



*Angela Elizabeth Slater*

The Louder the Birds Sing  
for orchestra

PERUSAL SCORE

Full score

*The Louder the Birds Sing* for orchestra

*The Louder the Birds Sing* was written for the Royal Scottish National Orchestra in 2021, and explores the themes of strength and fragility. It is a reflection of the emotional turmoil that the pandemic has provoked and how it has exposed both our strength and fragility. The title refers to the phenomenon people observed during lockdown where the birds seemed to be singing louder. This was, in fact, more to do with our own noise pollution being hugely reduced than the birds changing volume. There was a disconcerting realisation for me personally that the louder the birds seemed to sing, the more dire our current situation was and this paradoxical notion created a great sense of unease in the apparent tranquility.

*Halted  
Released  
from an unknown chain  
Suspended  
No end in sight  
Here is where  
our eyes and ears  
open wider  
The noise filled  
with the loudest  
silence  
This space now given*

*Do the birds sing louder?  
The quiet fills the space  
Abandoned by our bodies  
Are we shackled or set free?*

(poem written by Angela Elizabeth Slater)

c.7 mins

*Angela Elizabeth Slater*

INSTRUMENTATION

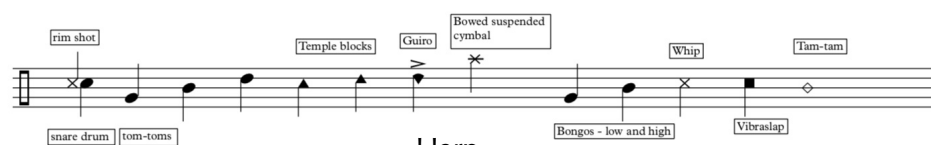
Flute 1  
Piccolo  
Oboe 1  
Oboe 2 (doubling cor anglais)  
Clarinet 1 in B $\flat$   
Clarinet 2 in B $\flat$  (doubling bass clarinet)  
Bassoon 1  
Bassoon 2 (doubling contrabassoon)  
4 Horns in F  
2 Trumpets in C  
2 Trombones  
Bass Trombone  
Tuba

Timpani (4 drums)  
(plus metal brushes and superball)

Percussion 1: Snare drum, Bass-drum (plus with wooden sticks),  
3 Tom-toms, Crotales (plus bow), and 2 Temple blocks (low, medium)



Percussion 2: Guiro, 2 Temple Blocks (low, medium),  
Vibraphone (plus bow), Vibraslap,  
1 Tam-tam (large), 2 Bongos (low and high),  
Suspended cymbals (medium- bowed), Whip and Tubular bells.



Harp

Strings (12.10.8.6.4)  
(10.8.6.4.4)

BRASS MUTES

Horns require straight mute  
Trumpets require harmon mute (no stem) and straight mute  
Trombones (including bass) require harmon  
mute (no stem) and straight mute  
Tuba requires straight mute

The Score is in C

written for the RSNO  
The Louder the Birds Sing

Angela Elizabeth Slater

Score in C

♩ = c. 92

Flute 1

Piccolo

Oboe 1

Oboe 2

Clarinet in B $\flat$  1

Clarinet in B $\flat$  2

Bassoon 1

Bassoon 2

Horn in F 1

Horn in F 2

Horn in F 3

Horn in F 4

Trumpet in C 1

Trumpet in C 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Bass Trombone

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Harp

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

3/4 2/4 3/4 4/4 3/4 5/8 3+2

mp

p

mf

fp

f

pp

DL harmon mute

pp

mf

fp

with metal brushes

mp secco

Snare drum - rim

mp secco

Snare drum

Bass drum

Guitar

Temple blocks

Vibraphone hard mallets

Temple blocks

Tom-toms

Vibrolap

Tom-toms

extremely fast gliss with plectrum

sim. f

mf

ff

buzz

pp

div. palm slap

pizz

palm slap

div.

pizz

3+2

To Cbsn.

A

8  $\frac{4}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$   $\frac{2}{4}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

Fl. 1  $mf$   $ff$   $mf$   $ff$

Picc.  $mf$   $ff$   $mf$   $ff$

Ob. 1  $ff$   $ff$

Ob. 2

Cl. 1  $f$   $pp$

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Bsn. 2

Hn. 1  $fp$   $ff$   $fp$   $pp$   $mf$

Hn. 2  $mf$   $f$   $fp$   $pp$   $mf$

Hn. 3  $mf$   $f$   $fp$   $pp$   $mf$

Hn. 4  $mf$   $f$   $mf$   $mf$

C Tpt. 1 *diaphragm pulsing*  $fp$   $mf$   $f$  *senza sord*  $mf$   $f$   $fp$   $pp$   $fp$   $mf$

C Tpt. 2 *diaphragm pulsing*  $mf$   $fp$   $mf$   $f$   $fp$   $pp$   $fp$   $mf$

Tbn. 1  $f$   $f$   $mp$   $f$   $mp$   $f$

Tbn. 2  $mp$   $f$   $f$   $mp$   $f$

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.  $mp$   $secco$   $f$

Perc. 1 *Snare drum*  $mp$   $f$

Perc. 2 *Snare drum*  $mf$   $fp$  *Bass drum*  $f$  *To Tub. B.* *Tubular Bells*  $f$

Hp.

