



No. 66711

GEORGE CRUMB

STAR-CHILD

A Parable for Soprano, Antiphonal Children's Voices,
Male Speaking Choir and Bell Ringers, and Large Orchestra

Score

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute 1 (also Piccolo 1)
 Flute 2 (also Piccolo 2)
 Flute 3 (also Piccolo 3)
 Flute 4 (also Piccolo 4)
 Oboe 1
 Oboe 2
 Oboe 3
 Oboe 4 (also English Horn)
 Clarinet in E_b (also Clarinet 4 in B_b)
 Clarinet 1
 Clarinet 2 in B_b
 Clarinet 3
 Bassoon 1
 Bassoon 2
 Bassoon 3
 Contrabassoon (also Bassoon 4)
 Horn 1
 Horn 2
 Horn 3
 Horn 4
 Horn 5
 Horn 6
 Trumpet 1
 Trumpet 2
 Trumpet 3 in C
 Trumpet 4
 Trumpet 5
 Trumpet 6 in D
 Trumpet 7
 Trombone 1
 Trombone 2
 Trombone 3
 Tuba

N.B. English Horn, Clarinet, and French Horn are transposed. The D Trumpets sound as written.

Percussion 1
 Percussion 2
 Percussion 3
 Percussion 4
 Percussion 5
 Percussion 6
 Percussion 7
 Percussion 8

Organ
 Solo Soprano
 Children's Voices I and II (SASA)
 Male Speaking Choir (= also Handbell Players)

20 Handbells required (natural sound + five higher than written)

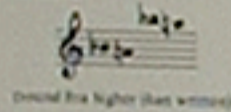


Violins I
 Violins II
 Violas
 Cellos
 Contrabasses
 2 Primary and 2 Secondary Conductors

Performance material available on rental

PERCUSSION

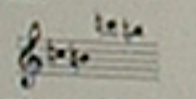
PERCUSSION 1
 Small Tamtam (and Contrabass bow)
 Large Suspended Cymbal
 4 Mounted Crotales



(sounds five higher than written)

Sleighbells

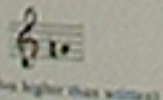
PERCUSSION 2
 Medium Tamtam (and Contrabass bow)
 Very Large Suspended Cymbal
 4 Mounted Crotales



(sounds five higher than written)

Sleighbells

PERCUSSION 3
 Large Tamtam (and Contrabass bow)
 3 Timpani (and a sturdy wooden ruler [with metal edge] for bowing Timpano)
 A Detached Cymbal (with flattened dome) for placing on Timpano membrane
 Bass Drum
 Small Suspended Cymbal
 Large Suspended Cymbal
 Tambourine
 1 Detached Crotale



(sounds five higher than written)

Glockenspiel (sounds 2 octaves higher than written)

Tubular Bells

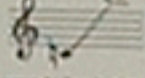
Claves

PERCUSSION 4
 Very Large Tamtam (and Contrabass bow)
 Small Log Drum
 Heavy Iron Chain
 Xylophone (sounds five higher than written)
 4 Tom-toms (a series from low to high)
 Sizzle Cymbal
 (Glockenspiel—shared with Perc. 3)
 Vibraphone
 Flexatone
 Bongos
 Conga Machine

PERCUSSION 5

Large Tamtam
 Maraca
 Sizzle Cymbal
 Sleighbells
 Large Suspended Cymbal
 Tambourine (mounted)

4 Tom-toms (a series from low to high)
 Metal Thunder Sheet
 Crotales



(2 distinct sets, sounds five higher than written)

Tubular Bells

Flexatone

Claves

PERCUSSION 6

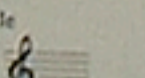
Maraca
 Medium Tamtam
 Sleighbells
 Sizzle Cymbal
 Tenor Drum
 4 Tom-toms (a series from low to high)
 Medium Suspended Cymbal
 (Metal Thunder Sheet—shared with Perc. 5)
 (Tubular Bells—shared with Perc. 5)
 Conga Drum
 Claves

