

Deniz Aslan

Angelus Novus

for Soprano, Piano, Violin, Viola, and Double Bass

written for

Peyee Chen, Eliane Tokeshi, Reese Chen, Andrés Hernández, and Jeanne Hourez

2024

INSTRUMENTATION

Soprano

Piano

Violin

Viola

Double Bass

TEXT

The text is a fragmentation and re-construction of Walter Benjamin's famous paragraph on Paul Klee's *Angelus Novus*:

A Klee painting named Angelus Novus shows an angel looking as though he is about to move away from something he is fixedly contemplating. His eyes are staring, his mouth is open, his wings are spread. This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face is turned toward the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence that the angel can no longer close them. The storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress.

Benjamin, "Theses on the Philosophy of History", Illuminations, trans. Harry Zohn, New York: Schocken Books, 1969: 249.

Duration: ca. 9'

PERFORMANCE NOTES

General

All trills and tremolos are to be played as fast as possible and non-measured.

Accidentals apply to the whole measure but occasionally some are indicated for convenience.

Always senza vibrato unless otherwise indicated.



Short fermata, needs to be taken as a very brief momentary pause, not more than a couple of seconds.



Normal to long fermata, around 3-6 seconds of pause, depending on the passage. The exact duration is left to the performers.

Soprano



Explosive, sporadic, and unpredictable voice. Used with broken-apart words to emphasize the consonants. Sing as if you have a knot in your throat and only some parts of words come out. The only words used in the regarding part are “his”, “eyes”, “mouth”, and “face”.



Whisper. Sometimes used to sustain consonants, such as “sss”.

Piano

The player needs access to the closest part of the lower strings inside the piano to perform this piece. They also need a small plastic card, like a credit card.



Vertical gliss. on the string of the given note. Use the plastic card and a moderate speed to achieve a continuous sound. Play as long as indicated, scaling your speed to the length of the note, to make one single gliss.



Dampen the corresponding string with your hand to prevent resonance, therefore any pitch information. Very small resonance is okay.

PERFORMANCE NOTES (cont.)

Strings

s.p. Sul ponticello.

s.t. Sul tastò.

p.n. Posizione normale. Always and exclusively used to cancel s.p. or s.t..

ord. Ordinario.

flaut. Flautando.



Dampen the string with your left hand to prevent any resonance.



Shorter ricochet. Around 3 bounces.



Longer ricochet. Around 5-6 bounces.



Scrape tone. Very slow bowing with high pressure. A non-continuous sound with very little resonance. If it is indicated with an “x” notehead, damp the string with your left hand so that no pitch is heard. If a normal notehead is used, let it resonate. Mostly used with open string. Always sul tastò unless otherwise indicated.



Scratch tone. Overpressure on the string with fast bowing. Pitch is still resonant but the sound is distorted.

s.p. —————> s.t.

Gradually go from one position to another.

Angelus Novus

for Peyee Chen, Eliane Tokeshi, Reese Chen, Andrés Hernández, and Jeanne Hourez

Deniz Aslan

♩ = 80

Soprano

p

he s ys he sma th he sfe ss he he s ys he

* his eyes, his mouth, his face

Piano

(dampened)

p

Violin

c.l.battuto

p

Viola

III
pizz.

mp

Double Bass

pp

Score for *Angelus Novus* by Deniz Aslan. The score is for Soprano, Piano, Violin, Viola, and Double Bass. The tempo is marked ♩ = 80. The Soprano part includes lyrics: "he s ys he sma th he sfe ss he he s ys he" and a note: "* his eyes, his mouth, his face". The Piano part is marked (dampened) and *p*. The Violin part is marked c.l.battuto and *p*. The Viola part is marked III pizz. and *mp*. The Double Bass part is marked *pp*. The score is divided into measures by bar lines, with a repeat sign in the middle of each part.

6

S

sf

p

sma th he sfe ss he sa ys he

Pno.

6

p

Vln.

6

Vla.

3

D.B.

3

11

S

sfz *sfz* *mp* *ff* *p* **B**

swi ng ss eye(s) sssss — he s ys he sma th he

Pno.

11

sfz

Vln.

11

sfz *p* con crini s.p. (con crini)

Vla.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

D.B.

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

pp *f* *mp* *pizz.* *mp*

C a little faster $\text{♩} = 90$

S

sfe s he sss _____ mou(th) - "th" he s ys he

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

D.B.

arco

pizz.

f

mf

mp

sfz

sffz

mp

mf

sfz *p*

sffz *p*

mp

(con crini)
(s.p.)

21

S

sma th he sfe ss ss ss

sfz *sfz* **D**

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

D.B.

pizz. arco pizz.

25 *pp* *f* *mp* *ff* *pp* *p* *pp*

S he s ys hhh _____ fa(ce) "s" hi(s) "s" eyes eyes _____

25 *pp* *mf* *mp* *pp*

Pno. as if c# key is stuck

25 *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*

Vln. (con crini) (s.p.)

