

Augur

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Violin, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass

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Augur consists of twelve fragments, each roughly thirty seconds in length, which are to be organized by the performers using the random number generator available at *random.org*. *One crow bad news* should begin the piece and *Twelve crows good day after* should end it, but the sequence of the remaining ten fragments may be determined as follows:

- 1) In the random number generator, set the minimum value to 2 and the maximum value to 11.
- 2) Write down the values produced by the generator in the order they appear until all of the fragments have been accounted for.
- 3) Remove all instances of a value subsequent to its first appearance from the resulting list.

Due to the use of Cage's gamut technique in the composition of *Augur*, it will be extremely helpful for the performers to be able to see all four parts in a performance (the technique tends to produce a melodic line split among the performers). As such, the score for each performer consists of twelve pages, each page containing one fragment in full score. After each fragment has been played, the performers should dispose of the paper as quickly as possible in one of four ways according to their personal response to the proceeding fragment:

- 1) Rip the paper in two and let the pieces fall to the ground.
- 2) Gently drop the paper on the ground.
- 3) Crumple the paper and throw it on the ground.
- 4) Lay the paper neatly on the ground.

The fragments should be presented with as much contrast as possible; the audience should feel a continual unrest.

Finally, the tempi should not be treated too literally, but rather as relative to an average tempo of sixty half notes per minute.

Each fragment corresponds to a line of the following anonymous Scottish poem, which details a method of predicting the future based on crow sightings:

*One crow bad news
Two crows myrth
Three crows a wedding
Four crows a birth
Five crows for riches
Six crows a thief
Seven crows a journey
Eight crows for grief
Nine crows a secret
Ten crows for sorrow
Eleven crows for love
Twelve crows good day after*

Gamut (Not Played)

Violin



9 Viola



15 Cello



21 Double Bass



11

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

ppp

$\text{♩} = 63$
Two crows myrth

Violin *mp* *f*

Viola *mp*

Violoncello *mp*

Double Bass *mp* *f*

6

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

11

Vln. *mp* *f*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

$\text{♩} = 50$

Three crows a wedding

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

pp

p

pp

p

p

9

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

15

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

rit.

$\text{♩} = 60$
Four crows a birth

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

ppp

pp

p

pp

p

p

8

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

mp

mp

mf

mf

mp

mf

12

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

f

f

f

f

$\text{♩} = 66$
Five crows riches

Violin *ff*

Viola *ff*

Violoncello *ff*

Double Bass *ff*

6

Vln. *pizz.* *arco*

Vla. *pizz.* *arco*

Vc. *p*

Db.

11

Vln. *pp* *f*

Vla. *pp* *f*

Vc. *f*

Db. *f*

$\text{♩} = 63$
Six crows a thief
col legno

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

This block contains the first system of the musical score, covering measures 1 through 6. The Violin part (treble clef, 4/4 time) features a triplet of eighth notes in measures 1, 3, and 5, marked *mf* and *col legno*. The Viola part (alto clef, 4/4 time) consists of a steady eighth-note accompaniment, also marked *mf* and *col legno*. The Violoncello (bass clef, 4/4 time) and Double Bass (bass clef, 4/4 time) parts are mostly silent, with the Double Bass playing a single eighth note in measure 6 marked *f*. The Violoncello has a few notes with accents in measures 2, 4, and 6.

7

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

This block contains the second system of the musical score, covering measures 7 through 10. The Violin part (treble clef, 4/4 time) continues with the triplet motif in measures 7 and 9, marked *mf* and *col legno*. The Viola part (alto clef, 4/4 time) continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The Violoncello (bass clef, 4/4 time) and Double Bass (bass clef, 4/4 time) parts have more activity, with the Double Bass playing a short melodic line in measure 8 and the Violoncello playing notes with accents in measures 8 and 10.

11

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

This block contains the third system of the musical score, covering measures 11 through 14. The Violin part (treble clef, 4/4 time) has the triplet motif in measure 11, marked *mf* and *col legno*. The Viola part (alto clef, 4/4 time) continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The Violoncello (bass clef, 4/4 time) and Double Bass (bass clef, 4/4 time) parts have more activity, with the Double Bass playing a short melodic line in measure 11 and the Violoncello playing notes with accents in measures 11 and 13.

$\text{♩} = 60$
Seven crows a journey

Violin *pp* 8^{va}

Viola *pp* 8^{va}

Violoncello *mp*

Double Bass *pp*

* $\flat = 1/4$ tone flat

8

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *

Db. *f*

* $\flat = 3/4$ tone flat

$\text{♩} = 48$
Eight crows for grief

Violin *mp*

Viola *mp*

Violoncello *mp*

Double Bass *mp*

This block contains the first system of the musical score, measures 1 through 6. The Violin part begins with a half note G4, followed by a whole rest, and then a half note A4. The Viola part starts with a half note F4, followed by a half note G4, and then a half note A4. The Violoncello part has a half note F3, followed by a half note G3, and then a half note A3. The Double Bass part has a half note F2, followed by a half note G2, and then a half note A2. The tempo is marked as *mp* (mezzo-piano). The time signature is 4/4.

Vln. *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc. *mf*

Db. *mf*

This block contains the second system of the musical score, measures 7 through 10. The Violin part has a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The Viola part has a half note F4, followed by a half note G4, and then a half note A4. The Violoncello part has a half note F3, followed by a half note G3, and then a half note A3. The Double Bass part has a half note F2, followed by a half note G2, and then a half note A2. The tempo is marked as *mf* (mezzo-forte). The time signature is 4/4.

Vln. *rit.*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Db. *mp*

This block contains the third system of the musical score, measures 11 through 14. The Violin part has a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, and then a half note B4. The Viola part has a half note F4, followed by a half note G4, and then a half note A4. The Violoncello part has a half note F3, followed by a half note G3, and then a half note A3. The Double Bass part has a half note F2, followed by a half note G2, and then a half note A2. The tempo is marked as *rit.* (ritardando). The time signature is 4/4.

$\text{♩} = 72$

Nine crows a secret

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

f

f

f

f

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

6

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

11

fff

fff

fff

fff

$\text{♩} = 66$
Ten crows for sorrow

Violin *ff*

Viola *ff*

Violoncello *ff*

Double Bass *ff*

7

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

13

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

$\text{♩} = 54$
Eleven crows for love

Violin *mp*

Viola *mp*

Violoncello *mp*

Double Bass *mp*

7

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

12

rit. - - - - -

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

$\text{♩} = 60$

Twelve crows good day after

Violin *f*

Viola *f*

Violoncello *f*

Double Bass *f*

7

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Db.

11

rit.

Vln. *p*

Vla.

Vc. *p*

Db. *p*