Cento

Michael Mikulka

A cento is a poem comprised entirely of poems by other authors, and *Cento* is a musical representation of that concept: The entire melodic content is derived from famous compositions.

The main purpose of *Cento* is to draw attention to the way we subconsciously remember music. When I hear an unaccompanied melody, I tend to provide it with a harmony. Often, when I finally hear a performance or recording of the piece, the harmony will be different than I had expected. Other times, I will commit a piece to memory on short notice, and it will be in my head for months or years when I have a chance to see the music again, and discover I have been playing a wrong note or rhythm. Other times, I will hear a performance with a wrong note or rhythm and find that I like that version better, and I will play pieces in different keys to hear the difference.

One recurring melody in *Cento* comes from the slow movement of Dvorak's 9th symphony, which I first experienced in simplified form in a piano book. The book made a mistake and halved the note values of a certain passage. When I first heard the orchestral recording of Dvorak 9, I immediately noticed the disparity, but decided that I liked the pentatonic line better at twice the speed, which is how it occurs in *Cento*. The ascending runs at the end of the composition are a reference to *Kingfishers Catch Fire* by John Mackey: after hearing that piece, I can't hear the ending of the Firebird any other way.

The melodies are quoted from the following compositions:
Rite of Spring: Stravinsky
Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun: Debussy
Tristan und Isolde: Wagner
Spartacus: Khachaturian
Thais: Massenet
Don Juan: Strauss
Symphony #7: Beethoven
Symphony #9: Dvorak
Capriccio Espagnol: Rimsky-Korsakov
Pictures at an Exhibition: Mussorgsky/Ravel
The Firebird: Stravinsky
The Planets: Holst
Symphony #4: Tchaikovsky

Cento

Michael Mikulka

Lento

♩ = 50

Piccolo
1st Flute
2nd Flute
1st Oboe
2nd Oboe
English Horn
1st Clarinet in B♭
2nd Clarinet in B♭
Bass Clarinet in B♭
1st Bassoon
2nd Bassoon
1st Horn in F
2nd Horn in F
3rd Horn in F
4th Horn in F
1st Trumpet in B♭
2nd Trumpet in B♭
3rd Trumpet in B♭
Trombone 1
Trombone 2
Bass Trombone
Tuba
Timpani
Percussion
Vibraphone
Harp
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Double Bass

Moving forward

♩ = 66

6

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mf *p* *mf* *mp* *pp*

muted div.

13

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

20

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mute off
div.

27

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

Solo

31

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mf

mf

div.

35

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mp

E♭ - E
A♭ - A

a2

mf

div.

43

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mf mp pp div. Ped

L'istesso Tempo

51

$\mathbf{\mathit{o}} = \mathbf{\mathit{o}}.$

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

59

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mp *mf* *f* *fp* div.

𝅗𝅥 = ♩ As before
69 ♩ = 50

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

straight mute
straight mute
straight mute
muted
div.
muted
div.
div.
div.
div.
Db - Db
Fb - F♮

74 **Moving forward** ♩ = 66

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1 — "echo" mp
Hn. 2 — "echo" p
Hn. 3 — mf
Hn. 4 — mp
Tpt. 1 — (still muted) p — "2nd echo"
Tpt. 2 — (still muted) mp — "1st echo"
Tpt. 3 — (still muted) mf — mute out
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp. — pp
Vln. I — pp
Vln. II — ppp
Vla. — muted div. p
Vc. — muted div. p
Db. — p

80

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

p
p
p
mp
bring out!
mf
bring out!
mf
mute out
mute out
muted
mp
mute out
muted
p
mute out
gliss.
gliss.
mp
p
p
mf
mf

84

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mp
mf
f
pp

energetic/bursting out of the ensemble

bring out!

open

susp. cymbal
cresc.

(pedal throughout)

lisc.

87

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

f *mf* *mp* *p*

open

90

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

ff

mf

(8)

(div.)

94

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

29" - C

23" - G

ff

98

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

fp
f
mp
f
gliss.
ff
div.

103

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

mf
f
mf
gliss.
gliss.
div.
8va
div.

109

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
to Triangle
ff
Vib.
f
Hp.
8va
Vln. I
div.
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

Moving forward

♩ = 88

113

(opt)

Triangle

f

div.

118

Picc.
Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
E. H.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
B. Cl.
Bsn. 1
Bsn. 2
Hn. 1
Hn. 2
Hn. 3
Hn. 4
Tpt. 1
Tpt. 2
Tpt. 3
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
B. Tbn.
Tba.
Timp.
Perc.
Vib.
Hp.
Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vc.
Db.

p mp mf f fff

dampen!!!

gliss.

div.