

THE SOUND OF A SOUND

By Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5
Vocalist	1

Put all those “extra-curricular” sounds your students like to make on their instruments to good use in this fun and entertaining novelty selection. Your audience will laugh out loud as each section takes a turn adding an unusual sound to a simple dance in 3/4 time. As the piece progresses, the counting gets more and more challenging, keeping all of your students on their toes. There’s even a part for a solo “vocalist” to show off their screaming and gargling skills!

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Measures 16, 32, 60, 88, and 140 should sound very chaotic as the players produce their “sound” randomly with no regard to rhythmic pulse. The conductor should stop conducting completely in these measures. How long these measures last is up to the conductor (around 5 seconds is suggested).

A “cut-off” from the conductor should be used to signal to the players to stop making sound. Following mm. 16, 32, 60, and 88, the tempo should resume with very little pause. There should be no pause between mm. 140 and 141, with the conductor cueing the vocalist (after five seconds or so of chaos!), whose scream on beat one of m. 141 will signal players to stop making sound.

The vocalist should be seated in front of the orchestra next to the conductor, dressed formally (in a choir robe if possible), holding their music in a plain choir folder, with a bottle of water at their side. A ceremonial introduction of the vocalist before the piece begins will be most effective. The vocalist should take in all of the proceedings very seriously and should at no time show any emotion. At m. 102, the vocalist should stand and open their folder in preparation for their solo. The vocalist should give the impression that they are reading music from their folder.



The Sound of a Sound

CONDUCTOR SCORE
Duration - 3:45

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Andantino semplice (♩ = 132)

Violins
I
II

Viola

Cello

String Bass

Vocalist

Vlins.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

Front half of section (stand, then sit)

Back half of section (stand, then sit)

sim.

sim.

div.

10 11 12 13 14

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

Tutti
(Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off)

pizz.
4

p

mp
(*pizz.*)

p

pizz.

p

pizz.

p

17

15 16 17 18

Rapid gliss. on E string
to end of fingerboard

arco *f* *pizz.*

Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, Str. Bass, and Vocal staves for measures 19-22. Measure 19 features a rapid glissando on the E string for the Violin I part, marked *f*. Measure 20 has a *pizz.* marking for the Violin I part. Measures 21 and 22 continue the string accompaniment. The vocal line is silent.

19 20 21 22

arco *f* 25

Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, Str. Bass, and Vocal staves for measures 23-27. Measure 23 features a rapid glissando on the E string for the Violin I part, marked *f*. Measure 25 has a *f* marking for the Violin I part. Measures 26 and 27 continue the string accompaniment. The vocal line is silent.

23 24 25 26 27

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

pizz.

p

28 29 30 31

Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off

arco

33 Vivace (♩ = 170)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

f

f

f arco

f arco

f arco

f

32 33 34

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Vocal

35 36 37

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 35, 36, and 37. It features six staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Vocal. The Violin I part has a fermata over the first measure. The Viola part has a '4' marking above the second measure. The String Bass part has a 'V' marking above the second measure. The Vocal staff is empty. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass
Vocal

38 39 40

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 38, 39, and 40. It features six staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Vocal. The Violin I part has a '39' marking above the first measure and a 'V' marking above the second measure. The Viola part has a 'pizz.' marking above the first measure of the third measure. The String Bass part has a 'V' marking above the first measure. The Vocal staff is empty. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. arco pizz. arco

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

41 42 43

rit.

4

45 **Tempo I** (♩ = 132)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla. p

Cello p mp

Str. Bass p

Vocal

44 45 46 47 48

Bartok pizz.

ff

Bartok pizz.

ff

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

arco V

p

ff

p

49 50 51 52 53

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

arco V

ff

ff

p

ff

p

54 55 56 57 58 59

61 Vivace (♩ = 170)

Vlns. I
Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off
f

Vlns. II
ff

Vla.
f

Cello
Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off
f

Str. Bass
ff

Vocal

60 61 62

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

63 64 65

67

Vlns.

I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

66

67

68

Vlns.

I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

69

70

71

72

73 Tempo I (♩ = 132)

Vlns. I
pp

Vlns. II
pp

Vla.
mf
on C string
1

Cello
f

Str. Bass
p

Vocal

73 74 75 76 77

Vlns. I
pizz.

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello
sim.

Str. Bass

Vocal

78 79 80 81 82

arco

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

83 84 85 86 87

89 Vivace (♩ = 170)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

88 89 90

Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

91 92 93

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

94 95 96

ff *pizz.*

95

Vlns. I
arco

Vlns. II
arco
f

Vla.

Cello
arco
f

Str. Bass
arco
f

Vocal

molto rit.

97 98 99

102 **Slow and solemn** (♩ = 88)

Vlns. I
mf

Vlns. II
arco
mp

Vla.
f
mp

Cello
f
mp

Str. Bass
arco
mf > *mp*

Vocal
Stand and open folder

100 101 102 103 104

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

Scream!

ff

105 106 107 108 109

110 **Tempo I** (♩ = 132)

Vlns.
I
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

mf

Scream!

Scream!

110 111 112 113 114

117 Vivace (♩ = 170)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

Scream!

115 116 117 118

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

119 120 121

123

Vlns.

I

II

Vla.

pizz. **ff**

Cello

Str. Bass

ff

Vocal

Scream!

122

123

124

Vlns.

I

II

arco

f

arco

pizz. **ff**

p

arco

p

arco

p

arco

p

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

arco

f

ff

p

Vocal

Scream!

Take a drink

125

126

127

130

Vlns. I *f* *mp* pizz.

Vlns. II *f* *mp* pizz.

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Vocal Gargle on pitch

128 129 130 131

134

Vlns. I *f* arco

Vlns. II *f* arco

Vla. *f* pizz. *ff* arco

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f* *ff* arco

Vocal Scream!

132 133 134 135

Vlns.

I

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

136 137 138 139

Everyone play randomly with no definite rhythm until scream

arco

pizz.

ff

f

ff

ff

Scream!

Vlns.

I

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

140 141 142 143

A tempo

arco

pizz.

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

arco

f

ff

Scream! on cue