PERCUSSION 7

Large Log Drum
 Heavy Iron Chain
 Sizzle Cymbal
 Small Tamtam
 4 Tom-toms (a series from low to high)
 4 Mounted Pot Lids (or Metal Plates) (a series from low to high)
 (Bass Drum—shared with Perc. 8)
 Medium Tamtam (and Contrabass bow)
 Glockenspiel (sounds 2 octaves higher than written)
 Flexatone
 Conga Drum
 Claves
 Tenor Drum

PERCUSSION 8

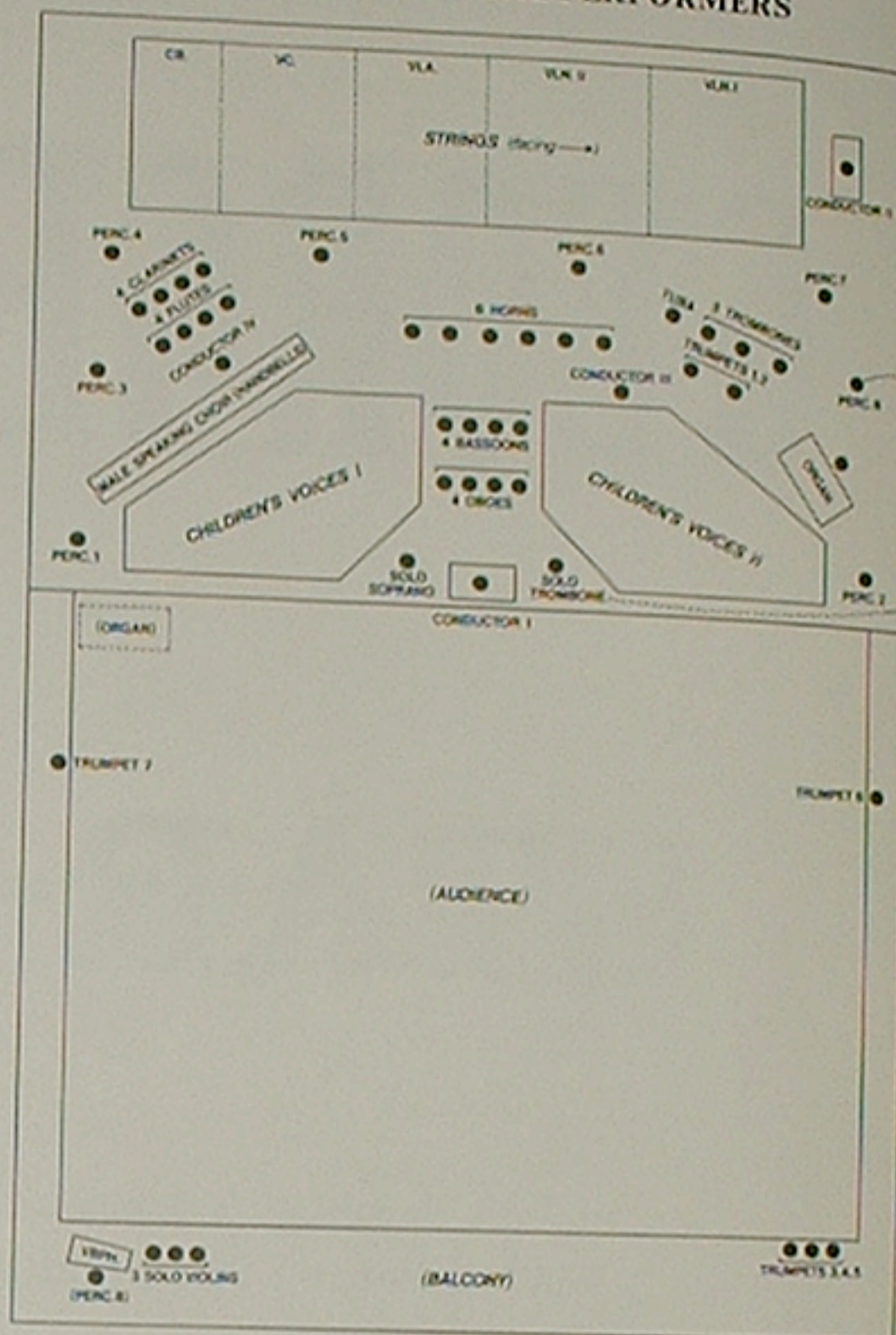
3 Timpani (and a sturdy wooden ruler [with metal edge] for bowing Timpano)
 A Detached Cymbal (with flattened dome) for placing on Timpano membrane
 Bass Drum
 Tambourine
 Large Tamtam
 A Large, Low-pitched Bell (with Metal Hammer)
 1 Detached Crotale



