

Raphaël Belfiore

EDGAR VARÈSE AND THE JAZZMEN

for amplified ensemble
(fl, e-gtr, vc, perc, synth)

written for ICTUS ensemble
2021

INSTRUMENTATION

flute + bass flute

e-guitar

cello

percussion (vibraphone + floor tom)

synth

+ conductor

AMPLIFICATION

All instruments are amplified. Ideally, the voice of each performer is also amplified for section VI of the piece. If possible, the amplification of the instruments should be adapted for each section of the piece.

CLICK TRACK

The conductor and the synth player are equipped with earphones and a click track. In the score, the synth player is responsible for starting it. Arrangements that might make the installation easier are welcome.

SCORES AND PARTS

The first four sections are divided in individual parts for the musicians.

The fifth section is a solo for the synthesizer

The sixth section is not divided in parts.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

— flute

section I

↑ = slightly higher pitch than notated

section II



= aeolian sound (very little tone)

section IV

fltz = flutter tongue

w.t. = whistle tone

— guitar

[*effect box* → *volume pedal* → *amplifier*]

fx 1: simple amplification, no additional effects

fx 2: extreme distortion of the signal + hipass filter (The fundamental note of the sound should disappear.)

fx 3: very long sustain effect, either already constituted or with the help of delay, reverbs, compressors, etc... The sustain effect should be reset before every new sound.

section I

↑ = slightly higher pitch than notated

l.r. = let ring

e-bow indications only apply where they are written

section IV

[**VI**] = string number

! pizz. are notated each time they are required !

— cello

section I

↑ = slightly higher pitch than notated

section II



= Air sound: Use three or more fingers to dampen the strings. A little bit of the pitch of the highest note should be heard.

section IV

s.p. = *sul ponticello*

s.t. = *sul tasto*

l.b. = *legno battuto*

! pizz. are notated each time they are required !

— percussion

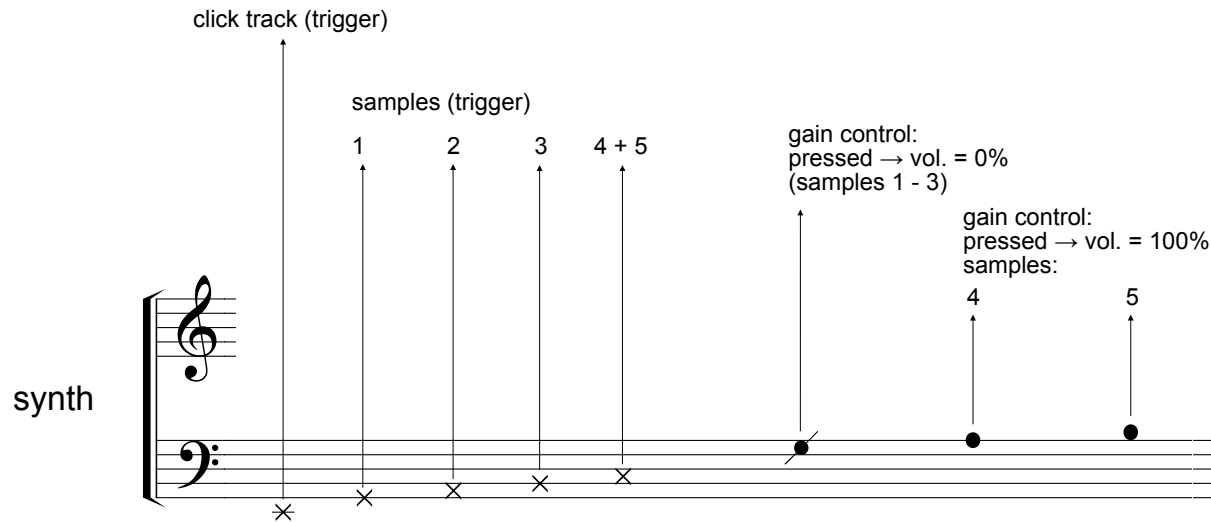
section II

The floor toom is slightly prepared with a taped tinfoil covering partly the drum where it is not hit (some space should be free in the center and on the outer edge).

