

Superfluidity

for chamber ensemble

Nikolaos-Laonikos Psimikakis-Chalkokondylis

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for chamber ensemble

Instrumentation (9 players):

flute (doubling Piccolo)

oboe

clarinet

bassoon

percussion (woodblock, guiro, suspended cymbal)

violin

viola

violoncello

double bass (with C extension – if there is no C extension available, transpose the bottom C's up the octave)

The score is written in C (except for the Piccolo, which sounds an octave higher, and the double-bass, which sounds an octave lower)

Duration: 3 minutes

Program Note

“Superfluidity”, in physics, is a term that describes the phase of matter in which unusual effects are observed, when liquids, after going below a certain temperature, overcome friction. One of the unusual effects observed at those temperatures is that superfluids can form a very thin atom-thick layer up the sides of any container in which it is placed.

Superfluidity in this piece is expressed by the way the harmony is spread among the instruments, as there are some very fundamental chords (mainly jazz chords) that guide the piece which are layered up the instruments much like a superfluid would layer up the sides of any container in which it is placed (which is suitable for an ensemble which has only one player of each instrument, just like the liquid would form an atom-thick layer - “atom” being the Greek word for “person”). The section with the sustained notes and the phrases that move from one instrument to another is like having a liquid at a very low temperature, and then lighting parts of that liquid which start to move (as, inevitably light will transfer energy to them and thus heat them up), and then remain stable, but warmer than before (i.e. not returning to silence), while other parts of the liquid are being lit.

This work was written for the *LCO New Explore 2008* competition.

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♩ = 70 (Strictly)

The score is for a chamber ensemble and is written in 2/4 time. It consists of eight staves: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet in Bb, Bassoon, Percussion, Violin, Viola, and Double Bass. The piece is marked with a tempo of 70 beats per minute (♩ = 70) and is to be played strictly. The score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 1 through 8, and the second system covers measures 9 through 16. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The score includes various dynamics such as *sfz*, *pp*, *mp*, and *ppp*, as well as performance instructions like *sul tasto*, *col legno tratto*, *non vibrato*, *pizz.*, and *arco*. A wood block is used in the percussion part. A section marked 'A' begins in measure 9. The score concludes with a triplet in the double bass part.

12

Fl. *mf* *f* *ff* *p* *pp* *mf* *mp*

Ob. *mf* *ff* *mf*

B♭ Cl. *mf* *mp* *f* *p* *ff* *mf* *pp*

Bsn. *f* *pp* *f* *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

Perc. **Guairo** *mf* *f*

Vln. *f* *mp* *ff* *f* *p* *mf* *ff*

Vla. *mf* *f* *mp* *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco*

Vlc. *f* *mp* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *arco*

Db. *p* *sfz* *mf*

B

mf *f* *ff* *p* *pp* *mf* *mp*

mf *ff* *mf*

mf *mp* *f* *p* *ff* *mf* *pp*

f *pp* *f* *ff* *f* *mf* *p*

Guairo *mf* *f*

f *mp* *ff* *f* *p* *mf* *ff*

mf *f* *mp* *f* *pizz.* *f* *arco*

f *mp* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* *arco*

p *sfz* *mf*

Piccolo non vibrato

C

19

Fl. *ff* *ppp* *mp* *ppp*

Ob. *mp* *mf* *f*

B♭ Cl. *f* *mf* *ppp*

Bsn. *mf* *sfz* *mp*

Perc. W. Bl. *sfz* *p* Gui.

Vln. *mf* *ff* *f* *mp* *f*

Vla. *7:6* *f* *mp*

Vlc. *pp*

Db. *p*

Picc. *f* *mp* *sfz* *sfz* *mp* *f*

Ob. *f*

B♭ Cl. *pp* *f mp > p*

Bsn. *sf*

con vibrato D

Perc. Suspended Cymbal *pp* *sfz*

Vln. *ppp* *mf* *f* *p*

Vla. *pizz.* *p* *arco* *f* *mf* *f*

Vcl. *sfz* *sfz* *f*

Db. *ppp* *p* *mf*

sul D non vibrato

molto vibrato D

E

♩ = 100

Flute

non vibrato

Picc.

