

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 **asamisimasa** with funds from the Norwegian Arts Council and first performed at Festival Kwadrofonik in Warsaw, Poland on 6 September 2015.

Performance instructions

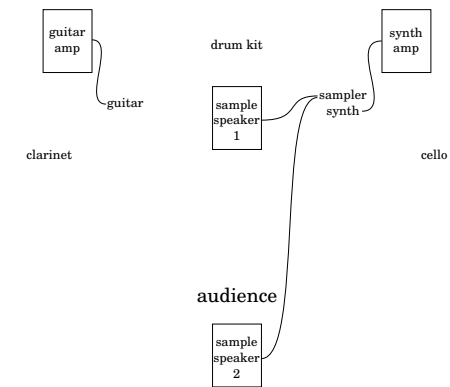
Equipment

- 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.

- C4 = middle C
- all samples start from the beginning of the sample each time they are activated
- all samples should sound as long as the key is depressed
- all samples output to channel 1 except for **A♭5**, which is output to channel 2

Note	Sample	Dynamic	Duration	Channel	Movement
C4	Public Transport Chime 1	<i>f</i>		1	1
D4	Public Transport Chime 2	<i>f</i>		1	1
E4	Public Transport Chime 3	<i>f</i>		1	1
F4	Public Transport Chime 4	<i>f</i>		1	1
G4	Public Transport Chime 5	<i>f</i>		1	1
A4	Public Transport Chime 6	<i>f</i>		1	1
B4	Public Transport Chime 7	<i>f</i>		1	1
C4	Public Transport Chime 8	<i>f</i>	10"	1	1
D♭4	Canteen space 1	<i>f</i>	6"	1	3
E♭4	Canteen space 2	<i>f</i>	6"	1	3
C♭4	Canteen space 3	<i>f</i>	35"	1	3
A♭4	Canteen space 4	<i>f</i>	6"	1	3
B♭4	Canteen space 5	<i>ff</i>	15"	1	3
E5	Birds	<i>mp</i>	10"	1	2
F5	Passing cars	<i>mp</i>	10"	1	2
G5	Kids talking	<i>mp</i>	40"	1	2 + 4
A5	Birds + passing traffic + kids + ice-cream van song	<i>mp</i>	10"	1	2
D♭5	Ambient sound of shopping mall	<i>mp</i>	12"	1	4
E♭5	Shopping trolley	<i>mp</i>	12"	1	4
C♭5	Shopping mall + trolley + talking + checkout beeps	<i>mp</i>	12"	1	4
A♭5	Baby	<i>mp</i>	12"	2	4

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)

Electric 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.



Popular Contexts 7: Public Domain Music

Four movements for five musicians

Matthew Shlomowitz

1. International Transport Chimes Reggae

Clarinet in B $\flat$ $\text{♩} = 120$

Guitar with flanger

Cello

Drum Kit

Synth rock organ

Sampler

10

cl

gtr

vc

dk

smp

The musical score is written for six instruments: Clarinet in B $\flat$, Guitar with flanger, Cello, Drum Kit, Synth rock organ, and Sampler. The piece is in 4/4 time, with a tempo of 120 beats per minute. The first system consists of 10 measures. Measures 1-4 are in 4/4 time, measures 5-8 are in 13/16 time, and measures 9-10 are in 4/4 time. The second system also consists of 10 measures, with measures 1-4 in 4/4 time, measures 5-8 in 13/16 time, and measures 9-10 in 4/4 time. The Clarinet in B $\flat$ part features a melodic line with dynamics ranging from *p* to *f*. The Guitar with flanger part provides a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics from *mp* to *f*. The Cello part has a bass line with dynamics from *mf* to *ff*. The Drum Kit part features a complex rhythmic pattern with a 13-measure rest in measures 5-8 and 9-10. The Synth rock organ and Sampler parts provide harmonic support with dynamics from *mf* to *f*.

18

cl

gtr

vc

dk

smp

p *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *mf* *non-legato* *mf* *mf* *mf*

27

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

light *mf* *light* *mf* *light* *mf* *light* *mf* *light* *mf*

36

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

48

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

4
60

cl *p* *f* *p* *f*

gtr *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *ff*

vc *mf* *ff*

dk *mf* *f* *mf* *ff* *mf* *f*

smp

67

cl *f*

gtr *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *ff* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

vc *mf* *ff* *mf*

dk *mf* *ff* *mf* *f* *mf*

smp

77

cl *f* *f*

gtr *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

vc

dk *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *mf* *f*

smp

85

cl *f* *mf* *non-legato*

gtr *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *mf*

vc *mf* *non-legato*

dk *mf* *f* *mf*

smp

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

Jolly

f

mf

f

13

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 93 through 99. The Clarinet (cl) part consists of chords and rests. The Guitar (gtr) part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes and chords, with a 'Jolly' section starting at measure 97 marked with a slur and a key signature change to two flats. The Violoncello (vc) part plays a melodic line in the first half of the system. The Drums (dk) part features a steady bass drum pattern with snare accents, including a triplet of 13 notes at measure 98. The Synthesizer (syn) part has a sustained chord at measure 98. The Sampler (smp) part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

mf

f

mf

f

mf

f

mf

f

13

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 100 through 104. The Clarinet (cl) part has a melodic line starting at measure 100. The Guitar (gtr) part continues the 'Jolly' section with a key signature change to one flat at measure 101. The Violoncello (vc) part plays a melodic line. The Drums (dk) part features a complex rhythmic pattern with multiple triplet markings of 13 notes. The Synthesizer (syn) part has a sustained chord. The Sampler (smp) part plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