(sounds five higher than written)

Snare Drum
 Vibraphone (at Balcony Position)
 Large Suspended Cymbal
 Flexatone
 Claves

POSITIONING OF THE PERFORMERS

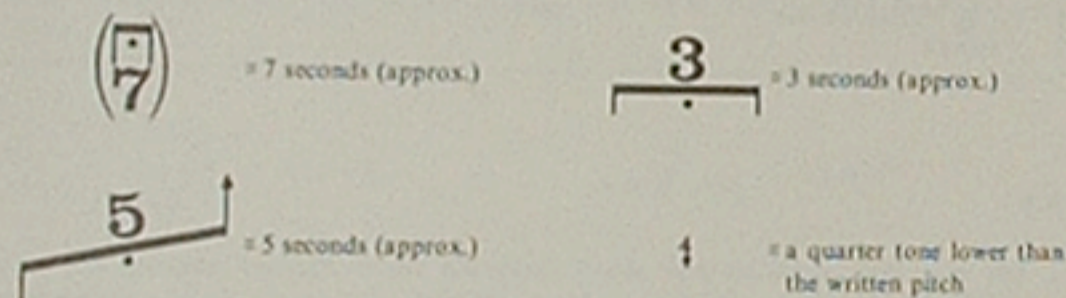


N.B.

1. Conductors I and II stand (on podia) throughout the performance. Conductors III and IV remain seated until their respective passages, at which point they stand (podia are not necessary for the secondary conductors).
2. It is preferable for the solo soprano to be seated at the conclusion of *Vox clamans in deserto*. She would stand again at [30] and remain standing until the conclusion of the work.
3. The children are seated for the first part of the work. They should stand precisely on the 3rd eighth note beat after [28], i.e. with the "bell" chord (glockenspiel, crotales, tubular bells). They remain standing until the conclusion of the work.
4. The solo trombonist is positioned in front of the orchestra until the conclusion of *Vox clamans in deserto*, at which point he walks to his position in the orchestra. If four trombonists are available, another musician could take the 1st trombone part at this point, in which case the solo trombonist exits offstage.
5. If preferred, the male speaking choir can be divided and the second half placed behind Children's Voices II. The whispered passages on the last page of the work would in this case produce an antiphonal effect.
6. Percussionist 8 walks to his balcony position after his timpani passage at [31].
7. Trumpets 6 and 7 can be positioned either in the aisles or in one of the balconies.
8. Trumpets 3, 4, and 5 should be positioned in the uppermost balcony at the rear of the auditorium; likewise, the 3 solo violins and percussion 8 (but on the opposite side).
9. If the hall lacks a permanently installed organ, a smaller instrument can be positioned onstage (as shown above).

PERFORMANCE NOTES

1. A choir consisting only of boys' voices would be most suitable for *Star-Child*. However, if the boys' voices lack the required incisiveness and "weight," it is suggested that a few adult sopranos be used for support.
2. The male speaking choir should consist of 8-16 strong voices. It is strongly recommended that these voices be considerably amplified by means of several conventional microphones in order to ensure the requisite *fortissimo* in the shouted passages ("Musica Apocalyptica"), and in order to project the whispered passages at the conclusion of the work.
3. Since the handbells are played by the members of the male speaking choir, the microphones used for the amplification of the voices will also help to project the handbells (which are otherwise not capable of the required brilliance).
4. Conductor I (rather than Conductor II) could conduct the concluding whispered passages of the male speaking choir if this would be more convenient and practical.
5. The vowel sounds in the solo soprano and solo trombone parts ("Vox Clamans in Deserto") and in the children's choir parts ("Adventus Puerorum Luminis") should be pronounced as in Italian.
6. Depending on the acoustics and the size of the stage, the string section can be considerably reduced, if necessary. Also, if the effect still does not seem "distant" enough, it would be advisable to divide the entire string section into two parts which could alternate at each repetition of the "Musica Mundana I" circle-music. This would also serve to relieve the fatigue produced by the sustained *pianissimo* playing.
7. Although the three violins and vibraphone at the conclusion of the work are intended to sound "distant," this passage must nonetheless be clearly perceptible; therefore the dynamics should be adjusted accordingly. Likewise, "Musica Humana I," "Musica Humana II," and "Musica Mundana II" might have to be played at a slightly louder dynamic than indicated, if required for a good overall balance.
8. Stiff metal foil is required for trumpets 3, 4, and 5 for several passages after [25] in order to produce a brassy, shimmering timbre. The most convenient material would be aluminum foil pie plates! These would either be held firmly over the bell of the instrument or else taped to the bell in some fashion.
9. The trumpet 7 part could be played on a high B₃ piccolo trumpet instead of on a D trumpet, if desired.
10. Members of the woodwind and brass sections of the orchestra can also, if desired, participate in the shouted Latin phrases ("Musica Apocalyptica"). This would further increase the power of these passages.
11. The organ part in *Star-Child* requires an instrument capable of a powerful *fortissimo*.
- 12.



