charles Stross and refers to my use of the Ptolemaic square of the sun as a compositional determinate with regard to pitch and rhythm. The divergent and sometimes convoluted paths that each instrument takes through the square, either as a soloist or part of the ensemble, are representative of the title.

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Duration:

6'

5

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

F-m

fff p ff p < f > pp mf > p > ppp fff pp <

fff p ff p < f > pp mf > p > ppp fff pp <

fff p ff p < f > pp mf > p > ppp fff pp <

fff p ff p < f > pp mf > p > ppp fff pp <

resonance until
the end of the ea phrase

15^{ma}

13

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f > pp < mf > pp < f > pp > ppp fff pp <

f > pp < mf > pp < f > pp > ppp

f > pp < mf > pp < f > pp > ppp

f > pp < mf > pp < f > pp > ppp fff pp <

22

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

f p f p ff pp f p

f p ff pp f pp mp

f p ff pp f pp mp

f p ff pp f p

30

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp f pp mf pp f mp

pp f p pp f

pp f p pp f mp

pp f pp mf pp f mp

38

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp f p pp mp

f mp p pp mp

pp mp pp mf mp

pp f mp

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 38 through 45. It features four staves: Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The music is written in treble clef for the violins and bass clef for the viola and cello. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The dynamics range from pianissimo (pp) to fortissimo (f). The score includes various note values, slurs, and accents.

46

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

pp mf ppp

pp mf ppp mf > ppp

pp mf p pp mf

pp mf p pp p

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 46 through 53. It features the same four staves as the previous block. The music continues in the same key signature and style. Dynamics include pianissimo (pp), mezzo-forte (mf), and pianissimo (ppp). The score includes various note values, slurs, and accents.

54 **C** ♩ = 160 punto de arco

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

ppp mp pp pp
ppp
pp
pp mf p < fff ff pp < ff pp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 54 through 61. It features four staves: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Violoncello. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). A tempo marking of ♩ = 160 is present. The Violin I part has long notes with dynamics *ppp*, *mp*, *pp*, and *pp*. The Viola part has notes with dynamics *ppp* and *pp*. The Violoncello part has a more active line with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *fff*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, and *pp*. A 'punto de arco' marking is at the end of the system.

62 normale

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.

mp pp pp < mp > pp p
pp mp pp p
mp pp pp mf
f mp f < fff p ff p < f p

Detailed description: This system contains measures 62 through 69. It features the same four staves as the previous system. The key signature changes to two sharps (F# and C#). The Violin I part has dynamics *mp*, *pp*, *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, and *p*. The Violin II part has dynamics *pp*, *mp*, *pp*, and *p*. The Viola part has dynamics *mp*, *pp*, *pp*, and *mf*. The Violoncello part has dynamics *f*, *mp*, *f*, *fff*, *p*, *ff*, *p*, *f*, and *p*. The word 'normale' is written above the Violin I staff.