

From the Distant Plains II

For Flute Clarinet Violin Cello Piano

From the distant plains

Wang Lu

This piece is written for flute, clarinet, violin, cello and piano. It is a suite in three movements.

The first musical idea of this piece comes from Mongolian folk music—a Jew's Harp song, which is sung by a male vocalist, who hums a low base note while producing higher partials at the same time. This unique and fascinating vocal sound makes me imagine far more than one single male singer: horse-fiddle playing, green plains under the blue sky, flying eagles, running sheep, racing horses... young girls' love songs.

Another idea is also from Mongolian music: the “ Long Tune,” which is imitative polyphony of long melodic lines, sung by solo singers. The charms of the Long Tune are the microtonal ornamentations and nuances each singer improvises while they repeat the same main melody.

In the middle section, there are very fast agitating rhythms, which reflect the excitement felt around the fire dances at night on the plain.

Instrumentation

Flute/Piccolo /F Chime

Clarinet in B-flat / in E-flat / Bass Clarinet / Finger Cymbal (large) or Small Crash Chinese Cymbal

Piano (prepare a metal paper clip or a small metal piece)

Violin

Cello/ Finger Cymbal (large) or Small Crash Chinese Cymbal

From the Distant Plains II

Score in C

All accidentals last for the entire bar within the same octave

Wang Lu
Revised in 2015

♩ = 63

only air noise
no actual pitch

The score consists of five staves:

- Flute:** Starts with a rest, then plays a series of notes with dynamics *ppp* and *pp*. Includes the instruction "only air noise no actual pitch".
- Clarinet in B_b:** Starts with a rest, then plays a note with dynamic *p* and the instruction "finger cymbal". Later, it has the instruction "to bBCI.".
- Violin:** Plays a sustained note with dynamic *ppp*. Includes instructions "sul pont.", "pizz. ord.", and "artificial harmonics on G string".
- Violoncello:** Plays a sustained note with dynamic *ppp*. Includes instructions "ll s.t.", "sul pont. non vibrato", and "arco".
- Piano:** Starts with the instruction "leave the piano lid completely open". The right hand has a rest, while the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern with dynamic *mp*. Includes the instruction "l.v. sempre.".

play along the string with a metal piece using an up and down motion, thereby producing different partials along the string

Harmonic whistle tones on D
pitches are not precisid
play with breathing noise

The musical score is arranged in five staves. The Flute (Fl.) staff begins with a box containing a series of notes on a D scale, with a circled '6' above the first note. The Clarinet (Cl.) staff is marked 'non vibrato' and features a long, low note with a 'ppp' dynamic marking. The Violin (Vln.) staff includes triplets and a 'p' dynamic marking, with a '3' above a triplet. The Viola (Vc.) staff features a triplet with 'mf' dynamic, followed by a 'p' dynamic and a 'molto vibrato ord.' instruction. The Piano (Pno.) staff has a 'PPP' dynamic marking and includes triplets and an '8va' marking. The bottom staff shows piano accompaniment with 'x' marks on the notes.

10

Fl. *pppp* *pp* *ppp* *ppp* (*o*)
ord. molto vibrato

Vln. *p* *mp* *pp* *p*³
 molto vibrato

Vc. *mp* *mf* 3

Pno. *ppp* *mf* l.v. sempre. 3

Ped. *mf*

14

Fl.

pppp

Cl.

ord.

ppp

Vln.

pp

mf

fff

ord.

8^{va}

6

5

Vc.

add extra bow pressure

less and less pressure

ord.

ff

pp

Pno.

8^{va}

p

mp

mf

3

3

3

3

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a chamber ensemble. It features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute part begins at measure 14 with a *pppp* dynamic and includes a detailed fingering chart for the first six measures. The Clarinet part has a *ppp* dynamic and includes an *ord.* (order) marking. The Violin part starts with *pp*, moves to *mf* with the instruction "molto vibrato add extra bow pressure", reaches *fff*, and then has an *ord.* marking with an *8^{va}* (octave) marking and fingerings 6 and 5. The Viola part starts with *ff*, has an *ord.* marking, and ends with *pp*. The Piano part features *p* and *mp* dynamics, *8^{va}* markings, and several triplet figures (marked with "3").