Ob.

B♭ Cl.

Bsn.

Perc.

Vln.

Vla.

Vlc.

Db.

Musical score for Flute, Piccolo, Oboe, B♭ Clarinet, and Bassoon. The Flute part features a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *pp*. The Piccolo part is mostly silent. The Oboe part has a melodic line with dynamics *f* and *ff*. The B♭ Clarinet part has a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *f*, *p*, and *f*. The Bassoon part has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *mf*, *f*, *mp*, *f*, and *mp*. There are triplets and slurs throughout.

Musical score for Percussion. It includes Guiro (Gui.), Wood Block (W. Bl.), and Suspended Cymbal (Sus. C). The Guiro part has a rhythmic pattern. The Wood Block part has a melodic line with dynamics *f*, *mp*, *p*, *f*, and *mp*. The Suspended Cymbal part is mostly silent.

E

♩ = 100

Musical score for Violin, Viola, Violoncello, and Double Bass. The Violin part has a melodic line with dynamics *p*, *sffz*, *f*, *mp*, and *f*. The Viola part has a melodic line with dynamics *ff* and *p*. The Violoncello part has a melodic line with dynamics *mp*. The Double Bass part is mostly silent. There are triplets and slurs throughout.

(breathe as necessary)

pizz.

non vibrato

(breathe as necessary)

F

Fl. *f* *mp* *pp* *ff* *p*

Ob. *mf* *f* *sfz* *pp*

B \flat Cl. *ff* *pp*

Bsn. *pp* *mf* *mp* *pp*

(breathe as necessary)

(breathe as necessary)

f *ppp* *pp* *mf* *mp* *pp*

41 Perc. W. Bl. Sus. C *f* *p* *mf*

41 Vln. non vibrato a punta d'arco *mp* *f* *mp*

Vla. *sf* *p*

Vcl. arco con sordino *f* *ff* *sf* *ff* *pp*

Db. *sfz* *sfz*

5:4

3

3

3

3

47 *molto vibrato* G *accel.* - - - - -

Fl. *expression ad lib.* *ppp* *mf*

Ob. *expression ad lib.* *ppp* *mf*

B \flat Cl. *molto vibrato* *expression ad lib.* *ppp* *mp*

Bsn. *expression ad lib.* *ppp* *mp*

Perc. *play ad lib.*

Vln. *expression ad lib.* *ppp* *mp*

Vla. *expression ad lib.* *molto vibrato* *pizz. ϕ* *ord. arco* *ppp* *mf*

Vlc. *expression ad lib.* *molto vibrato* *pizz. ϕ* *arco* *ppp* *mp*

Db. *expression ad lib.* *molto vibrato* *pizz. ϕ* *arco* *ppp* *mp*

16" G 12" normale 4" *accel.* - - - - -

(non vib) 13" *molto vibrato* 3" *pizz. ϕ* *ord. arco* *ppp* *mf*

(non vib) 11" *molto vibrato* 5" *pizz. ϕ* *arco* *ppp* *mp*

(non vib) 7" *molto vibrato* 9" *pizz. ϕ* *arco* *ppp* *mp*

55

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

B♭ Cl.

Bsn. *f*

55

Perc.

55

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Vlc. *f*

Db. *mf* *f*

63 I ♩ = 140

rit. -----

Fl. *fff* *sfz* *f* *fff*

Ob. *fff* *sfz* *f* *fff*

B♭ Cl. *fff* *sfz* *p* *fff*

Bsn. *fff* *sfz* *f* *fff*

Perc. W. Bl. *sf* Gui. *sfz* Sus. C *pp* *fff*

63 I ♩ = 140

Vln. *f* *ff* *mf* *fff* *molto vibrato*

Vla. *fff* *sfz* *f* *fff* *pizz.* *arco*

Vlc. *fff* *sfz* *f* *fff* *pizz.* *arco*

Db. *fff* *sfz* *f* *fff* *arco*

(change imperceptibly)