Vln. I  $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$

Vln. II  $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$

Vla.  $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$   $mf$   $ff$   $pp$

Vc. *palm slap* *div.*  $f$   $pizz$  *div.* *palm slap*  $f$  *palm slap*  $f$  *pizz*

Cb. *div.* *palm slap*  $f$   $pizz$  *unis.* *arco*  $mf$  *div.* *palm slap*  $f$   $pizz$  *palm slap*  $f$   $pizz$

15

Fl. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1

Cbsn. Contrabassoon

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1 Snare drum, Bass drum

Perc. 2 Vibraphone, Cym.

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. unis., arco

Cb. arco

ff, mf, p, mp, pp, f, fp, senza sord., gliss., div., no trem., S.P.

3/4, 4/4, 2/4, 4/4

To Bsn. Bassoon

To Crot.

Reo

**B**

24 Crotales bowed *pp*

Perc. 1

Vibraphone *pp* *mp* *pp*

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

Vln. I *pp* *mf*

Vln. II *pp* *mf*

Vla. *pp* *mf* SOLO *pp* *mf* *Port.* (III) *tr*

Vc. *pp* *mp* *mf* *gliss.* *tr* *pp* *p*

8<sup>va</sup>

2/4 4/4

**C**

31 4/4

C Tpt. 1 harmon mute *ppp* 12-123 *tr* *pp* *gliss.* 1-13 *tr* *pp* *accel.* 2-23 *tr*

C Tpt. 2 harmon mute *ppp* 12-3 *tr* 2-13 *tr* 12-123 *tr* 1-13 *tr* *pp* *accel.*

Timp. 4/4 *pp* *mf* *superball* *accel.*

Vln. I *mp* *pp* *ad lib.* *unis.* *II* *III* *IV* *pp* *mf* *p* *accel.*

Vln. II *div.* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p* *ad lib.* *unis.* *III* *IV* *pp* *mf* *p* *accel.*

Vla. *p* *mp* *pp* *mf* *p* *III* *tr*

Vc. *ord.* *div.* *I* *II* *III* *tr* *pp* *mf* *p* *unis.* *pp*

Cb. *resultant written pitch:* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mp* *p* *S.P.* *S.T.* *pp*

*(\* Catch open D string occasionally and only slightly at first with increasing intensity through this passage)*

D 3/4

2/4

3/4

4/4

3/4

FL. 1

Picc.

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn. 1  
Contrabassoon

Cbsn.

Hn. 1

Hn. 2

Hn. 3

Hn. 4

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

B. Tbn.

Tba.

Timp.

Perc. 1  
Snare drum 3

Perc. 2  
Lambdam Bass drum

Hp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. I

Vc. II

Cb.

mp

f

ff

pp

fp

sfz

ppp

subito pp

con sord.

senza sord.

gliss.

superball

Bowed suspended cymbal

To Bongos

tr

gliss.

mf

f

ff

ord.

S.P.

subito pp

mf

III.

IV.

III.

S.P.

II. ab lib.

mf

p

ff

sf f

ff

resultant written pitch:

8va - buzz

(\* Catch open D string occasionally)



47 **E**  $\frac{3}{4}$  **3+2**  $\frac{5}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

FL. 1  $ff$   $f$

Picc.  $ff$   $f$

Ob. 1  $mf$   $ff$   $f$

Ob. 2  $mf$   $ff$

CL. 1  $mf$   $ff$

CL. 2  $mf$   $ff$

Bsn. 1  $mf$

Cbsn.  $mf$  To Bsn.

Hn. 1  $f$   $pp$  - air noise without tone - for forte turn the mouthpiece

Hn. 2  $f$  - air noise without tone - for forte turn the mouthpiece

Hn. 3  $f$   $pp$  - air noise without tone - for forte turn the mouthpiece

Hn. 4  $f$  - air noise without tone - for forte turn the mouthpiece

C Tpt. 1  $mf$   $f$   $fp$

C Tpt. 2  $mf$   $f$

Tbn. 1  $f$   $pp$  - air noise without tone - for forte turn the mouthpiece

Tbn. 2  $f$   $pp$  - air noise without tone - for forte turn the mouthpiece

B. Tbn.  $f$   $pp$  - air noise without tone - for forte turn the mouthpiece

Tba.  $f$   $pp$

**E**  $\frac{3}{4}$  **3+2**  $\frac{5}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

Timp.  $pp$   $mp$   $f$   $ff$

Perc. 1 [Bass drum with wooden sticks]  $pp$   $mp$   $f$   $ff$  [Tom-tom]  $ff$

Perc. 2 [Bongo]  $ff$  [Snare]  $pp$   $ff$

Hp. extremely fast gliss with plectrum  $ff$

**E**  $\frac{3}{4}$  **3+2**  $\frac{5}{8}$   $\frac{3}{4}$

Vln. I  $pp$   $ff$

Vln. II  $pp$   $ff$

Vla.  $pp$   $ff$

Vc.  $ff$

Cb.  $ff$  ord.