

Robert Davidson

ABOVE GROUND

Percussion concerto

2004

Instrumentation

Solo percussion: Vibraphone (bow, mallets), bongos, 2 tom-toms, snare drum, bass drum, cajon
Piano

Duration

21'

Program Note

When composing *Above Ground*, I was thinking of the landscape around where I live in Brisbane, extending out to the Glasshouse Mountains, Sunshine Coast and Border Ranges to the south, as if surveying the ground from a glider or small plane - not too high in the sky. I was aware of the enormous volcanoes that were once dominant in this part of the world, and of the jagged rocky shapes that once were magma plugs inside the volcanoes, as well as the placid lakes and beaches, the lush rainforests and mangroves, and the impossibly blue sky. Somehow, various scattered musical influences made their way into the piece. Raucous honky-tonk silent movie music in the first movement, serene chord progressions of Prokofiev in the second movement and 1970s TV cop shows like *Starsky & Hutch* in the third one. They just seemed to fit, and I remembered my teacher Terry Riley advising me to keep my musical imagination open to what enters, resisting censoring. Genre boundaries, which seemed to matter to many people when I was a student, have really gone the way of the dodo and I'm glad about that.

The piece is in three movements, organised as fast-slow-fast. It was commissioned by the Brisbane Symphony Orchestra and Karak, the percussion duo consisting of Kerry Joy and Kevin Man. I rewrote the concerto for solo percussion after various other versions, including several chamber versions, one (for Clocked Out duo and my ensemble Topology), which features prepared piano as a second soloist. The work has also been choreographed by François Klaus for the Queensland Ballet.

ABOVE GROUND

I

Piano reduction by the composer

Robert Davidson

$\text{♩} = 112$
Vibraphone

Vibraphone

Piano

f

2 3 4

Vib.

Pno

f

mp

5 6 7 8

Vib.

Pno

9 10 11 12

Vib.

Pno

f

13 14 15 16

A

Vib. *fp* *f*

Pno

17 18 19

Vib.

Pno

20 21 22 23

Vib.

Pno

24 25 26 27

Vib.

Pno

28 29 30

B

Vib.

f *3*

Pno

fp

31 32 33 34

Vib.

3

Pno

35 36 37 38 39

Vib.

f

C

Pno

mf *mp*

40 41 42 43

Vib.

f *mp* *3*

Pno

44 45 46 47

Vib. D

Pno

48 49 50 51

f *ℓeo.*

Pno

(*ℓeo.*) 52 53 54 55 56

Pno

57 58 59 60 61

f *p*

Drums E Bongos, toms, snare, bass drum

Pno

(*ℓeo.*) 62 63 64

ff *p* *8ba*

Drums

f *fp* *fp*

Pno

(8) 65 66 67 68 69

ff *ff p* *ff* *p*

Drums

Pno

f

ff

(8)

70 71 72 73

Drums

Pno

(8)

74 75 76 77

Drums

Pno

f

ff ³ 6 *f* *ff* ³

(8)

78 79 80 81

Drums

Pno

f

ff

(8)

82 83 84 85

F

Drums

Pno

86 87 88

Drums

Pno

89 90 91

Drums

Pno

92 93 94

G

f

ff

8ba

Drums

Pno

95 96 97

f

(8)

Drums

Pno

98 99 100

98 99 100

Drums

Pno

101 102 103

p

101 102 103

Drums

Pno

104 105 106

ff

104 105 106

Drums

Pno

107 108 109

sfz *ff*

107 108 109

Drums

Pno

f

110 111 112 113 114 115 116

Drums

Pno

117 118 119 120 121 122 123

Drums

Pno

To Vibraphone

ff

124 125 126 127 128

Vib.

Pno

H

Vibraphone (bowed)

mf

esp.

pp

129 130 131 132

Vib.

Pno

133 134 135 136

Vib.

Pno

137 138 139

Vib.

Pno

140 141 142

Vib.

Pno

143 144 145

Vib.

Pno

146 147 148 149

Vib.

Pno

150 151 152 153

Vib.

Pno

154 155 156

Vib.

Pno

157 158 159

I

Vib.

Pno

160 161 162

Vib.

Pno

163 164 165

Vib.

Pno

166 167 168

Vib.

Pno

169 170 171

f

Vib.

Pno

185 186 187 188 189

Vib.

Pno

190 191 192 193 194

Vib.

Pno

K


mf

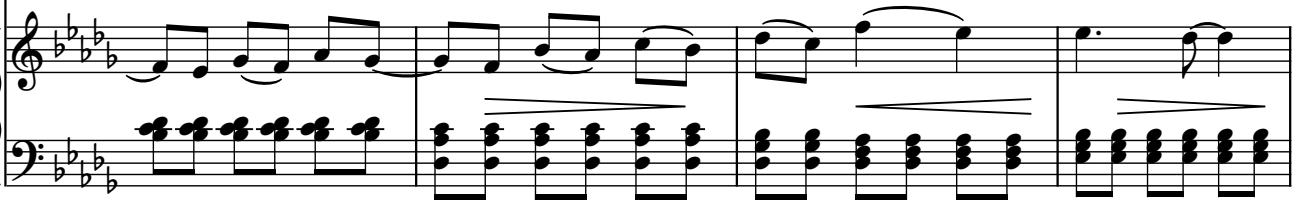
195 196 197 198 199

Vib.


