ABSENCE

for

WIND, PERCUSSION and STRINGS

WILLIAM SWEENEY

2014
“Absence” was jointly commissioned by the sound festival (UK), Musiques Démesurées (France), Red Note Ensemble (UK) and l’Orchestre d’Auvergne (France) with support from Creative Scotland and Diaphonique.

The first performance was given by the joint forces of Red Note Ensemble and l’Orchestre d’Auvergne on the 24th October 2014 in the Music Hall, Aberdeen.

Notes on performance:

1. The score is notated in concert pitch, with the piccolo sounding one octave higher and the double basses one octave lower than notated.

2. While the Bass-Clarinets are "in B♭", the preference for "soprano clarinets" is for C clarinets, but parts are also provided for B♭ clarinets.
   Combinations advised are: a) all three in C or B♭ b) parts 1 and 2 in C and 3 in B♭

3. In the percussion part, the tuned metal plates may be replaced by tuned gongs.

4. The grace notes should always be played with a full tone and at the same dynamic level as the normally sized notes.
   In sections marked 'giusto', the main melodic notes must be played together, but the grace notes should be played in an individual manner, even where players have similar groupings.
   In the sections marked 'rubato', both the 'main' and 'grace' notes should be played individually, without co-ordination.
   Section F has a local variant of these rules, explained in the score at that point.

ORCHESTRA

Flute / doubling Piccolo
Oboe
Clarinet 1 (in C or B♭) / doubling Bass Clarinet in B♭
Clarinet 2 (in C or B♭) / doubling Bass Clarinet in B♭
Clarinet 2 (in C or B♭) / doubling Bass Clarinet in B♭

Horn in F
Trumpet in C
Trombone (with F extension)

Percussion 1 and 2:
Tam-tam, Orchestral Bass Drum, Pedal Bass Drum, Suspended cymbal (light), Bell Tree (a really loud one!)
Vibraphone, Glockenspiel, Marimba, Tubular Bells (G+A, treble clef)
Timpani
Metal plates, or tuned gongs (Bass clef, upwards from second line B♭, Eb, E, G♭, G, A, B♭, B)

Violin 1 (At least 7)
Violin 2 (at least 5)
Viola (at least 4)
Cello (at least 5)
Double Bass (at least 2)
In section F, the bars which contain fermati should be extended by at least an eighth note but by no more than a quarter note. During the other beats, the players play as indicated by the crotchet. The players play as indicated by 'gusto' as possible.