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58

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THE TEXTS

The Latin texts are freely adapted from Medieval sources of the 12th century: *Dies Irae* and *Massacre of the Innocents*, except the concluding soprano lines, which are from *John*, XII-36.

SOPRANO

"Vox clamans in deserto"
Liberate me, Domine, de morte
aeterna, in die illa tremenda,
quando coeli movendi sunt et
terra, dum veneris iudicare
saeculum per ignem.
Domine, libera me de morte
aeterna!

Tremens factus sum ego et
timeo, dum discussio venerit
atque vestra ira.
Liberate me, Domine, de morte
aeterna.

"Adventus puerorum luminis"

Domine, dona eis lucem!
Vetus abit litura,
Ritus abit veterum!
Iam plebs caeca gregem
Videns lucis radium!
Fracto mortis carcere!

"Hymnus pro novo tempore"

Lux luget in tenebris!
Exultate in Domino!
Gloria in excelsis!
Jubilare in Domino!

Fonus pene rumpitur,
Nato rege glorie!

Lux luget in tenebris!
Gloria in excelsis!
Exultate in Domino!
Jubilare in Domino!

Mortis torrens bibitur,
Data lege gratiae!

Laudemus Dominum!

Diis est letitiae,
Lux iugis psallentium!

Munus festi solvitur,
Gaudemus igitur!

Gloria in excelsis!
Lux luget in tenebris!

Dum lumen habetis,
credite in lucem,
ut filii lucis sitis.

"Voice crying in the wilderness"

Deliver me, O Lord, from
eternal death on that dreadful
day when the heavens and the earth
shall be moved, and Thou shalt come
to judge the world by fire.
O Lord, deliver me from eternal
death!

I am seized with fear and trembling
when I reflect upon the judgment
and wrath to come.
Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal
death.

SOPRANO

"Advent of the children of light"

O Lord, grant them light!
The ancient law is no more,
Gone are the rites of old!
Already the blind
See a ray of light!
And the bonds of death are broken!

CHILDREN

"Hymn for the new age"
Light shines in the darkness!
Exult in God!
Glory on high!
Rejoice in God!

SOPRANO

Their bonds are nearly broken,
For born is the king of glory!

CHILDREN

Light shines in the darkness!
Glory on high!
Exult in God!
Rejoice in God!

SOPRANO

The flow of death is swallowed up,
The law of mercy is bestowed on us!

CHILDREN

Let us praise God!

SOPRANO

It is a day of joy,
A light is shed on the
yoke of the singers!
A festival is celebrated,
Therefore let us rejoice!

CHILDREN

Glory on high!
Light shines in the darkness!

SOPRANO

While ye have light,
believe in the light,
that ye may be the children of light.

PROGRAM NOTE

Star-Child, completed in March, 1977, was commissioned by the Ford Foundation and written for Irene Gubrud, soprano, and Pierre Boulez and the New York Philharmonic. The score bears a dedication to my two sons, David and Peter.