— synthesizer

The synthesizer is set up according to the following chart. A ready for use Max/MSP patch is available. Any other/better functioning ways of setting up the synthesizer are welcome.

The volume of the samples is not definitive and will be adapted during the rehearsals.



sample 1:
original recording, found on UbuWeb

https://ubu.com/media/sound/varese_edgard/jazz/Edgar_Varese_and_the_Jazzmen_-_02_-_Track_02.mp3

sample 2:
original recording processed with an inverted noise gate: Only what is at the level of the noise is heard at normal volume, the original recording is reduced to background noise.

sample 3:
residual noise of the original recording after an aggressive noise reduction.

sample 4:
2'500 simultaneous instances of the recording beginning at different points. The amplitude is proportioned to the number of instances to avoid saturation.

sample 5:
The signal of the original recording multiplied by 10'000. The amplitude is clipped.

— all instruments

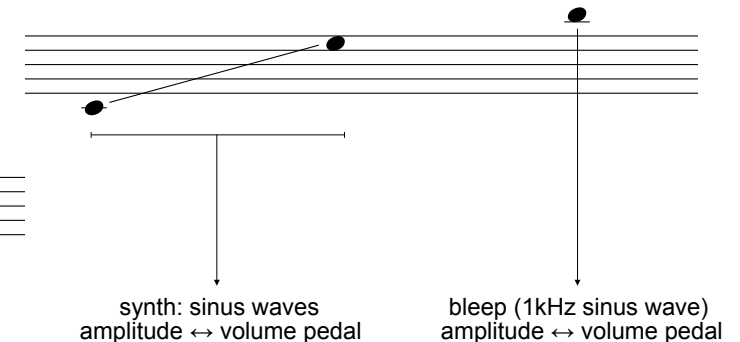
section IV



= a sustained vocal tone that is not exactly sung. Think of what you would do when you are asked by a doctor to make a sound. These actions should avoid theatricality as much as possible. The sound must not be the same each time. Its "pitch" shouldn't be consciously decided.

[ə]

= *schwa* : "an unstressed mid-central vowel (such as the usual sound of the first and last vowels of the English word America)" (Merriam-Webster)



Edgar Varèse and the Jazzmen, I (fl, e-gtr, vc, perc, synth)

♩ = 120 as rhythmically precise as possible

fl.

e-gtr

vc

perc

synth

fx 1

8va e-bow

mf

(always non vib.)

vibraphone + soft mallets

sample 1 and click track start precisely together

mf (vol. ped.)

mp

(cuts the original recording)

[illegible]

15

Fl.

E.Gtr.

Vc.

perc

synth

mf

p

mf

mp

pizz.

ped.

pp

ppp

21

Fl.

E.Gtr.

Vc.

perc

synth

mf

pizz.

mp

p

29

Fl.

E.Gtr.

Vc.

perc

synth

mf

ped. mp

mf *mp*

37

Fl.

E.Gtr.

Vc.

perc

synth

8^a e-bow

p *l.r.*

mf *mp* *mp*

pizz.

ped. mf

mf

attaca

Edgar Varèse and the Jazzmen, II (fl, e-gtr, vc, perc, synth-lh only)

♩ = 120 as rhythmically precise as possible

bass flute (then flute)
aeolian sound (as little tone as possible)

b fl

mp

pp

mp

pp

mp

Flute and cello should mix as much as possible.
The result in this section must sound like almost unperceivable variations of noise

air noise:
⊕ sul tasto + damp with multiple fingers
very little tone

vc

pp

mp

pp

mp

fx 2 / finger on the jack cable

e-gtr

pppp (barely perceptible)

The sound of the amp. and the drum tremolo should never overpower the flute and cello. The percussion serves here to color the noise of the guitar amp.

