



THIS SIDE OF THE BANG...

26-01-2021

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Composition for solo carillon (duration app. 8'30'') specially written for the cultural city festival 'Knal! Leuven Big Bang Festival' from October 16, 2021 to January 30, 2022.

This festival honors the Leuven priest and professor George Lemaitre (1894-1966), who first formulated the theories of the expansion of the universe (1927) and of the big bang (1931).

The composition is inspired by elements from astronomy, astrology and cosmology (big bang, expansion stars, planets and the zodiac).

The work is written for a 4-octave carillon in well-tempered tuning with the maximum size: Bes-c-d-chromatic-c4 and a pedal size of Bes-c-d-chromatic-g1.

General remarks for execution

Music notes indicate exact moments of occurrence.

Once played, they will sound unstopped in their usual sustained manner.

Perform this music with the mystery of the universe in mind.

Reflections on the content

During an imaginary visit to Leuven, we are somewhere in the center of the city. At one point we hear a sudden thundering sound coming from the sky. We look at each other and laugh. Is the bell tower coming down? This thunderous roar, could that be a distant echo of the Big Bang? Increasing in density until it explodes? We hear heavy bells ringing, surrounded by radiant sounds. A crumbling swarm of sounds. Fragments of melodies that emerge from the chaos. Order, disorder, harmony in a dissonant multitude. A brief existence of beauty in decline. Suddenly we understand the relationship with posters and flyers that can be found all over the city. This must be an entry from the carillon composition competition Kna! A tone is released. It's a deep, heavy bell. Very soft. A planet perhaps? Moments later it sounds again, a little louder and then again, a little louder again as the sound gets closer and again at shorter and shorter intervals and getting louder and louder until there is a continuous roar. Do we hear a second bell? Again, along with increasing intervals separating them? Until the silence behind the ringing of the bell announces itself again? No, it is not going to be quiet. A new bell rings. Clearly, there is a new sequence of acceleration, vibration, and deceleration that is only now arriving at a higher rate of ascent, climax and disappearance. Halfway through this series we hear a 3rd bell. This bell allows a duet with the 2nd bell. Only in a slower sequence so that it remains alone, fades with and after the sounds of the 2nd bell. We hear phase differences. Sounds that seem to come out of nowhere and then disappear back into it. Do we witness sound rings revealing themselves to us and others on the street? Involuntarily we think of the ring around a star or a planet racing in orbit around the Earth. Are we hearing the pendant of a planetarium here? Sometimes it seems as if a rotating movement is started with sound collisions in between as if the rotating movement should not start. But it goes on and on. Densifying and expanding sounds alternate with an astronomical wheel, colliding celestial objects, twinkling, deepening silence and dark areas beyond.

This side of the Bang

A All of a sudden, it is there...

$\text{♩} = 60$ 8va sempre al loco

marc.

ff subito e sempre

It is massive

In all its density

Gigantic...

pressure building up...

8va sempre al loco

There's movement from within...

Dense matter

Than it collapses...

Explodes...



8va sempre al loco

Into billions of pieces...

C Escaping energy...
II
Gemini



Musical notation for measures 14-15. Measure 14 features a treble clef with a half note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note E4. The bass clef has a whole note B3. Measure 15 features a treble clef with a half note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. The bass clef has a whole note G2. A small diagram of the Gemini constellation is visible in the upper right corner of the page.

Musical notation for measures 15-16. Measure 15 features a treble clef with a half note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note E4. The bass clef has a whole note B3. Measure 16 features a treble clef with a half note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. The bass clef has a whole note G2. The text "Start of rotation" is written above measure 15, and "loco" is written below measure 15. The text "Gradually gaining speed..." is written above measure 16, and "poco a poco accelerando" is written below measure 16.

Musical notation for measures 16-17. Measure 16 features a treble clef with a half note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note E4. The bass clef has a whole note B3. Measure 17 features a treble clef with a half note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. The bass clef has a whole note G2. The text "rall." is written below measure 17.

Musical notation for measures 17-18. Measure 17 features a treble clef with a half note G4, a quarter note F#4, and a half note E4. The bass clef has a whole note B3. Measure 18 features a treble clef with a half note D4, a quarter note C4, and a half note B3. The bass clef has a whole note G2. The text "Approaching..." is written above measure 17, and "8va sempre al loco" is written below measure 17. The text "poco a poco accelerando" is written below measure 18.

18 *rall.* *loco ----- sempre* Disappearing... *3* *3*

19 **D** Spinning... vortex...  Cancer *poco a poco accelerando*

21 *poco a poc rallentando* Losing speed...

