

Angela Elizabeth Slater

Flickering airs in coloured skies

***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

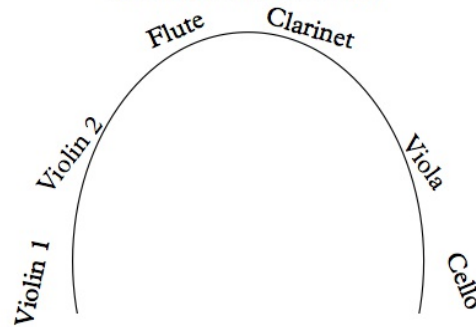
Offstage position (standing)

Offstage position (standing)

Flute

Clarinet

Onstage position (standing)



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

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Transposed score

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Freely with expression ♩ = 66

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

air freely
shh

* jet whistle

Musical score for the first system, measures 1-4. The Flute part features a triplet of eighth notes marked 'shh' and 'air freely', followed by a sixteenth-note run marked 'f'. The Clarinet in Bb part is silent. Violin I has a triplet of eighth notes marked 'pp' and a phrase marked 'p'. Violin II and Viola are silent. Violoncello has a phrase marked 'pp' and 'p'.

Musical score for the second system, measures 5-8. The Flute part has a triplet marked 'shh' and 'air freely', followed by a sixteenth-note run marked 'f' and 'mf'. The Clarinet part has a sixteenth-note run marked 'pp' and 'f', with a note marked 'mp'. Violin I has a phrase marked 'mp' and 'p'. Violin II has a phrase marked 'mp' and 'pp'. Viola has a phrase marked 'pp' and 'p'. Violoncello has a phrase marked 'pp' and 'p'. A box labeled 'A' is above measure 5. Performance markings include 'slow', 'fast', 'nat.', 'port.', and 'S.P.'. Time signatures change from 4/4 to 5/4 and back to 4/4.

9

Fl. *pp* *mp* *pp*

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

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

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

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *p* *mp* *pp*

13

Fl.

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

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

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

Vla.

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

B

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

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

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

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

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

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