A PALE VIEW OF COLORS

BY

QI LI

Submitted to the faculty of the
Jacobs School of Music in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the degree,
Master of Music
Indiana University
May 2018

Accepted by the faculty of the
Indiana University Jacobs School of Music
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree
Master of Music

_____
Aaron Travers, Director of Thesis

April 27, 2018

A Pale View of Colors

淡彩

for orchestra

LI Qi

李祺

2017

Instrumentation

3 Flutes (Fl. 3 doubling Piccolo/Alto Flute)
2 Oboes (Ob. 2 doubling English Horn)
3 B-flat Clarinets (Cl. 2 doubling E-flat Clarinet; Cl. 3 doubling Bass Clarinet)
2 Bassoons (Bsn. 2 doubling Contrabassoon)

4 F Horns
2 C Trumpets
2 Trombone
Bass Trombone
Tuba

3 Percussions
(Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, Marimba, 2 Crotales, Chimes, Bass Drum, Large Tam-tam, 5 Woodblocks, Snare Drum)

Harp
Piano
Celesta

Strings

Performance Information

General:
All trills are half-step trills unless specified.
All staccato notes are as short as possible regardless of duration.

Piano:
+ Muted string: inside piano, press the string with fingers to mute the sound.

Harp:
Harmonics sound as written.

Solo Violin:

quarter-tone sharp

quarter-tone flat

3 quarters-tone sharp

Duration: ca. 10 min

Program Notes

A Pale View of Colors is written as a piece of absolute music. The title itself is associated with the compositional process of this piece. The limited materials are transformed into different sections with minimal changes in various parameters such as tempo, dynamics, rhythm, and articulation. The process is like adding colors onto a canvas but with limited contrasting materials. The result of composing through this method is that *A Pale View of Colors* becomes like a painting.

The harmonic language in this piece is a mixture of chromatic and whole-tone pitch collections. The opening melody, which is played by the alto flute and later by the clarinet, is a linear version of the harmonic language that blends chromatic pitches simultaneously into the whole-tone scale. The melody itself creates two independent linear lines, and each note is sustained by other instruments. The next section is a vertical version of the harmonic language, featuring repetitions of several chords juxtaposed and developed in different layers. Then the music goes into a more chromatic world until the return of the opening material in a distinct rhythmic profile and tempo.

Timbral transformation is another key aspect of this piece, as you can hear throughout the piece that sustained notes are played by different instruments sharing a smooth transition from one to another as in tonfarbenmelodie. The feathered-beaming repetitive motive is another version of sustained notes in a more engaging way. It appears as one of the tools that enhances chromaticism and the intensity of music.

Score in C

A Pale View of Colors

淡彩

for orchestra

Dedicated to CHEN Yihan

Li Qi
李祺

♩ = 80

Flute 1
Flute 2
Flute 3 /Piccolo/Alto Flute
Oboe 1
Oboe 2 /English Horn
B♭ Clarinet 1
B♭ Clarinet 2
B♭ Clarinet 3 /B♭ Bass Clarinet
Bassoon 1
Bassoon 2 /Contrabassoon
F Horn 1, 3
F Horn 2, 4
Trumpet in C 1, 2
Trombone 1, 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Percussion 1
Percussion 2
Percussion 3
Harp
Piano
Celesta
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

poco vib. vib. ord. non vib. molto vib. Alto Flute Oboe Clarinet in B♭ Vibraphone Glockenspiel hard mallet Ped. l.v. div. poco rit. 11 a tempo

14

rit. - - - a tempo (♩ = 80)

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
To Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
(Vibr.) soft
(Ped.)
Perc. 2
(Glock.)
soft
hard
(Ped.)
Perc. 3
Crotales
soft
Hp.
l.v.
sempre l.v.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Cel.
(Ped.)
rit. - - - a tempo (♩ = 80)
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
pizz.
arco
Vc.
Cb.

24 ♩ = 96

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

pppp as soft as possible
rit.
a tempo
molto rit.
English Horn
sf p sub.
mf
Ped.
(Ped.)
solo violin
unis. gli altri
div.
poco
unis.

35

molto accel. ♩ = 108

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

1. muted
2. muted
(Vibr.)
(Glock.)
(Crot.)
tutti. div.
div.

42 ♩ = 96

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2

solo
To Picc.

1. (muted)

Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba

Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3

l.v.

Hp.

Pno.

Ped.

Cel.

42 ♩ = 96

2 solo violins

gli altri div.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

unis.
div.

48

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
2 Solo Vlns
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Piccolo
solo
To E♭ Cl.
(Vibr.)
(Glock.)
Xylophone
straight mute
molto
sub.
tutti div.
unis.
Ped.

54 ♩ = 66 — rit. — a tempo — 63

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 — Clarinet in E♭
Cl. 3 — Clarinet in B♭
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2

Hn. 1, 3 — 1. (muted)
Hn. 2, 4 — 2. (muted)
Tpt. 1, 2 — cup mute
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba

Perc. 1 — bowed
Perc. 2 — soft
Perc. 3
Hp. — l.v.
Pno. — Ped.
Cel.

54 ♩ = 66 — rit. — a tempo — 63

Solo Violin — echo voice, espr.
Vln. I — non vib., l.v., ord., non vib., l.v.
Vln. II
Vla. — div., unis., div.
Vc.
Cb.

