Matthew Shlomowitz

Popular Contexts, Volume 7: Public Domain Music

In four movements
Quintet for clarinet, electric guitar, cello, drum-kit and synthesizer/sampler keyboard

Commissioned by asamisimasa with funds from the Norwegian Arts Council

Composed: 2014-2015 (with revisions in 2016)
Duration: 25 minutes
Programme note

1. International Transport Chimes Reggae
2. Jazz in the Park
3. Canteen Funk
4. Muzak in the Shopping Mall

*Popular Contexts* is a series of pieces that combine pre-recorded sounds with live instrumental music to investigate aspects of everyday and popular culture. Volume 7 was written for and commissioned by *asamisima* with funds from the Norwegian Arts Council and first performed at Festival Kwadrofonik in Warsaw, Poland on 6 September 2015.

Performance instructions

**Equipment**

- Two octave (25-note) keyboard controller
- Computer operating sampling software
- Two loudspeakers for samples
- Amplification for synthesizer and electric guitar (speakers next to performers). The cello may also be amplified.
- Four octave (49-note) touch-sensitive synthesizer

**Routing**

- Sampler channel 1 → loudspeaker placed in the centre of the ensemble
- Sampler channel 2 → loudspeaker concealed in the audience

**Stage set-up**
Samples

22 samples are used across the four movements. The table below shows the settings for each sample.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note</th>
<th>Sample</th>
<th>Dynamic</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Channel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Public Transport Chime 1</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D4</td>
<td>Public Transport Chime 2</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E4</td>
<td>Public Transport Chime 3</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F4</td>
<td>Public Transport Chime 4</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G4</td>
<td>Public Transport Chime 5</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>Public Transport Chime 6</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B4</td>
<td>Public Transport Chime 7</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C4</td>
<td>Public Transport Chime 8</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G⁴4</td>
<td>Canteen space 1</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G⁴4</td>
<td>Canteen space 2</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G⁴4</td>
<td>Canteen space 3</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>35&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A⁴4</td>
<td>Canteen space 4</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>6&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A⁴4</td>
<td>Canteen space 5</td>
<td>f</td>
<td>15&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E⁵</td>
<td>Birds</td>
<td>mp</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F⁵</td>
<td>Passing cars</td>
<td>mp</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G⁵</td>
<td>Kids talking</td>
<td>mp</td>
<td>40&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A⁵</td>
<td>Birds + passing traffic + kids</td>
<td>mp</td>
<td>10&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G⁵</td>
<td>+ ice-cream van song</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A⁵</td>
<td>Ambient sound of shopping mall</td>
<td>mp</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H⁵</td>
<td>Shopping trolley</td>
<td>mp</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G⁵</td>
<td>Shopping mall + trolley + talking + checkout beeps</td>
<td>mp</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A⁵</td>
<td>Baby</td>
<td>mp</td>
<td>12&quot;</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electrical guitar

Each movement uses a different sound setting.

1. Clean guitar tone with *flanger* (mid intensity; quite a slow speed)
2. Clean guitar tone with *chorus* (mid intensity; quite a slow speed)
3. Clean guitar tone with *bit-crusher* (5-bit; a low level of sample rate reduction)
4. Clean guitar tone with *chorus* (mid intensity; quite a slow speed) and *reverb* (quite a short decay; bright reverb colour; wet/dry mix: 35%/65%)

Drum kit

The drum kit sound should be dry. Use sticks in movements 1, 3 and 4 and brushes in movement 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hi-hat</th>
<th>ride</th>
<th>crash</th>
<th>8&quot; splash</th>
<th>4&quot; splash</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Synthesizer

Five sound settings are used in the work.

1. Bright rock organ (movement 1)
2. Electric piano (movement 2)
3. Hard-edged analog lead (movement 3)
4. Dreamy synth, with reverb (movement 4)
5. Harp (movement 4)
Popular Contexts 7: Public Domain Music
Four movements for five musicians

Matthew Shjomowitz

1. International Transport Chimes Reggae
2. Jazz in the Park

Clarinet in B♭

Guitar

with chorus

Cello

Drum Kit

Synth

electric piano

Sample
Dampen cymbals.

1 All notes are single strokes aside from those marked with an arrow, which indicates a smooth sweep across the drum.

2 Dampen cymbals.
3. Canteen Funk

Clarinet in B♭

Guitar with bit-crusher

Cello

Drum Kit

Synth analog lead

Sampler
4. Muzak in the Shopping Mall

- Clarinet in Bb
- Guitar with chorus and reverb
- Cello
- Drum Kit
- Synth - dreamy synth
- Sampler

Other instructions and symbols are present in the musical notation, including rhythms, dynamics, articulations, and accidentals.