A

Fl. *bisbig.* *mf* *p* *mf* *p*

Cl. *to cymbal* *finger cymbal l.v. sempre.* *mp*

Vln. *p* *mf* *mp* *ord.* *sul tasto*

Vc. *molto vibrato* *mf* *ord. harmonics on C string* *mp* *molto vibrato*

Pno. *f* *mf* *mp* *ff*

Reo. *f* *mf*

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 18 through 21. The Flute part (Fl.) starts at measure 18 with a *mf* dynamic and a *bisbig.* (whisper) instruction. It features a melodic line with a *p* dynamic at measure 19, a triplet of eighth notes at measure 20, and another *p* dynamic at measure 21. The Clarinet part (Cl.) has a *mp* dynamic and includes a *finger cymbal l.v. sempre.* instruction. The Violin part (Vln.) starts with a *p* dynamic, moves to *mf* at measure 19, and *mp* at measure 20, with a *sul tasto* instruction. The Viola part (Vc.) has a *mf* dynamic and includes *molto vibrato* and *ord. harmonics on C string* instructions. The Piano part (Pno.) has a *f* dynamic at measure 18, *mf* at measure 19, and a triplet of chords leading to *ff* at measure 21. The Reo. part (Reo.) has a *f* dynamic at measure 18 and *mf* at measure 19.

bisbig.

Fl. 22

mf 5

f 5

mf 5

mp

Cl.

3

mp

Vln.

8va

mf 5

mp

gliss.

pp < *mp*

Vc.

f *mp*

mf *mp*

3

Pno.

(8)

mp *pp*

ppp 3

l.v. sempre.

8va

mf 6 *f*

f

Red.

25

Fl. *mf* *p* *mf* 3

Cl. *mf* *p* *mf* 3

Vln. *pp* *p* *f* add bow pressure *pp* ord. *mp* *pp*

Vc. 3 *f* 3 *p* 3 3

Pno. *mf* *mp* *mf* *mf*

Lead

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 25-27. The Flute (Fl.) part starts with a melodic line at *mf*, followed by a triplet of eighth notes leading to a *p* dynamic. It continues with another *mf* section and ends with a triplet. The Clarinet (Cl.) part provides harmonic support with a similar triplet structure. The Violin (Vln.) part begins with a *pp* dynamic, moves to *p* and *f*, and includes the instruction 'add bow pressure'. It then plays a sustained chord at *pp* with the instruction 'ord.', followed by a *mp* and *pp* dynamic. The Viola (Vc.) part features a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a *f* dynamic, and another triplet leading to a *p* dynamic. The Piano (Pno.) part has a *mf* dynamic in the right hand, while the left hand plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The piece concludes with a *mf* dynamic in the right hand and a *Lead* instruction at the bottom.

28

Fl. *f* to picc.

Cl.

Vln. *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

Vc. *f* *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mf* *f* *mf*

ped.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 28, features five staves. The Flute (Fl.) staff begins with a melodic line marked *f* (forte) and includes the instruction "to picc." (piccolo) at the start of the second measure. The Clarinet (Cl.) staff has sparse notes, including a triplet in the second measure. The Violin (Vln.) staff contains a complex melodic line with dynamics *mp*, *pp*, *mp*, and *pp*, featuring a quintuplet and a triplet. The Viola (Vc.) staff has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *f*, *mp*, and *mf*. The Piano (Pno.) staff has a dense accompaniment with dynamics *mf* and *f*, including a triplet in the right hand. A *ped.* (pedal) marking is present at the bottom left.

31

Picc. *f* *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Vln. *ppp* *f* *ff* arco *molto vibrato*

Vc. *ppp* *mp* harmonics on G string ord. *mf*

Pno. *mp* *p* *mf* *mp*

B

This musical score page contains five staves. The Piccolo (Picc.) staff features a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *mp*, and *f*, including triplets and a five-measure phrase. The Clarinet (Cl.) staff provides accompaniment with dynamics *mp*, *mf*, and *mf*. The Violin (Vln.) staff has dynamics *f*, *mp*, and *f*, marked *ord.* and *molto vibrato*. The Viola (Vc.) staff has dynamics *f*, *ff*, *mf*, and *ff*, also marked *molto vibrato*. The Piano (Pno.) staff includes a left-hand accompaniment with dynamics *pp*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *p*, *f*, and *ff*. The score is divided into three measures, with various articulations and phrasing marks throughout.