Pno


200 201 202 203

Vib. 

Pno 

204 205 206 207

Vib. 

Pno 

208 209 210 211 212

Vib. 

Pno 


213 214 215 216

Vib. 

Pno 

217 218 219 220

To Bongos, toms snare, bass drum

Pno 

221 222 223 224

O

Bongos, toms snare, bass drum

Drums

Pno

225 226 227

228 229 230

231 232 233 234

235 236 237 238

Drums

fp *ff* *fp* *ff*

Pno

239 240 241

Drums

pp

Pno

ff

242 243 244 *pp* 245

Pno

pp

246 247 248 249

Pno

250 251 252 253 254

Freely

P

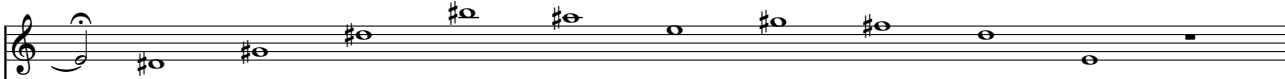
Vibraphone
(bowed)


Vib.

pp *p*


Pno

255

Vib. 


Pno 

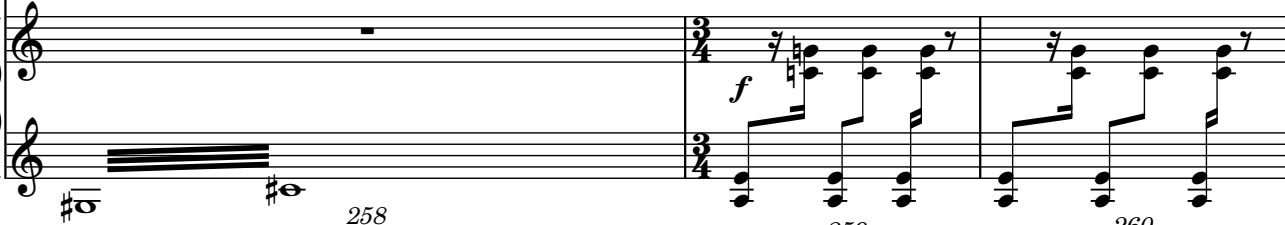
256

Vib. 

Pno 

257

Vib. 

Pno 

258

Q ♩ = 120

259

260

Vib. 


Pno 


261

262

263

264

Vib. 

Pno 

265

266

267

268

Vib.

Pno

mf

ff

269 270 271 272

Vib.

Pno

273 274 275 276

gradually fade the left hand notes

Vib.

Pno

277 278 279 280 281

$\text{♩} = 50$

Vib.

Pno

282 283 284 285

$\text{♩} = 60$

R

Vibraphone

Piano

mp

pp

mp

This musical score is for measures 3 through 12 of a piece, featuring a Vibraphone (Vib.) and Piano (Pno.) duo. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats). The Vibraphone part consists of single notes, mostly half notes, with some quarter notes and eighth notes in measures 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11. The Piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords, primarily in the right hand, and some single notes in the left hand. The score is divided into measures 3 through 12, with measure numbers 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 indicated below the piano part. Dynamics include *pp* (pianissimo) at the start of measures 3 and 5, and *mp* (mezzo-piano) at the start of measures 4, 6, 8, 10, and 11. Slurs are used to group notes in measures 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11. The Vibraphone part has some slurs in measures 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11. The Piano part has some slurs in measures 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11.

Vib.

Pno

pp *mp*

3 4

Vib.

Pno

pp *mp*

5 6

Vib.

Pno

7 8

Vib.

Pno

9 10

Vib.

Pno

11 12

S bowed

Vib.

Pno

mp

8^{ba}

13 14

Vib.

Pno

(8)

15 16

Vib.

Pno

(8)

17 18

Vib.

Pno

(8)

19 20

T

Vib.

mp

Pno

mp

(8)

21

22

Vib.

Pno

(8)

23

24

Vib.

Pno

(8)

25

26

U

Vib.

Pno

(8)

27

28

29

p

Vib. *ppp*

Pno 30 31 32

Vib. mallets *mf* *Red.*

Pno *mp*

33 34 35

Vib. (*Red.*)

Pno

36 37 38

Vib. **V**

Pno

39 40 41 42

Vib. W

Pno

43 44 45

Red.

Vib.

Pno

46 47 48

Vib. X

Pno

49 50 51 52

Red.

Vib. *(Red.)*

Pno

53 54 55

Vib.