23 *mp* *mf*

25

25

27

27

29

E Ω
Leo

29

mf *loco* *3* *8va*

31

31

loco *3* *8va*

F

♍

Virgo



loco sempre

3

32

rubato

33

p

p

34

mf

G

♎

Libra



8va -----

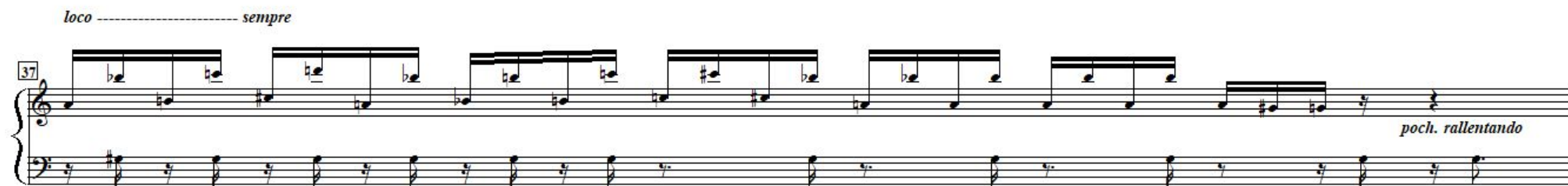
35

poco a poco accelerando

loco ----- *sempre*

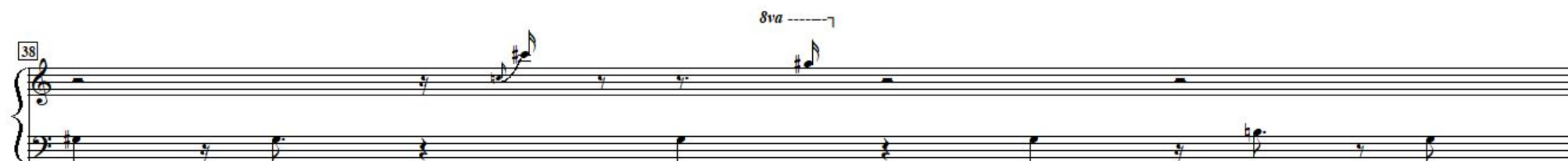
37

poch. rallentando



38

8va ----- 7



loco ----- *sempre*

39

poco a poco accelerando



loco ----- *sempre*

40

poco a poco rallentando



42

8va ----- 7

poco a poco accelerando

44

8va ----- sempre

5 3 3 3

poch. rallentando

45

8va ----- sempre al loco

3 7

poco a poco accelerando

46

3

poco a poco rallentando

47 *poco a poco accelerando*

loco ----- sempre

48

8va ----- sempre al loco

49 *poco a poco rallentando*

51 *lunga* *poco meno mosso* *loco ----- sempre* **H** **M** **Scorpio**

53

54

8va -----

56

loco ----- *sempre*

pp *f*

con fuoco

Sagittarius

59

63

Measures 63-66 of a musical score. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) contains a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed sixteenth notes. The left staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed sixteenth notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

67

Measures 67-70 of a musical score. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) contains a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed sixteenth notes. The left staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed sixteenth notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

71

Measures 71-74 of a musical score. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) contains a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed sixteenth notes. The left staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed sixteenth notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

75

Measures 75-78 of a musical score. The system consists of two staves. The right staff (treble clef) contains a melody with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed sixteenth notes. The left staff (bass clef) contains a bass line with eighth and sixteenth notes, including some beamed sixteenth notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

79 *lunga*

83 *loco ----- sempre*

8va  Capricorn

85 *loco ----- sempre*

poco a poco accelerando *poco a poco rallentando*

87

89

Measures 89-90. Treble clef: Measure 89 has a whole rest, a half note G#4, and a whole rest. Measure 90 has a half note G#4, a whole rest, a half note A#4, and a whole rest. Bass clef: Measure 89 has a whole rest, a half note F#3, and a whole rest. Measure 90 has a whole rest, a half note F#3, a half note E#3, and a whole rest.