prepared floor tom + drumsticks
center of the drum

perc

pppp (barely perceptible)

synth

sample 2 and click track start precisely together

5

b fl

vc

e-gtr

perc

synth

11

b fl

vc

e-gtr

perc

synth

32

switch to flute

b fl

vc

e-gtr

perc

synth

mp *pp*

pp *mp*

38

attaca

b fl

vc

e-gtr

perc

synth

outer edge of the drum

mp *pp*

pp *mp*

outer edge of the drum

Edgar Varèse and the Jazzmen, III (fl, e-gtr, vc, perc, synth)

♩ = 120 *inexpressive and monolithic sounds as rhythmically precise as possible*

fl.

non vibr.

mf (the whole section)

e-gtr

fx 3

8^a

mf (the whole section)

vc

sul tasto
non vibr.

mf (the whole section)

perc

vibraphone
+ soft mallets

ped.

mf (the whole section)

synth

rh: sinus waves

mf (the whole section)

sample 1 and click track
start precisely together

The image displays a musical score for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. The score is arranged for five instruments: flute (fl), electric guitar (e-gtr), voice (vc), percussion (perc), and synthesizer (synth). The music is written in 4/4 time and is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and pedal points (ped.). The flute part features a melodic line with a key signature change from C major to D major. The electric guitar part provides harmonic support with chords and a melodic line. The voice part consists of two staves, likely representing the vocalists' parts. The percussion part includes a steady rhythm with a pedal point. The synthesizer part provides a harmonic foundation with chords and a melodic line. The score is presented in a clear, professional layout with a white background and black musical notation.

This musical score is for the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. It is a piano arrangement featuring vocal harmony and instrumental accompaniment. The score is written for five parts: Flute (fl), Electric Guitar (e-gtr), Vocal Harmony (vc), Percussion (perc), and Synth (synth). The tempo is marked as 13. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into measures, with some measures containing rests or specific musical notations like "8a" and "ped.". The vocal parts are written in a high register, while the instrumental parts provide a rich harmonic texture.

19

fl

e-gtr

vc

perc

synth

8^a---

8^a---

8^a---

8^a---

ped. _____

ped. _____

ped. _____

26

fl

e-gtr

vc

perc

synth

8^a-----

8^a-----

8^a-----

ped. _____

ped. _____

ped. _____

==

[illegible]

Edgar Varèse and the Jazzmen, IV (fl, e-gtr, vc, synth-lh only)

♩ = 120 as rhythmically precise as possible

fl. *fltz* *mf* *1/2 air sound* *fltz* *mf* *ff* *f* *mf* *fltz* *mf* *1/2 air sound* *pp* *fltz* *ff*

e-gtr *fx 1 (when no fx3)* *[VI]* *p* *fx 3* *mf* *[VI]* *p* *fx 3* *mf* *8^a* *ff* *[VI]* *p* *fx 3* *mf* *15^a*

vc *s.p.* *mf* *ord.* *sfz* *s.p.* *mf* *ff* *ff* *mf*

synth *sample 3 and click track start precisely together*

fl *mf* *ff* *mf* *mf* *ff* *w. t.* *fltz* *pp* *ff* *aeol.* *p*

e-gtr *[VI]* *p* *fx 3* *mf* *8^a* *[VI]* *p* *fx 3* *ff* *mf* *pp* *ff*

vc *ord.* *ff* *s.p.* *mf* *ff* *mf* *8^a* *ff*

synth

fl 13

2/4

4/4

3/4

2/4

5/4

mf

ff

mf

sfz

ff

mf

e-gtr 13

[VI] s.p. ord.

p

mf

[VI]

p

fx 3

mf

ff

mf

ff

vc 13

s.p. ord. pizz. s.t. pizz.

mf

ff

mf

ff

s.p.

mf

pizz.

s.p.

pizz.