Vla. *pp* *arco* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf* *pp* *p* *pp*

D.B. *pp* *mf* *p* *pp*

a tempo ♩ = 80

Very Slow

a tempo ♩ = 80

[E]

S

— eye(s) "s" mou(th) - "th" his face — his eye(s) -

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

D.B.

poco vib.

mf

pp

senza vib.

pp *mp* *pp*

p

mp

s.p.

pp *p*

pp *p*

pp *p*

pp *p*

p

Slower ♩ = 60

S

38

mf *sfz* *p* *mf* *sfz* *pp* *ppp*

poco vib.

"s" mou(th) - "th" eye(s) - "s" mouth — face —

Pno.

38

mp *pp*

Vln.

38

ppp

Vla.

38

pp *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf* *sfz* *pp* *3*

D.B.

38

pp no cresc. *p* *pizz.* *mf* *sfz*

arco

III p.n.

44 *mf* *pp* **F** *ppp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

S. eye(s) - - - "s" stare - ing mou(th) "th" o - pen

Pno. *mf* *p* *pp* *mf*

Vln. *mf* *ppp* *mf* III

Vla. *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* 3

D.B. *pp* *mf* *pp* *sfz* *pp*

Even Slower $\text{♩} = 50$ a tempo $\text{♩} = 80$

S. *poco vib.* *p* *ppp* *mf* *pp*

wings spread face turned

Pno. *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln. *ppp* *pp* IV *ppp* *mf*

Vla. *ppp* dampened *sfz*

D.B. I *ppp* *pp* *mf*

G

S

57 *mp* face turned his face turned toward the *pp* pas(t) *p* molto vib.

Pno.

57 *p* *mp*

Vln.

57 *pp* *mp* *sfpp* *ppp* *mp* p.n.

Vla.

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

D.B.

mf *p* *arco* *mf* *pizz.* *mf*

61 *mf* *pp* *sfz* *mf* **H**

S — "t" He would like

Pno.

Vln.

Vla.

D.B. arco pizz. arco s.p.

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

p *mf*

64

S

to stay him to

sfz *sfz* *sfz*

Pno.

mf

Vln.

mp

Vla.

mp

D.B.

sfz *sfz*

Detailed description: This musical score page contains measures 64 through 67. The vocal part (S) has lyrics 'to stay him to' and features three *sfz* (sforzando) markings. The piano accompaniment (Pno.) includes a *mf* (mezzo-forte) marking and complex arpeggiated figures with fingerings 5 and 6. The violin (Vln.) and viola (Vla.) parts play a continuous sixteenth-note arpeggiated pattern with a *mp* (mezzo-piano) dynamic. The double bass (D.B.) part provides harmonic support with chords and single notes, including two *sfz* markings.

The musical score for "The Future" by John Williams is presented in a five-staff format. The vocal part (S) is in treble clef, with lyrics "the fu - - - ture ____". The piano (Pno.) part consists of two staves, with the right hand in treble clef and the left in bass clef. The violin (Vln.) part is in treble clef, and the viola (Vla.) part is in bass clef. The double bass (D.B.) part is in bass clef. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, beams, and slurs. Dynamic markings include *sfz*, *sffz*, *pp*, *f*, *mf*, *p*, and *ff*. The tempo is marked "Allegretto". The key signature has one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines, with measure numbers 67, 68, 69, and 70 indicated at the beginning of their respective staves.

70 *sfz* *sfz* *sfz*

S

to which his

Pno.

70 *pp* *8va* - - - -

Vln.

Vla.

IV *p*

D.B.

sffz *sffz*

musical score for Soprano (S), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (Vla.), and Double Bass (D.B.).

Soprano (S): The vocal line begins at measure 75 with a melodic phrase. It includes the instruction *molto vib.* (molto vibrato) and dynamic markings *sub. p* (subito piano) and *ff* (fortissimo).

Piano (Pno.): The piano accompaniment features complex textures. It includes dynamic markings *sffz* (sforzando), *f* (forte), *pp* (pianissimo), and *mp* (mezzo-piano). There are also indications for octaves: *8va* (8va) and *8vb* (8vb). The score includes a *Red.* (Reduction) section marked with an asterisk (*).

Violin (Vln.): The violin part includes dynamic markings *p* (piano) and *pp* (pianissimo). It features a *II* (second ending) and a *s.p.* (sforzando) marking.

Viola (Vla.): The viola part includes dynamic markings *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *ff* (fortissimo). It features a *s.t.* (sforzando) marking.

Double Bass (D.B.): The double bass part includes dynamic markings *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *ff* (fortissimo). It features a *s.t.* (sforzando) marking.

The score is written in 3/4 time and includes various musical notations such as slurs, ties, and dynamic markings.