91

Measures 91-92. Treble clef: Measure 91 has a half note G#4, a whole rest, a half note A#4, and a whole rest. Measure 92 has a half note A#4, a whole rest, a half note B#4, and a whole rest. Bass clef: Measure 91 has a whole rest, a half note F#3, and a whole rest. Measure 92 has a whole rest, a half note F#3, a half note E#3, and a whole rest.

poco a poco accelerando

93

Measures 93-94. Treble clef: Measure 93 has a half note G#4, a whole rest, a half note A#4, and a whole rest. Measure 94 has a half note A#4, a whole rest, a half note B#4, and a whole rest. Bass clef: Measure 93 has a whole rest, a half note F#3, and a whole rest. Measure 94 has a whole rest, a half note F#3, a half note E#3, and a whole rest.

poco a poco rallentando

95

Measures 95-96. Treble clef: Measure 95 has a whole rest, a half note G#4, and a whole rest. Measure 96 has a whole rest, a half note A#4, and a whole rest. Bass clef: Measure 95 has a whole rest, a half note F#3, and a whole rest. Measure 96 has a whole rest, a half note F#3, a half note E#3, and a whole rest.

K

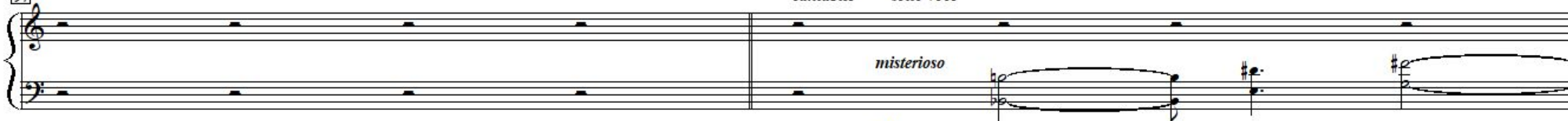


Aquarius

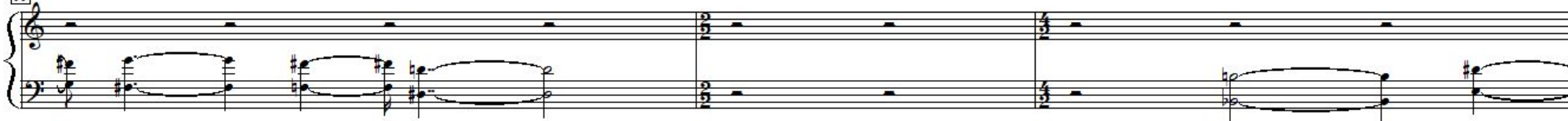
*cantabile**sotto voce**misterioso**mp*

*realise the utmost mysterious soundbalance
the top note may be played by hand for better control*

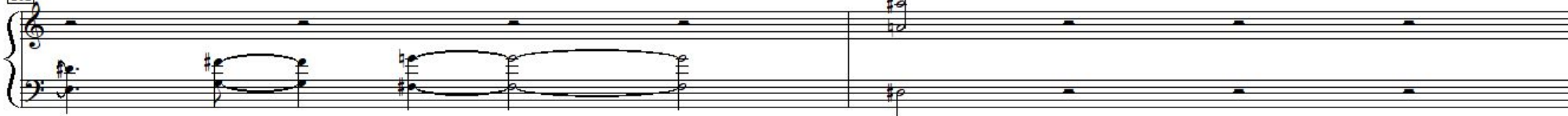
97



99



102



104



106

Measures 106-107. Treble clef: Measure 106 has a half note G4 (sharp) and a half note A4 (flat). Measure 107 has a whole note chord of G4 (sharp) and A4 (flat). Bass clef: Measure 106 has a half note G3 (sharp) and a half note A3 (flat). Measure 107 has a whole note chord of G3 (sharp) and A3 (flat).

108

Measures 108-109. Treble clef: Measure 108 has a whole rest. Measure 109 has a half note G4 (sharp) and a half note A4 (flat). Bass clef: Measure 108 has a whole note chord of G3 (sharp) and A3 (flat). Measure 109 has a whole note chord of G3 (sharp) and A3 (flat).

110

Measures 110-111. Treble clef: Measure 110 has a half note G4 (sharp) and a half note A4 (flat). Measure 111 has a whole rest. Bass clef: Measure 110 has a half note G3 (sharp) and a half note A3 (flat). Measure 111 has a whole rest.

112

Measures 112-113. Treble clef: Measure 112 has a half note G4 (sharp) and a half note A4 (flat). Measure 113 has a whole rest. Bass clef: Measure 112 has a half note G3 (sharp) and a half note A3 (flat). Measure 113 has a whole rest.

114

L ♄

Pisces



116

118

120

8va ----- sempre

accel.

tenuto

M*8va ----- sempre al loco*

122

marc. *subito a tempo*

ff subito e sempre

123

124

125

126

3 3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3

127

3 3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3



128

3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3 3 3

129

3 3 3

3 3 3

130

f

132

loco *8va ----- sempre*

pp

134

loco ----- sempre

ritenuto al fine

136

8va -----

App. 8'30''
21-01-2021