Star-Child represents my largest work in terms of the performing forces required (most of my writing has been concentrated in the chamber dimension, and even my earlier orchestral music is fairly modest in its instrumentation). It seems to me that when a Latin text is involved, a large, monolithic quality is suggested. Also, I was interested in constructing a work with the maximum contrasts of textures and timbres. However, the full weight of the orchestra is employed only in the *Apocalyptica* section, with its driving rhythms and sustained *fortissimo*.

The title was suggested by another of my works, *Music for a Summer Evening (Makrokosmos III)*, in which there is a section called "Hymn for the Advent of the Star-Child." In addition, there are certain pertinent references in *Star-Child's* Latin texts to "children of light" in the Biblical quote (in "Hymn for the New Age") and to finding the light in a world of darkness (in "Advent of the Children of Light"). Binding the work together is a sense of progression from darkness (or despair) to light (or joy and spiritual realization) as expressed by both music and text—a conception that is at the same time medieval and romantic. For instance, the idea of dark and light is reflected in the orchestration, for the earlier sections of *Star-Child* favor the darker instruments (the lower brass, bassoons, contrabassoon), while near the end the effect is quite different when the children sing amidst the luminous sounds of handbells, antique cymbals, glockenspiel, and tubular bells. However, there is no esoteric philosophical basis to *Star-Child*. It is simply a work within the tradition of music having a finale which expresses the hope that, after a struggle or after dark implications, there is something beyond. I feel, too, that the Latin texts transcend doctrine and convey universal meaning.

Four conductors are required for *Star-Child*, two primary and two secondary. Conductor I conducts all the vocal passages and also all of the winds and six of the percussionists until the concluding portion of the work. Conductor II conducts all the strings and two of the percussionists throughout. During the "Hymn for the New Age" the winds divide into smaller groupings, and at this point Conductor III directs the brass instruments and three percussionists while Conductor IV leads the clarinets, flutes, and vibraphone.

Star-Child is continuous, despite sectional divisions. The germinal idea, "Music of the Spheres" (strings, *pianissimo*), moves throughout the work in a circular and therefore static manner, a kind of background music over which the human drama is enacted. This idea consists of a continuum of chords built upon the interval of a perfect fifth. Over these slow-moving strains of "suspended" music I have superimposed (in the manner of Charles Ives) a sequence of boldly contrasting music. The necessity for four conductors arose from the fact that each music has its own tempo and meters (meters tend to be odd-numbered: the opening string music is in 11/4 time, the entire *Apocalyptica* in 5/16, and there are other sections based on sevens and threes). The four conductors do not synchronize and therefore all sense of vertical alignment is erased. I had even imagined that the "visual counterpoint" of the four-fold conducting would produce a choreography of its own!

Star-Child contains a number of programmatic or pictorial allusions. The seven trumpets of the apocalypse are represented, quite literally, by seven trumpets—two in the orchestra and five positioned around the auditorium. This extended passage of trumpet cadenzas climaxes with a heroic high F on the fateful seventh trumpet. Also, the four horsemen of the apocalypse are represented, not quite literally, by four drummers playing sixteen tom-toms. "Dies Irae" is quoted at several points in a rather surreal whole-tone transformation: the first phrase of it is extensively used in the *Apocalyptica*, while its three phrases comprise the soft brass music that accompanies the children's chorus at the end. "Voice Crying in the Wilderness," with a text consisting of extracts from the "Dies Irae," is a long duet for solo soprano and solo trombonist (the trombonist is in front of the orchestra for this section). The "Voice" is therefore a composite voice, with the trombone functioning as a kind of *Doppelgänger*.

Star-Child's right percussionists play a wide range of instruments. Some of the more characteristic are: iron chairs, hexatones, pot lids (struck with metal beaters), sizzle cymbals, a metal thunder sheet, leg drums, and a wind machine. Some of the more usual instruments are required in pairs, e.g., vibraphones, sets of timpani, bass drums, and tubular bells. Since the percussion instruments are arranged in a semi-circular fashion around the orchestra, their multicolored timbres and textures totally impregnate the orchestral fabric.

