

*Angela Elizabeth Slater*

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Flickering airs in coloured skies

PERUSAL SCORE

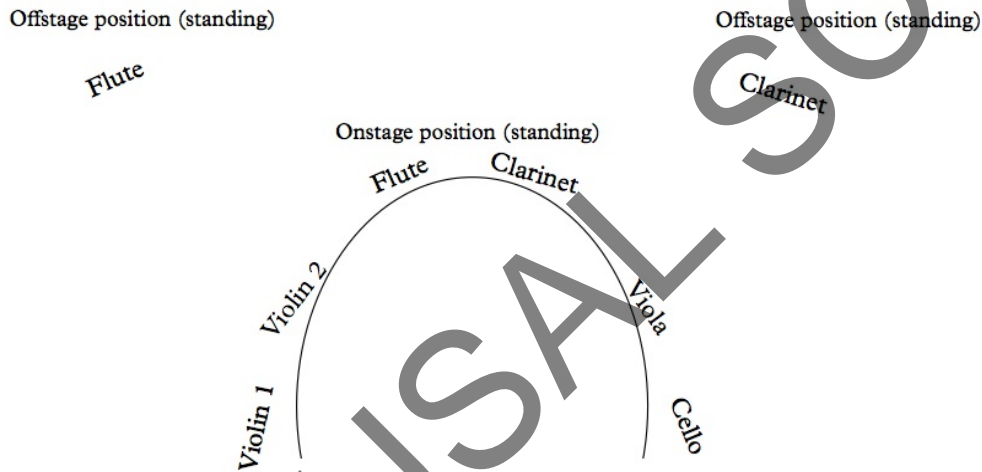
***Flickering airs in coloured skies for flute, clarinet, violin I, violin II, viola and cello* (2017)**

*Flickering airs in coloured skies* was written for the 2017 St Magnus Festival Composition Course. The piece explores the imagery and the beautiful colours of the Orkney's rugged landscapes, capturing the essence of the rapid changes in the wild weather and the impact these have on the light qualities. An ethereal and tranquil section opens the piece, punctuated with off-stage air sounds from the winds, with string harmonics being used to create a transparent fragile sound that is soon disturbed by explosive bursts of energy that quickly dissipate into nothingness. As the piece progresses, the bursts become more sustained, representative of some of the turbulent weather that Orkney endures throughout the year. Each of the flickering airs returns a number of times throughout the piece, though always in a subtly different guise.

duration: 6 mins

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**Performance layout**



**Performance notes:**

**Strings**

- 1) Sul ponticello and sul tasto are abbreviated in most cases to S.P. and S.T. respectively. Normal playing position is reinstated by indication of nat.
- 2) . -> : gradually move from one technique/position to another.
- 3) Circular bowing - cycling through S.T - N. - S.P. in a circular motion is indicated by  $\overbrace{\text{oooo}}$

**Winds:**

- 1) 'x' noteheads indicate breath/air attacks.
- 2) *tr* indicates a timbral trill.
- 3) See layout diagram for offstage and onstage positions (both are standing positions) - Flute -stage right, Clarinet - stage left

# Flickering airs in coloured skies

Transposed score

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Freely with expression ♩ = 66

Slightly off stage, stage right  
close enough to be audible  
(standing)

air  
shh freely

\* jet whistle

Flute: *pp* (trill), *f* (jet whistle), *pp* (trill)

Clarinet in Bb: *pp* (trill), *f* (jet whistle), *pp* (trill)

Violin I: *pp* (trill), *p* (trill), *pp* (trill), *pp* (trill)

Violin II: *pp* (trill), *p* (trill), *pp* (trill), *pp* (trill)

Viola: *pp* (trill), *p* (trill), *pp* (trill), *pp* (trill)

Violoncello: *pp* (trill), *p* (trill), *pp* (trill), *pp* (trill)

Annotations: \* move gradually to harmonic, \* jet whistle

Fl. (5): *pp* (trill), *f* (jet whistle), *mf* (jet whistle), *f* (jet whistle)

Cl.: *pp* (trill), *f* (jet whistle), *mp* (jet whistle)

Vln. I: *mp* (trill), *p* (trill), *mp* (trill), *pp* (trill)

Vln. II: *mp* (trill), *p* (trill), *mp* (trill), *pp* (trill)

Vla.: *pp* (trill), *mp* (trill), *pp* (trill), *p* (trill)

Vc.: *pp* (trill), *mp* (trill), *pp* (trill), *p* (trill)

Annotations: shh air freely, Slightly off stage, stage left close enough to be audible (standing), air - blow into reed freely, A, S.P., 3 nat., 3 port., 3

9

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp*

Cl. *pp* *p* *ppp* *subtone*

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

Vln. *pp* *ppp* *mp* *S.P.* *nat.*

Vla. *port.* *IV* *pp*

Vc. *p* *mp* *pp*

13

Fl. **B**

Cl. *tr* *tr* *ff* *p*

Vln. *p* *ff* *ff marcato*

Vln. *p* *f* *pizz.* *mf*

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *sf* *sf* *mf*

16

Fl. *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Cl. *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vln. *ppp* *pizz.* *mf* *mp* *arco* *mf* *pp* *fast* *slow*

Vln. *f* *pizz.* *sf* *mp*

Vla. *f* *sf*

Vc. *p* *arco* *mf*

19

Fl. *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* *mf* *pp*

Cl. *mf* *pp* *p* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vln. *nat.* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Vln. *sf*

Vla. *arco* *con sord.* *S.P.* *I. nat.* *port.* *pp*

Vc. *nat.* *pp* *pp* *mf*

23

Fl. *pp* *p*

Cl. *pp*<sup>3</sup>

Vln. *mp* *p* *mf* *p* *sf*

Vln. arco *pp*

Vla. *pp* *mf* *p*

Vc. *pp*

**C** 26 Move to standing stage position

Fl. *ppp*

Cl. *mp* *ppp*

Vln. (nat.) *mp* *ppp* S.P.

Vln. *mp* *ppp* nat.

Vla. *mp* *p* *mf* *ppp*

Vc. *p* *ppp* nat. S.T. S.P. nat.

Brightly with fierce energy ♩. = (c.66)

30

Fl.

Cl.

Vln. S.T. *ppp*

Vln. *senza sord.*

Vla.

Vc.

*p* *mf*

*p* *mf*

33

Fl.

Cl.

Vln. *pizz.* *f* *arco* *p* *mf*

Vln.

Vla.

Vc. *pizz.* *f* *arco* *mp*

*f* *ff* *pp* *flz.*

*f* *ff* *pp*