66

70 accel. ♩ = 80

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭ Cl.)
Cl. 3
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
(Bassoon)
Hn. 1, 3
1. (muted)
a2 muted
Hn. 2, 4
2. (muted)
a2 muted
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
(Vibr.)
hard mallets
Perc. 2
(Glock.)
medium
hard
Perc. 3
Marimba
Hp.
l.v.
Pno.
Ped.
Cel.
70 accel. ♩ = 80
Solo Violin
Vln. I
tutti div.
Vln. II
Vla.
unis.
div.
Vc.
Cb.
ord.

76

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
To Fl.
Flute
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭ Cl.)
To B♭ Cl.
Clarinet in B♭
Cl. 3
To B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
To Cbsn.
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
mute out
Hn. 2, 4
mute out
(cup mute)
Tpt. 1, 2
cup mute
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
soft
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
l.v.
Pno.
Ped.
Cel.
(Ped.)
Ped.
76
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
unis.
div.
unis.
div.
Vc.
unis.
div.
Cb.

89

90 ♩ = 100

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

flutter
ord.
To Ob.
Oboe
B♭ Bass Clinet
Contrabassoon
3.
4.
a2
mute out
(Vibr.)
Large Tam-tam
Glockenspiel
hard
Bass Drum
l.v.
Ped.
near the bridge
sul pont.
tutti
sub.

97

98

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

ord.
flutter
cup mute
To Bsn.
bisbigl.

103

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

flutter
ord.
To Eng. Hn.
(Vibr.)
(Glock.)
(B.D.)
bisbigl.
(Ped.)
tr

107

rit.

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.

Chimes felt

107

rit.

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

116 ♩ = 80

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
116 ♩ = 80
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

126

125

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Cbsn.
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

flutter
English Horn
Clarinet in E♭
cup muted
Xylophone
1.v.
(Ped.)
con sord.
espr.

129

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
To A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭)
To B♭ Cl.
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Cbsn.
Bassoon
Hn. 1, 3
muted
Hn. 2, 4
muted
Tpt. 1, 2
cup muted
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Large Tam-tam
Glockenspiel
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Cel.
Vln. I
gli altri div.
Vln. II
gli altri div.
Vla.
div.
Vc.
Cb.

134

(♩. = ca. 54)
accel.

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Fl. 3
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭)
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Alto Flute
Clarinet in B♭
Wood Blocks
(Vibr.)
(Glock.)
(Xyl.)
(Ped.)
solo
unis. gli altri
unis.
senza sord.
pizz.
1.
espr.

148 ♩. = 66

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.

148 ♩. = 66

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

157

163

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

To Picc.
To E♭ Cl.
1. muted
2. muted
mute out
muted
muted
(Vibr.)
Crotales
Vibraphone
sempre l.v.
Ped.
(W.B.)
Glockenspiel
Wood Blocks
Glockenspiel
(Mar.)
l.v.
l.v.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
Ped.
flautando
arco
arco
arco

165

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

Piccolo
Clarinet in E♭
Crotales

176

180

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭)
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

1. mute out
mute out
mute out
(Vibr.)
Crotales
(Glock.)
Bass Drum
Snare Drum
Large Tam-tam
Bowed
Marimba
* rit. gliss
Ped.
(Ped.)
ord.
div.
Pizz.
unis.

183

188

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭)
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

mute out
a2
Bass Drum
Ped.
change pedal every slur
bartok pizz.
div.
Pizz.
unis.

194

203

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭)
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.

203

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

208

213

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭)
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.

To B♭ Cl.

1.
2.

a2

(B.D.)

(Ped.)

213

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

unis.

220

rit. 222 ♩ = 80

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭)
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

(mute out)
cup mute
Vibraphone
Ped.
(Large Tam-tam)
flutter
(Ped.)
Ped.
* unis.

* Play the higher octave if without extension.

229

232

poco rit.

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2 (E♭)
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

flutter
ord.
Clarinet in B♭
(cup mute)
straight mute
Glockenspiel
(Ped.)
sub.

242 ♩ = 72

252

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Picc.
(Picc.)
To A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
(straight mute)
(cup mute)
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
(Vibr.)
soft
Ped.
(Glock.)
l.v. sempre
Perc. 2
Marimba
Perc. 3
hard
Hp.
sound as written
l.v.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.
pizz.
arco

254

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Alto Flute
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
bucket mute
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
soft
hard
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
(Ped.)
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
arco
div.
Vc.
pizz.
Cb.

260

261 ♩ = 66

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
A. Fl.
Ob. 1
Eng. Hn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1, 3
Hn. 2, 4
Tpt. 1, 2
Tbn. 1, 2
B. Tbn.
Tuba
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.
Pno.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Cb.

bucket mute
hard
(Ped.)
Crotales
Glockenspiel
Ped.
l.v.
sub.
unis.
arco

*Play an octave higher if without extension

268

270

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

A. Fl.

pp ppp

Ob. 1

Eng. Hn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

B. Cl.

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Contrabassoon
grace note on the beat

tr

sf mf ppp

Hn. 1, 3

Hn. 2, 4

Tpt. 1, 2

Tbn. 1, 2

B. Tbn.

Tuba

muted

sf pp pppp

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Hp.

f ff sf mp p pp

8vb

Pno.

mf sf

8vb

(Ped.)

Cel.

pp

(Ped.)

270

Vln. I

flautando(fast bowing)

mf sf ppp pppp

Vln. II

flautando(slow bowing)

Staggered bowing. Do not synchronize with other players.

mf sf ppp pppp

flautando(fast bowing)

mf sf ppp pppp

flautando(slow bowing)

Staggered bowing. Do not synchronize with other players.

mf sf ppp pppp

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

div.

sf pp ppp pppp