

RYAN HOMSEY

Briefly Gorgeous

for xylophone with electronics or optional tape

Score

Briefly Gorgeous

for xylophone with electronics or optional tape

Commissioned by choreographer Jason Ohlberg, with funds provided from the Skidmore College Departments of Dance and Music for the site-specific Spring Dance Concert at Haupt Pond on the Skidmore College campus.

Composed 2021

World premiere performances: 23 & 24 April 2021

Composed and performed (by recording) by Ryan Homsey
with audio programming and production by Adam Scott
Skidmore College Haupt Pond, Saratoga Springs, NY

Duration: 16 minutes

Scores, parts, electronics, and tape are available on hire

Briefly Gorgeous

for xylophone with electronics or optional tape

Performance Notes:

Briefly Gorgeous may be performed entirely as a solo work with the percussionist doubling on xylophone and electronics. However, a second performer may be utilized to perform the sine wave part, and a third may be used to operate and the electronic components.

The electronic component consists of an accompanying MAX patch that is pre-programmed with a click track that is synced to performance. The patch provides varying degrees of digital delay, EQ, compression, reverb, and pre-recorded playback. The electronic component is highly flexible. The creation and playback of looping patterns, granular synthesis elements, and other playback effects can either be produced entirely in real time or with the support of the Max patch. Therefore, the work may be performed with varying combinations of live performance, pre-programmed electronics, and a pre-recorded tape in order to suit the needs of the individual performer(s) or venue.

The work utilizes overlapping looping patterns that allows the performer to execute and record patterns while moving back and forth among the xylophone, the laptop, and a keyboard controller that may be used to for the sine wave part (if it is not being operated directly within the MAX patch).

Boxed text in the score refers to subsection numbers that have corresponding settings within the MAX patch.

Small note heads are not performed, but rather serve as a visual reference for another musical element.

Performance Requirements:

1. Laptop running MAX. An outboard mixer, playback device, and comparable outboard FX devices may be used as an alternative to the MAX patch.

The primary xylophone sound should be natural, from the instrument itself, with enough amplification to balance and support the electronic components. EQ, light compression, and reverb may be adjusted as needed. The combined stereo mix of live and electronic components is sent out to speakers.

2. Audio interface with 1–2 pre-amps and mono outputs: one for xylophone and possibly one for sine wave part if it is not a USB device running through the laptop.

3. 1–3 microphones, preferably cardioid condensers with a flat frequency response. Positioning may include one microphone centered on xylophone, or one microphone for each the lower and upper registers with or without the addition of a centered microphone.

4. Two high frequency response speakers and one subwoofer.

5. 1–3 headphones, depending on the number of musicians/laptop operators.

6. A USB keyboard controller may be used to operate the sine wave part if it is not being done directly through the MAX interface.

Briefly Gorgeous

Ryan Homsey

1

♩ = 96

1A

Xylophone

mf

6

Xyl.

11

1A Echo

Elec.

16

Elec.

1B

21

Xyl.

26

Xyl.

31 1B Echo

Elec.

36

Elec.

41 IC

Xyl.

46

Xyl.

50 IC - Feedback Chamber

Xyl.

Elec.

54 1D

Sine Wave

54

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

2 **2A** sync 8th note delay

58 F#m7 A maj7 A maj7 F#m7

Xyl.

Sine Wave

62 F#m7/C# C#m/B A Dmaj7

Xyl.

Sine Wave

66 **2B**

Sine Wave

70

Sine Wave

74 **2C**

Xyl.

78

Xyl.

82

Xyl.

86

Xyl.

sync 8th note delay

2D

Xyl. 90 A Bm B(sus4) E(sus2)/G#

3

3A - Reverse Playback of Last 4 Bars

Elec. 95 E(sus2)/G# B(sus4) Bm A

3A Continued - Reverse Playback of 2A

Elec. 99 Dmaj7 A C#m/B F#m7/C#

Elec. 103 F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

3B

Xyl. 107 Dmaj7 A C#m/B F#m7/C#

Xyl. 111 F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Xyl. 115 Dmaj7 A C#m/B F#m7/C#

Xyl. 119 F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7 ad lib.