GEORGE CRONK

4 Piccolo

4 Oboes

4 Clarinet

3 Clarinet (Bb)

Trumpets 1, 2 (C)

6 Horns

Trombones 1, 2, 3

3 Tuba

3 Vapn.

4 Clarinet

6 Clarinet

8 Clarinet

Conductor II

Handwritten musical score for measures 1 through 13. The score includes parts for 4 Piccolo, 4 Oboes, 4 Clarinet, 3 Clarinet (Bb), Trumpets 1, 2 (C), 6 Horns, Trombones 1, 2, 3, 3 Tuba, 3 Vapn., 4 Clarinet, 6 Clarinet, and 8 Clarinet. The music is written in a complex, rhythmic style with many notes and rests. Dynamic markings such as *ff sempre* and *mf* are present throughout. The conductor's part is indicated by a wavy line at the bottom.

14

4 Piccolo

3 Bassoon

3 Bassoon

6 Horns

3 Tuba

3 Vapn.

4 Clarinet

6 Clarinet

8 Clarinet

Conductor II

Handwritten musical score for measures 14 through 17. The score includes parts for 4 Piccolo, 3 Bassoon, 3 Bassoon, 6 Horns, 3 Tuba, 3 Vapn., 4 Clarinet, 6 Clarinet, and 8 Clarinet. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings include *mf*, *ff*, and *mp sub.*. There are several annotations and markings, including *mf sub.*, *ff*, *mp sub.*, and *ff*. The conductor's part is indicated by a wavy line at the bottom.

3 Vapn.

4 Clarinet

6 Clarinet

8 Clarinet

Conductor II

Percussion part for measures 14 through 17. It includes parts for 3 Vapn., 4 Clarinet, 6 Clarinet, and 8 Clarinet. The music is written in a complex, rhythmic style with many notes and rests. Dynamic markings such as *mf* and *ff* are present. There are several annotations and markings, including *mf*, *ff*, and *mp sub.*. The conductor's part is indicated by a wavy line at the bottom.

3 Vapn.

4 Clarinet

6 Clarinet

8 Clarinet

Conductor II

Percussion part for measures 14 through 17. It includes parts for 3 Vapn., 4 Clarinet, 6 Clarinet, and 8 Clarinet. The music is written in a complex, rhythmic style with many notes and rests. Dynamic markings such as *mf* and *ff* are present. There are several annotations and markings, including *mf*, *ff*, and *mp sub.*. The conductor's part is indicated by a wavy line at the bottom.

3 Vapn.

4 Clarinet

6 Clarinet

8 Clarinet

Conductor II

Percussion part for measures 14 through 17. It includes parts for 3 Vapn., 4 Clarinet, 6 Clarinet, and 8 Clarinet. The music is written in a complex, rhythmic style with many notes and rests. Dynamic markings such as *mf* and *ff* are present. There are several annotations and markings, including *mf*, *ff*, and *mp sub.*. The conductor's part is indicated by a wavy line at the bottom.

3 Vapn.

4 Clarinet

6 Clarinet

8 Clarinet

Conductor II

Percussion part for measures 14 through 17. It includes parts for 3 Vapn., 4 Clarinet, 6 Clarinet, and 8 Clarinet. The music is written in a complex, rhythmic style with many notes and rests. Dynamic markings such as *mf* and *ff* are present. There are several annotations and markings, including *mf*, *ff*, and *mp sub.*. The conductor's part is indicated by a wavy line at the bottom.

17

4 Flutes

Contrabassoon

Timpani 3

Tuba

Flautist

Conductor II

18

2 Flutes

2 Flutes

E♭ Clarinet

3 Clarinets (B♭)

3 Bassoons

Contrabassoon

6 Horns

Timpani 3

Tuba

Flautist

4 Oboes

E♭ Clarinet

3 Clarinets (B♭)

3 Bassoons

Contrabassoon

2 Trumpets (C)

Horn 1

Flautist

4 Flutes
4 Oboes
3 Clarinet (Bb)
3 Bassoons
Contrabassoon
Trompette 1/2 (in C)
6 Horns 2/4
Trombone 1/3
Tuba

Organ [Man.]

Conductor II

Di - ce il - la
sol - vet sus - clam in fa - vil - la,
te - ste Da - vid cum Si - byl - la!

Handwritten musical notation for woodwinds and brass, including dynamics like *ff* and *f*, and performance instructions like *(Pia)*.

Organ [Man.]

Conductor II

Di - ce il - la
sol - vet sus - clam in fa - vil - la,
te - ste Da - vid cum Si - byl - la!