8^a pizz.

ff

mf

synth

fl 19

1/2 air
1/2 sound

fltz

ff

mf

mf

fp

mf

fltz

1/2 air
1/2 sound

fltz

e-gtr 19

s.p. 8^a

mf

[VI]

p

fx 3

[VI]

8^a ord.

p

mf

s.p.

ord.

s.p.

ord.

s.p.

ord.

vc 19

s.p. 8^a s.t.

mf

s.p.

ord.

legno tr.

ord.

l.b.

ord.

pp

mf

synth

[illegible]

The musical score for 'The Wind' by Gustav Mahler is presented in a four-staff format. The top staff is for flute (fl), the second for electric guitar (e-gtr), the third for voice (vc), and the bottom for synth. The score is divided into four measures, each with a 2/4 time signature. The first measure is marked with a 31-measure rehearsal mark. The flute part includes dynamics like *mf*, *f*, and *mf*, and articulations like *fltz* and *aeol.*. The electric guitar part includes dynamics like *p*, *mf*, and *ff*, and articulations like *[VI]*, *ord.*, *s.p.*, and *8^a*. The voice part includes dynamics like *mf*, *ff*, and *mf*, and articulations like *s.p.* and *ord.*. The synth part includes dynamics like *mf* and *ff*, and articulations like *s.p.* and *ord.*. The score is written in a 2/4 time signature and includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and articulations.

Edgar Varèse and the Jazzmen

fl 35

e-gtr 35

vc 35

synth

1/2 air
1/2 sound

aeol. key cl. 1/2 air
1/2 sound

mf f p f mf

ord. s.p.

8^a pizz. s.p. ord. s.p.

mf pp mf

fl 42 fltz

e-gtr 42 [VI] ord. s.p. 8^a ord. 8^a [VI]

vc 42 s.p. pizz. l.b. pizz. 8^a l.b. s.p. 8^a pizz. s.p.

synth

1/2 air
1/2 sound

ord.

1/2 air
1/2 sound

fltz

ord. fltz

attacca

mf mf pp fp pp fp pp f mf

pp pp mf

p

fx 3

mf pp mf

pp mf pp mf

mf

Edgar Varèse and the Jazzmen, V (synth solo)

synth

(opens gain for sample 4)

(opens gain for sample 5)

sample 1, 4, 5 and click track start precisely together

synth

4

synth

8

synth

14

19

synth

3/8 5/4 3/8 4/4 3/4 4/4

26

synth

4/4 2/4 4/4 2/4 4/4

33

synth

4/4 2/4 2/4

40

synth

attacca

2/4 4/4 4/4 4/4 4/4 4/4

Edgar Varèse and the Jazzmen, VI (fl, e-gtr, vc, perc, synth)

* choose (spontaneously or not) an instrumental sound to be played each time a note appears on the system. Duration can be shorter than indicated but not longer. The selection of sound should be made individually and without concertation with the other musicians. The sound remains the same during the section but changes for each publicly presented version of the piece.

** choose (spontaneously or not) an instrumental music piece or excerpt of piece to be played for exactly the duration indicated. The selection of piece should be made individually and without concertation with the other musicians. The music changes for each publicly presented version of the piece.

fl / vc /
perc /
synth rh

[any sound]*

(etc...)

tutti

[ə]
mf

(etc...)

synth

(sonic palette not limited to the
sounds provided for the piece)

click track starts

e-gtr

fx 2 / finger on the jack cable

mf

2/4 3/8 4/4 5/8



fl / vc /
perc /
synth rh

5/8 4/4 3/8 3/4 4/4

tutti

[ə]

[ə]

e-gtr

5/8 4/4 3/8 3/4 4/4

8

fl / vc /
perc /
synth rh

tutti

e-gtr

4/4

3/8

2/4

4/4

2/4

4/4

14

fl / vc /
perc /
synth rh

tutti

e-gtr

2/4

4/4

3/4

2/4

5/8

3/8

19

fl / vc /
perc /
synth rh

tutti

e-gtr

3/8

5/4

3/8

4/4

3/4

4/4

26

fl / vc /
perc /
synth rh

4/4

tutti

4/4

e-gtr

4/4

2/4

4/4

2/4

4/4

[ə]

[ə]

33

fl / vc /
perc /
synth rh

4/4

tutti

4/4

e-gtr

4/4

2/4

2/4

2/4

[any music]**

40

fl / vc /
perc /
synth rh

2/4

4/4

tutti

2/4

4/4

e-gtr

2/4

4/4

[ə]

[ə]