37 Picc. *mf* *mp* 3

Cl. *mf*

Vln. *mf* 6 *mp* 3

Vc. ord. *mf* 3 5 molto vibrato

Pno. *pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains five staves. The Piccolo staff (top) starts at measure 37 with a melodic line in treble clef, marked *mf*, which then changes to *mp* and includes a triplet. The Clarinet staff is in treble clef with a few notes marked *mf*. The Violin staff is in treble clef, featuring a sixteenth-note run marked *mf* and a triplet marked *mp*. The Viola staff is in bass clef, playing a triplet marked *mf* and a quintuplet, with the instruction "ord." above and "molto vibrato" below. The Piano staff is in grand staff, with the right hand playing chords and the left hand playing a rhythmic accompaniment of chords marked *pp*.

39 *accel.* *f* 3 *to fl.*

Picc.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

ff

f

mf *f*

Ped.

42

Fl. *mp* 5

Cl. *mp* 3 to bass clarinet

Vln. *f* *ppp* ord.

Vc. *mf* 3 3 3

Pno. *f* 3 3 3

(molto vibrato)

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 13, contains measures 42 through 45. The score is arranged in five systems. The first system includes Flute (Fl.) and Clarinet (Cl.). The Flute part begins with a melodic line marked *mp* and a fingering of 5. The Clarinet part has a rhythmic accompaniment marked *mp* with a triplet of eighth notes. A note in the Clarinet part is marked 'to bass clarinet'. The second system includes Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.). The Violin part starts with a melodic line marked *f* and includes a vibrato instruction '(molto vibrato)'. The Viola part has a melodic line marked *mf* with triplets. The third system includes the Piano (Pno.) part, which features a bass line with triplets marked *f*. The Violin part continues with a melodic line marked *ppp* and includes an 'ord.' (ordine) instruction. The Viola part continues with melodic lines and triplets. The Flute and Clarinet parts have rests in the second and third systems.

C

46

Fl. *molto vibrato*
mf fp mf
ff
mp f

B. Cl. *mf*
f
 3

Vln. *molto vibrato*
f mf ff mf
 5

Vc. *to finger cymbal*
pp mf mf

Pno. *f*
f
 3 3 3 3

left hand press string to stop the resonance while right hand play regularly on the key

This musical score page features five staves: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Flute part begins at measure 49 and includes dynamic markings of *ff* and *f*, along with a *gliss.* instruction and an *ord.* marking. The Bass Clarinet part starts at *mp*, moves to *mf*, and then *f* and *ff*, with a *molto vibrato* instruction and sixteenth-note groupings of 3 and 6. The Violin part is marked *f* and *mf*, featuring a *molto vibrato* instruction and groupings of 5 and 3. The Viola part is marked *f*. The Piano part consists of two staves with triplet groupings and dynamic markings of *ff*. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and articulation marks.

52 to picc.

Fl.

B. Cl. *f* a very high note *mf* ord.

Vln. (*molto vibrato*) *f* *mp* 5

Vc. ord. col legno battuto 3

Pno. *fff* 3 3 3 3 3 3

Ped. Ped.

accel. . . .

repeat this bar 4 times

55

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

molto vibrato

pp

(molto vibrato)

p

ff

repeat this bar 4 times

repeat this bar 4 times

repeat this bar 4 times

repeat this bar 4 times

repeat this bar 4 times

accel. . . .

Red.

58

Picc. *fff* *sfp* *fff*

E♭ Cl. *fff* *sfp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* multiphonics

Vln. *fff* *fff*

Vc. arco *fff* *fff*

Pno. *pp* *fff* *pp* *fff* *fff*

♩ = 63

8^{va}

8^{vb}

3

3

8^{va}

8^{vb}

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains five staves. The Piccolo staff (top) starts at measure 58 with a *fff* dynamic, followed by a *sfp* dynamic, and then returns to *fff*. The Eb Clarinet staff has a *fff* dynamic, then *sfp*, followed by a series of dynamics: *fff*, *pp*, *fff*, *pp*, and *fff*. The word "multiphonics" is written above the Eb Clarinet staff in the third measure. The Violin staff has a *fff* dynamic, followed by a *fff* dynamic. The Viola staff is marked "arco" and has a *fff* dynamic, followed by a *fff* dynamic. The Piano staff has a *pp* dynamic, followed by *fff*, *pp*, and *fff*. The Piano part includes triplets and dynamic markings like *8^{va}* and *8^{vb}*. The tempo marking "♩ = 63" appears at the top and bottom of the page.

64

Picc.

E♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

fff

fff

fff

fff

ff

tr

8^{va}

fff *ff*

♩ = 76

68 Picc. *ff*

E♭ Cl. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *fff*

♩ = 76

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains five staves. The Piccolo staff (top) begins at measure 68 with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a melodic line with triplets and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The Eb Clarinet staff (second) has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats, with a melodic line and *ff* dynamic. The Violin staff (third) has a treble clef and a key signature of two flats, with a melodic line and *ff* dynamic. The Viola staff (fourth) has a bass clef and a key signature of two flats, with a melodic line and *ff* dynamic. The Piano staff (bottom) has a grand staff with a key signature of two flats and a dynamic marking of *fff*. The score includes various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings. The tempo is indicated as ♩ = 76.

76 $\text{♩} = 82$

Picc. *mf* 3

E♭ Cl. *mf* 3

Vln. *mf* 3

Vc. *mf* 3

Pno. *mf* 3

8va
8vb...1

Detailed description of the musical score: The page contains five staves of music for measures 76 through 80. The instruments are Piccolo, E-flat Clarinet, Violin, Viola, and Piano. The tempo is marked $\text{♩} = 82$ and the dynamic is mezzo-forte (*mf*). The key signature is one flat. The time signature is 4/4 until measure 78, where it changes to 2/4. The Piccolo, E♭ Clarinet, Violin, and Viola parts play melodic lines with various articulations and slurs. The Piano part consists of triplet chords in both hands, with the right hand marked *8va* and the left hand marked *8vb...1*. Trill-like ornaments are present on some notes in the piano part.

81 $\text{♩} = 84$

Picc. *ff*

E♭ Cl. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *f*

85

Picc.

E♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

sfz

ff

pizz.

arco

tr

8^{vb}

Red.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 85, features five staves. The Piccolo (Picc.) and E♭ Clarinet (E♭ Cl.) parts begin with a 6/8 time signature and a key signature of one sharp (F#). They play a melodic line with triplets and accents, marked *sfz*. At measure 2, the time signature changes to 3/4, and the dynamics shift to *ff*. The Violin (Vln.) and Viola (Vc.) parts follow a similar pattern, starting with *sfz* and *pizz.* (pizzicato) in 6/8, then switching to *arco* (arco) and *ff* in 3/4. The Piano (Pno.) part is in 6/8, playing chords and moving bass lines, marked *ff*. It includes a trill (tr) in the right hand and an 8^{vb} (8va below) marking in the left hand. The score concludes with a 2/4 time signature change and a *Red.* (Reduction) marking.

91

Picc. *ff* to F chime

E♭ Cl. *ff* to finger cymbal to small cymbal

Vln. *ff*

Vc. *ff*

Pno. *fff* (8)


Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 91, 92, and 93. It features five staves: Piccolo (Picc.), E♭ Clarinet (E♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.).
- Piccolo: Measure 91 has a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. Measure 92 has a note with a fermata. Measure 93 is a whole rest. Instruction: 'to F chime'.
- E♭ Clarinet: Measure 91 has a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. Measure 92 has a note with a fermata. Measure 93 is a whole rest. Instructions: 'to finger cymbal' and 'to small cymbal'.
- Violin: Measure 91 has a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. Measure 92 has a note with a fermata. Measure 93 is a whole rest.
- Viola: Measure 91 has a fortissimo (ff) dynamic. Measure 92 has a note with a fermata. Measure 93 is a whole rest.
- Piano: Measure 91 has a fortississimo (fff) dynamic. Measure 92 has a note with a fermata. Measure 93 has a complex rhythmic pattern. A circled number 8 is written below the piano part in measure 91.