Handwritten musical notation for organ and conductor, including performance instructions like *(Cantabile)*, *(Andante)*, *Large tam-tam (metal beater)*, and *Tam-tam (ring)*.

4 Flutes
4 Oboes
3 Clarinet (Bb)
3 Bassoons
Contrabassoon
Trompette 1/2 (in C)
6 Horns 2/4
Trombone 1/3
Tuba

Organ [Man.]

Conductor II

Di - ce il - la
sol - vet sus - clam in fa - vil - la,
te - ste Da - vid cum Si - byl - la!

Handwritten musical notation for woodwinds and brass, including dynamics like *ff*, *f*, and *mf*, and performance instructions like *(Pia)*, *(Cantabile)*, and *(Andante)*.

Organ [Man.]

Conductor II

Di - ce il - la
sol - vet sus - clam in fa - vil - la,
te - ste Da - vid cum Si - byl - la!

Handwritten musical notation for organ and conductor, including performance instructions like *(Cantabile)*, *(Andante)*, and *(Pia)*.

24

4 Piccolo
4 Oboe
2 Clarinet
3 Clarinet (B)
3 Bassoon
Contrabassoon
Tampati
6 Horns
3 Trombone
Tuba
Organ
Percussion
Conductor I

4 Piccolo
4 Oboe
2 Clarinet
3 Clarinet (B)
3 Bassoon
Contrabassoon
Tampati
6 Horns
3 Trombone
Tuba
Organ
Percussion
Conductor II

7

CUE FOR CONDUCTOR III
 [Complete revolution of Circle Music, then cease playing]

42

Solo Soprano: *fer-ti sol-vi-tur, Quo-de a-mos i-gi-fer!*

Children's Voices I: *Do-mi-nus! Do-mi-nus! Do-mi-nus! Ah! Glo-ri-a in-ex-cel-sis!*

Children's Voices II: *Do-mi-nus! Do-mi-nus! Do-mi-nus! Ah! Glo-ri-a in-ex-cel-sis!*

Handbells: *La-ude!*

3 Oboes

English Horn

4 Bassoons

Percussion 3

Conductor I
 Conductor II
 Conductor III
 Organ

Adagio (♩ = 46); serene, immobile

CUE FOR CONDUCTOR IV
 [Complete revolution of Circle Music, then cease playing]

13

43

Solo Soprano

Children's Voices I: *Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a!*

Children's Voices II: *Glo-ri-a, glo-ri-a!*

Handbells: *(let all muttering!)*

3 Oboes: *pp dolciss.*

English Horn

4 Bassoons: *pp dolciss.*

Percussion 3: *(Tubular Bells) pp (Lx)*

Large Tintinn: *ppp (Lx sempre)*

Conductor I
 Conductor II
 Conductor III
 Organ

I: *pp dolciss. Lux lo-cet*

II: *pp dolciss. in-re-ve-bris, in-re-ve-bris, pp*

(Handbells): *pp*

CUE FOR ORGAN
 [Complete revolution of Circle Music, then cease playing]

44

CUE FOR CONDUCTOR II
 [Complete revolution of Circle Music, then take the final ending]

Senza misura (♩ = 72, but freely)
 (like a benedictin)

Solo Soprano: *Dum le-mon ha-be-tis, cre-di-te in no-men, ut fi-lii lo-ci si-tis.*

Children's Voices I: *ppp Lux lo-cet*

Children's Voices II: *ppp Lux lo-cet*

Handbells: *pppp*

Oboe 2: *pppp*

Bassoon 1: *pppp*

Percussion 3: *pppp*

Conductor I
 Conductor II
 Organ

3 5 3 5

(Organ holds offstage through out orchestra conclusion!)

(Musica Mundana I)

B [final ending]

Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello

B [final ending]

Misterioso [Adagio, ♩=40 sempre]

A DISTANT MUSIC [pizzicato]

CONDUCTOR II

3 Solo Violins
Perc. B
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Violin I
Triple Singing Choir (Soprano)

3 Solo Violins
Perc. B
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Violin I
Triple Singing Choir (Soprano)

B

March, 1977

(R) The whispering should be *legatissimo* in character!