Pno

56 57 58

Y

Vib. (Led.)

Pno

59 60 61

Vib. (Led.)

Pno

62 63 64

Vib. (Led.)

Pno

65 66 67

Vib. (Led.)

Pno

68 69 70 71

Vib. (Led.)

Pno

72 73 74 75

Score for Vibraphone (Vib.) and Piano (Pno.).

The score is divided into measures 76 through 90. The Vibraphone part features melodic lines with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals) and slurs. The Piano part provides harmonic accompaniment with chords and arpeggios, marked with *mf* (mezzo-forte) and slurs.

Measures 76-78: Vib. starts with a melodic line marked with a box containing 'Z'. Pno. accompaniment begins with *mf*.

Measures 79-81: Vib. continues with melodic lines. Pno. accompaniment continues with chords.

Measures 82-84: Vib. continues with melodic lines. Pno. accompaniment continues with chords.

Measures 85-87: Vib. continues with melodic lines. Pno. accompaniment continues with chords.

Measures 88-90: Vib. continues with melodic lines. Pno. accompaniment continues with chords.

Vib. AA

Pno

mf

8^{ba}

91 92 93

Vib.

Pno

(8)

94 95 96

Vib.

Pno

(8)

97 98 99

Vib.

Pno

(8)

100 101 102

Vib.

Pno

(8)

103 104 105

Vib.

Pno

(8)

106 107 108

BB

mf
Red.

Vib.

Pno

109 110

Vib.

Pno

111 112

Vib.

Pno

113 114

Vib.

Pno

115 116

Vib.

Pno

117 118

Vib.

Pno

119 120

Vib.

Pno

121

122

Vib.

Pno

123

124

Vib.

Pno

125

126

Vib.

Pno

127

128

Vib.

Pno

129

130

Vib.

Pno

131

132

8^{ba}

Vib.

Pno

CC

mp

(8)

133

134

135

Vib. (Vib.)

Pno

136 137 138

Vib. (Vib.)

Pno

139 = 144 Cajon

140 141

Cajon

Piano

2 3

Cajon

4 5 6

p *ff*

Cajon

7 8 9

Cajon

10 11 12

p

DD To Vibraphone

Cajon *f*

Pno *f*

13 14 15 16

17 18 19

20 21 22

EE

Vibraphone *ff*

Pno

23 24 25

Vib. *pp* *ff*

Pno

26 27

This musical score is divided into two systems. The first system, marked 'DD', contains measures 13 through 22. It features a Cajon part with a single note at measure 13, followed by rests, and a piano (Pno) part with dense chordal textures. The second system, marked 'EE', contains measures 23 through 27. It introduces a vibraphone (Vib) part with a tremolo pattern starting at measure 23, while the piano part continues with its textures. Dynamics include *f* (forte), *ff* (fortissimo), and *pp* (pianissimo). The key signature has two flats, and the time signature is 4/4.

Vib. *pp* *ff*

Pno

28 29

Vib. *pp* *ff*

Pno

30 31

Vib. *pp* *ff*

Pno

32 33

Vib. *pp* *ff*

Pno

34 35

FF

Vib. *pp* *ff*

Pno

36 37 38

Vib.

Pno

39 40 41

Vib.

Pno

42 43 44

Vib.

Pno

45 46 47

GG

Vib.

To Bongo

Pno

48 *f* 49 50 51

52 53 54 55

56 57 58 59

HH

Bongo

Bongo 1

f

Pno

60 *8ba*

61 62 *f*

(8)

63 64 65

Bongo 1

Pno

(8)

66 67 68

Bongo 1

Pno

(8)

69 70 71

Bongo 1

Cajon

fp *ff*

Pno

(8)

72 73 74

Cajon

p *f*

Pno

(8)

75 76 77

Cajon

Pno

(8)

78 79 80

Cajon

p

Pno

(8)

81 82 83

II

Cajon

Pno

(8)

84 85 86

p *f*

Cajon

Pno

(8)

87 88 89 90

Cajon

Pno

(8)

91 92 93 94

Cajon

Pno

(8)

95 96 97

f

Cajon

Pno

(8)

98 99 100

Cajon

Pno

(8)

101 102 103 104

Cajon

Pno

(8)

105 106 107

Cajon

Pno

(8)

108 109 110 111

JJ

f *mp*

Cajon

Pno

112 113 114 115

Cajon

Pno

116 117 118 119

KK

Cajon

Pno

mf

120 121 122 123

Cajon

Pno

124 125 126 127

Cajon

Pno

128 129 130 131

Cajon

Pno

f

132 133 134

Cajon

Pno

f

135 136 137

Cajon

Pno

138 139 140

Cajon

Pno

141 142 143

Cajon

Pno

LL

144 145 146

ff

ff

Cajon

Pno

147 148 149

p

ff

Cajon

Pno

150 151 152

Cajon

Pno

153

154

155

156

p *ff*

ff

8^{va}

(8)