Xyl. 123 Dmaj7 A C#m/B F#m7/C#

Xyl. 127 F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

4

4A - Granulator Playback of Last 4 Bars of 3A
Varying Delay Feedback and Pan with Mix vs. Sync Delay
"Wash of Sound"

131 Elec. F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Detailed description: This musical staff shows four measures of music. The first measure is labeled '131' and 'Elec.'. It contains four chords: F#m7, Amaj7/G#, Amaj7, and F#m7. Each chord is represented by a treble clef with notes on the staff and a bass clef with notes below the staff. The notes are: F#m7 (F#, A, C, E), Amaj7/G# (A, C, E, G#, B), Amaj7 (A, C, E, G, B), and F#m7 (F#, A, C, E).

135 Elec. F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Detailed description: This musical staff shows four measures of music. The first measure is labeled '135' and 'Elec.'. It contains four chords: F#m7, Amaj7/G#, Amaj7, and F#m7. Each chord is represented by a treble clef with notes on the staff and a bass clef with notes below the staff. The notes are: F#m7 (F#, A, C, E), Amaj7/G# (A, C, E, G#, B), Amaj7 (A, C, E, G, B), and F#m7 (F#, A, C, E).

139 Elec. F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Detailed description: This musical staff shows four measures of music. The first measure is labeled '139' and 'Elec.'. It contains four chords: F#m7, Amaj7/G#, Amaj7, and F#m7. Each chord is represented by a treble clef with notes on the staff and a bass clef with notes below the staff. The notes are: F#m7 (F#, A, C, E), Amaj7/G# (A, C, E, G#, B), Amaj7 (A, C, E, G, B), and F#m7 (F#, A, C, E).

143 Elec. F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Detailed description: This musical staff shows four measures of music. The first measure is labeled '143' and 'Elec.'. It contains four chords: F#m7, Amaj7/G#, Amaj7, and F#m7. Each chord is represented by a treble clef with notes on the staff and a bass clef with notes below the staff. The notes are: F#m7 (F#, A, C, E), Amaj7/G# (A, C, E, G#, B), Amaj7 (A, C, E, G, B), and F#m7 (F#, A, C, E).

147 Elec. F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Detailed description: This musical staff shows four measures of music. The first measure is labeled '147' and 'Elec.'. It contains four chords: F#m7, Amaj7/G#, Amaj7, and F#m7. Each chord is represented by a treble clef with notes on the staff and a bass clef with notes below the staff. The notes are: F#m7 (F#, A, C, E), Amaj7/G# (A, C, E, G#, B), Amaj7 (A, C, E, G, B), and F#m7 (F#, A, C, E).

151 Elec. F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Detailed description: This musical staff shows four measures of music. The first measure is labeled '151' and 'Elec.'. It contains four chords: F#m7, Amaj7/G#, Amaj7, and F#m7. Each chord is represented by a treble clef with notes on the staff and a bass clef with notes below the staff. The notes are: F#m7 (F#, A, C, E), Amaj7/G# (A, C, E, G#, B), Amaj7 (A, C, E, G, B), and F#m7 (F#, A, C, E).

155 Elec. F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Detailed description: This musical staff shows four measures of music. The first measure is labeled '155' and 'Elec.'. It contains four chords: F#m7, Amaj7/G#, Amaj7, and F#m7. Each chord is represented by a treble clef with notes on the staff and a bass clef with notes below the staff. The notes are: F#m7 (F#, A, C, E), Amaj7/G# (A, C, E, G#, B), Amaj7 (A, C, E, G, B), and F#m7 (F#, A, C, E).

159 Elec. F#m7 Amaj7/G# Amaj7 F#m7

Detailed description: This musical staff shows four measures of music. The first measure is labeled '159' and 'Elec.'. It contains four chords: F#m7, Amaj7/G#, Amaj7, and F#m7. Each chord is represented by a treble clef with notes on the staff and a bass clef with notes below the staff. The notes are: F#m7 (F#, A, C, E), Amaj7/G# (A, C, E, G#, B), Amaj7 (A, C, E, G, B), and F#m7 (F#, A, C, E).

5 **5A** sync 8th note triplet delay

F#m E E A A D D F#m

163

Xyl.