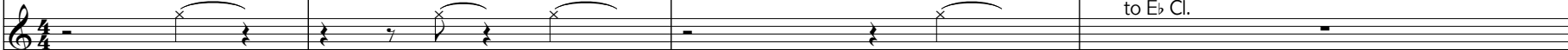
D ♩ = 66

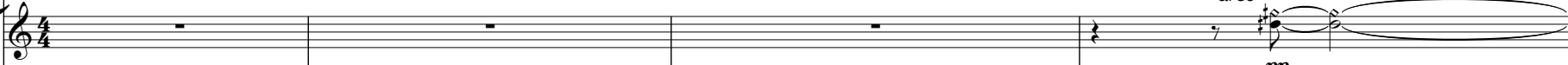
to F chime

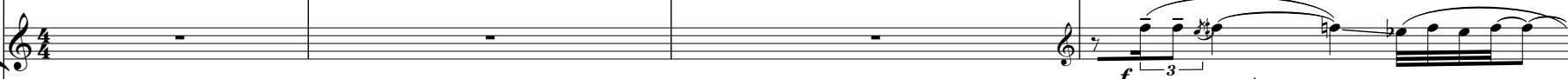
play the chime

94

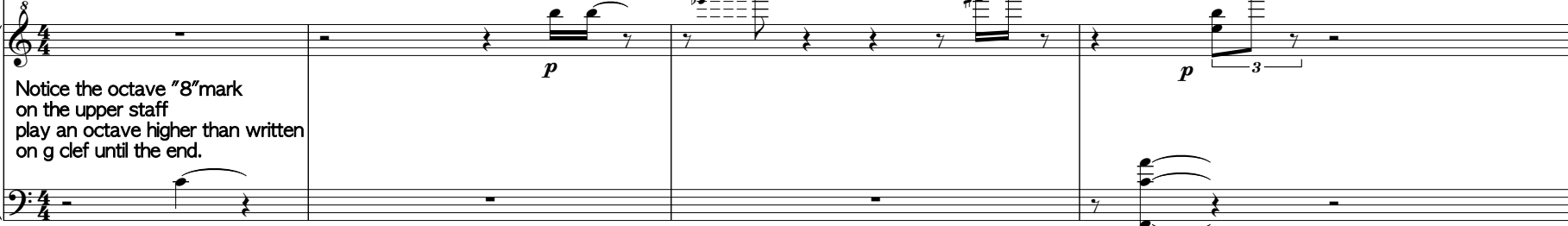
Picc. 

E♭ Cl.  *l.v. sempre.* *mp* to E♭ Cl.

Vln.  *arco* *pp*

Vc.  *arco* *important solo* *f* *very expressive*

D ♩ = 66

Pno.  *p* *ppp* *Ed.*

Notice the octave "8" mark on the upper staff play an octave higher than written on g clef until the end.

98 l.v.sempre.

Picc. *mp* *mp* *mp*

E♭ Cl.

Vln. *mp* *mf* *mp* *f* *jeté*

Vc. *mp* *f*

Pno. *p* *mp*

101

Picc. *mp*

E♭ Cl. *mf expressive* *molto vibrato* 3 *mp*

Vln. *mf* 3 *p* 5 *f* *mp*

Vc. *molto vibrato* *ord.* 3 *mf* *mf* *(molto vibrato)* 3 *mp*

Pno. *mp* 3

Red. _____

105

Picc. 

E♭ Cl.  *mp* *mf*

Vln.  *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *f*

Vc.  *mf* *mp* *mf* *mp* *mf*

Pno.  *mp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, page 28, contains measures 105 through 108. The score is written for five instruments: Piccolo (Picc.), E-flat Clarinet (E♭ Cl.), Violin (Vln.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Piano (Pno.). The Piccolo part consists of a simple melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The E-flat Clarinet part features a melodic line that starts with a dynamic of *mp* and increases to *mf*, including an 'ord.' marking for octave-down play. The Violin part has a more complex melodic line with dynamics ranging from *p* to *f*, including a 'molto vibrato' instruction and a triplet of sixteenth notes. The Violoncello part provides a counter-melody with a dynamic range from *mf* to *mp*, featuring a triplet of eighth notes and a '5:4 1' marking. The Piano part provides sparse harmonic support with a dynamic of *mp*.

109

Picc. *p*

E♭ Cl. *p* *f* *mf*

Vln. (molto vibrato) *mf* *f*

Vc. 5

Pno. *p* *p* *p* *p*

Red.

113

Picc.

E♭ Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Pno.

p

mp

mf

accel.

5

3

6

3

3

6

6

3

3

6

(molto vibrato)

C

116

Picc. *p*

E♭ Cl. *molto vibrato* *p*

Vln. *f* *p*

Vc. *tr* *5* *mp* *6*

Pno. *p* *mf* *mp*

Red. _____

119

Picc. *p*

E♭ Cl. to finger cymbal *p*

Vln. (*molto vibrato*) *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mf* ord. 3

Vc. *accel.* 3 3 *mf* *pp* 5 7 *p* *pp* 3 7 *mf*

Pno. *p* l.v. *pp* Ped.

124

E

Picc. *p*

E♭ Cl. *pp*

Vln. *molto vibrato* *mp* *mf* *mp* *ord.* *jeté*

Vc. *mp* *ord.*

Pno. *p* *pp*

129

Picc. *p* *ppp* let sound fade

E♭ Cl. *pp* *pp* *ppp* let sound fade

Vln. *p* (left hand pizz.) *mp* *ppp* pizz. arco sul. tasto damp the pitch play softly *ppp* let sound fade

Vc. *pp* *ppp* let sound fade

Pno. *pp* *ppp* let sound fade