J

78

S

Pno.

78

8^{va} -

pp

p

sffz

sffz

f

sfz

sffz

dampened

(8^{vb}) -

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

8^{vb}

Vln.

78

s.t.

mf

ppp

pp

p

s.p.

Vla.

mf

pp

p.n.

pp

p

s.t.

D.B.

p

ppp

c.l.tratto

s.p.

ppp

p

ppp

s.p.

pp

83

S

Pno.

83

p *mf* *ff* *mp*

8va

8vb

Vln.

83

mf *ppp* *pp*

s.t.

Vla.

pp *mf* *mp*

s.p.

p.n.

D.B.

ppp *p* *mp* *p*

I c.l.tratto s.t. *s.p.* *con crini s.t.*

K Intense ♩ = 50

87 *f* poco vib. senza vib. *p* *accel.* *f*

S One _____ sin - gle ca - tas - tro - phe _____ he _____ sees _____ wreck - age

Pno. *8va* *sffz* *sffz* *ff* *f* *sfz* *sffz* *ff* *f* *8vb* *8vb* *8vb* *8vb* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.* *Reo.*

Vln. *87* *s.t.* *mf* *s.p.* *mp* *s.t.* *mf* *mp* *s.t.* *mf* *s.p.*

Vla. *s.t.* *mf* *ff* *mf* *ff* *s.p.*

D.B. *s.p.* *f* *mp* *pp* *mp* *ppp* *f* *p* *I con crini p.n.* *s.t.*

II c.l.tratto *s.t.* *s.p.*

----- $\text{♩} = 60$

93 S *sffz* *f* *molto vib. mf* *ff* *p* *sffz*
 — up - on wreck - age it ———— hurl(s) ———— "s"

93 Pno. dampened *sffz* *sfz* *sffz* *f* *ff* dampened *sfz*
8vb *8vb* *8vb*
 (Reo.) * Reo. ----- * Reo. ----- * Reo. ----- * Reo. -----

93 Vln. s.p. s.t. *mp* *mf* s.p. s.t. s.p. *mp*
 s.t. *mf* *ff* *mf* III p.n. *ppp* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *ff* *mf* I p.n. *pp*

D.B. *mf* *f* *pp*

L Even Slower ♩ = 40

99

S

mf senza vib.

Sss - (s)torm is _____ blow - ing _____ from par - adi(se) -

f molto vib. *pp*

99

Pno.

sffz *mf* *sffz* *sfz* *pp*

(Leo.) * Leo.

8vb 8vb

99

Vln.

s.t. *f* s.p. *pp* *mf* *pp*

p.n. portamento 3

Vla.

ff *p* *mf*

D.B.

p *p* IV s.t.

103

S. *senza vib.* *ff* *f*

"se" such ___ vio - len(ce) "ce" Pile of de - bris _____ be - fore his - eyes _____

Pno. *mf* *p* *sffz* *mf* *sffz* *sfz* *pp*

(Leo.) ----- * ----- Leo. -----

8vb 8vb 8vb

Vln. *mf* *pp* *f* *pp* *p* *pp* *mf*

s.t. IV p.n. s.p. (s.p.)

Vla. *mf* *ff* *mf* *sffz* *pp*

s.p. s.t. s.p.

D.B. *f* *p* *ppp* *f* *pp* *p*

II s.t.

108 *poco vib.* *pp* [M] *p* *mf*

S his face his feet a - bout to move a -

Pno. *sfz* *sfz* *mf* *p* w/ card vertical gliss on the string *8vb*

Vln. *pp* *ppp* *p* *ppp* *pp* *p* s.t. p.n. s.p.

Vla. *pp* *f* *pp* trill between ord. and harmonic

D.B. *pp* *pp* IV s.p.

114 *poco vib.* **pp** *senza vib.*

S way the an - gel would like to stay but it's got caught in his wings

114

Pno. (vertical gliss) **mf**

114

Vln. s.t. **pp** *c.l.tratto s.p.* **ppp** *p* **ppp** con crini s.p.

Vla. s.p. **ppp** *pp* **pp**

D.B. **pp**

119 *p* **[N] Solemn** *pp*

S Such vio - lence The an - gel can no lon - ger close them

Pno. *mp* *p legato*

(Leo.) *8vb*

Vln. *ppp* (s.p.)

Vla. *pp legato* s.p.

D.B. *pp* II s.p. I

randomly play double stop as brief as possible with a similar rhythm while playing the tremolo as if short bursts of a second pitch appear involuntarily

124

S

the storm pro - pels the storm we call

Pno.

mf

8vb
(2ed.)

Vln.

Vla.

D.B.

I

with the peg

124

125

126

127

128

129

130

131

S

prog - ress

Pno.

(Leo.)

8vb

Vln.

Vla.

D.B.

I

continue until the end but increase the silences in-between gradually