Elec.

4A Continues Softly

167

Xyl.

Elec.

171

Xyl.

Elec.

175

Xyl.

Elec.

179

5B

Sine Wave

183

Sine Wave

187

Sine Wave

191

Carry Over Into 5D

Sine Wave

195

5C

Xyl.

199

Xyl.

203

Xyl.

207

To Granulator

Xyl.

211

5D - Granulator of Last 2 Beats From Dry to Delay Only

Elec.

Carried Over From 5B

Sine Wave

6 6A - Reverse Playback of 5A

215 D D A A E E F#m

Elec.

Sine Wave **6B**

219 D D A A E E F#m

Elec.

Sine Wave

223 D D A A E E F#m

Elec.

Sine Wave

227 D D A A E E F#m

Elec.

Sine Wave

231 Dmaj7 A Dmaj7 A A E E F#m

Xyl.

235 Dmaj7 Dmaj7 A A E

Xyl.

238 E F#m Dmaj7 Dmaj7 A

Xyl.

241 A E E F#m Dmaj7

Xyl.

244 Dmaj7 A A E E F#m

Xyl.

247 Dmaj7 Dmaj7 A A E E F#m

Xyl.

251 Dmaj7 Dmaj7 A A E

Xyl.

254 E F#m Dmaj7 Dmaj7 A

Xyl.

257 A E E F#m Dmaj7

Xyl.

260 Dmaj7 A A E E F#m

Xyl.

263 F#m

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

fade out

6D - Granulator from End of 6B
In Sync Triplets with Long Portamento

Carried Over From 6B

Detailed description: This musical system covers measures 263 to 266. The key signature is F#m. The Xyl. part starts with a series of sync triplets of eighth notes, which then fade out. The Elec. part consists of sync triplets of chords. The Sine Wave part begins with a low note and has a long portamento to a higher note. A box notes '6D - Granulator from End of 6B In Sync Triplets with Long Portamento' and another box notes 'Carried Over From 6B'.

267

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

Detailed description: This musical system covers measures 267 to 270. The key signature is F#m. The Xyl. part has rests in measures 267 and 268, followed by chords in measures 269 and 270. The Elec. part consists of sync triplets of chords. The Sine Wave part has a long portamento from a low note to a higher note.

7 7A

271

Bm(add2) Dmaj7 C#m(sus4)

Xyl.

Sine Wave

275

Bm(add2) Dmaj7 F#m

Xyl.

Sine Wave

279

G(#4) Bm(add2) F#7

Xyl.

Sine Wave

283

G(#4) A(sus4) A(sus4)

Xyl.

Sine Wave

7B

287 Xyl. *Bm(add2)* *Dmaj7* *C#m(sus4)*

291 Xyl. *Bm(add2)* *Dmaj7* *F#m*

295 Xyl. *G(#4)* *Bm(add2)* *F#7*

299 Xyl. *G(#4)* *A(sus4)*

7C - Ring Modulator Scatter FX

303 Xyl. *Bm(add2)* *Dmaj7* *C#m(sus4)*

307 Xyl. *Bm(add2)* *Dmaj7* *F#m*

311 Xyl. *G(#4)* *Bm(add2)* *F#7*

315 Xyl. *G(#4)* *A(sus4)*

319 D(omit3) A(sus4) G(#4)

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

8A - Reverse Playback of 7B

325 F#7 Bm(add2) G(#4)

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

329 F#m Dmaj7 Bm(add2)

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

333 C#m(sus4) Dmaj7 Bm(add2)

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

14

337 A(sus4) G(#4)

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

341 F#7 Bm(add2) G(#4)

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

345 F#m Dmaj7 Bm(add2)

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

349 C#m(sus4) Dmaj7 Bm(add2)

Xyl.

Elec.

Sine Wave

353 A(sus4) G(#4)

Xyl.

Sine Wave

357 F#7 Bm(add2) G(#4)

Xyl.

Sine Wave

361 F#m Dmaj7 Bm(add2)

Xyl.

Sine Wave

365 C#m(sus4) Dmaj7 Bm(add2)

Xyl.

Sine Wave

369

Xyl.

Sine Wave