112

gtr

vc

dk

smp

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f*

f *pp* *f* *pp* *f*

[illegible]

[illegible]

163

cl

gtr

vc

dk

smp

p *f*

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

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *mf* *ff*

mf *f* *mf* *ff*

13

175

cl

p *f* *p* *f*

gtr

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

vc

mf *ff* *mf*

dk

mf *f* *ff* *mf*

smp

184

cl

mf *non-legato*

gtr

ff *mf* *non-legato*

vc

ff *mf* *non-legato*

dk

ff *mf*

smp

195

cl

gtr

vc

dk

smp

p *f*

mp *f* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *f*

f *ff*

mf *f*

ff

0 *+*

2. Jazz in the Park

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Guitar
with chorus

Cello

Drum Kit

Synth
electric piano

Sampler

$\text{♩} = 56$

sempre mp

p

pizzicato throughout

13

cl

gtr

syn

smp

13

cl

gtr

syn

smp

25

cl

gtr

vc

syn

smp

25

cl

gtr

vc

syn

smp

This musical score is for measures 37 through 42 of the song "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel. The score is written for a full band and includes the following parts:

- cl (Clarinet):** Plays a melodic line in measures 37-42, starting with a whole note in measure 37 and then moving to eighth notes.
- gtr (Guitar):** Provides a rhythmic accompaniment with chords and triplets, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- vc (Vocals):** Features the vocal melody, which includes the lyrics "The sound of silence" in measures 37-42. The melody is marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- dk (Drums):** Plays a steady beat with brushes in measures 37-42, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- syn (Synthesizer):** Provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and triplets, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.
- smp (Saxophone):** Plays a melodic line in measures 37-42, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

The score is written in 3/4 time and includes various musical notations such as triplets, dynamics, and articulation marks.

46

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

Sultry

mf

mp

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

²Dampen cymbals.

53

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

$\text{♩} = 80$

60

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

$\text{♩} = 102$

rit.

$\text{♩} = 40$

mp

p

3. Canteen Funk

Clarinet in B $\flat$

$\text{♩} = 54$
sempre f

Guitar
with bit-crusher

sempre f

Cello

pizzicato throughout
sempre f

Drum Kit

sempre f
Bell

Synth
analog lead

sempre f

Sampler

cl

5

gtr

8

vc

dk

syn

smp

15

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

22

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

Bell

27

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

Bell

8va₁

31

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

Bell

Bell

Bell

Bell

18
48

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

Bell



52

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

60

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

66

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

67

78

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

4. Muzak in the Shopping Mall

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Guitar
with chorus and reverb

Cello

Drum Kit

Synth
dreamy synth

Sampler

$\text{♩} = 60$

mp

8va

The musical score for '4. Muzak in the Shopping Mall' is presented for six instruments: Clarinet in B $\flat$, Guitar (with chorus and reverb), Cello, Drum Kit, Synth (dreamy synth), and Sampler. The tempo is marked as $\text{♩} = 60$. The score is divided into measures with changing time signatures: 3/4, 4/4, 3/4, 2/4, and 4/4. The Clarinet in B $\flat$ part begins with a rest in the first measure, followed by a series of notes in the fifth measure, marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic. The Guitar, Cello, and Drum Kit parts consist of rests throughout the score. The Synth part features a melodic line in the first measure, marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, and continues with a series of notes in the fifth measure, marked with an *8va* (octave up) instruction. The Sampler part features a single note in the second measure, marked with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic, and continues with a series of notes in the fifth measure, marked with an *8va* (octave up) instruction.



cl

syn

smp

8va

8va

This block shows measures 7 through 11 of the musical score. The Clarinet (cl) part begins in measure 7 with a series of notes, followed by rests in measures 8, 9, and 10, and a final note in measure 11. The Synth (syn) part features a melodic line in measure 7, followed by a series of notes in measures 8, 9, and 10, and a final note in measure 11, marked with an *8va* (octave up) instruction. The Sampler (smp) part features a single note in measure 7, followed by a series of notes in measures 8, 9, and 10, and a final note in measure 11, marked with an *8va* (octave up) instruction.

12

cl

gtr

syn

smp

mp

mp

8va

18

cl

gtr

vc

syn

mp

mp

8va

22

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

mp

mp

mp

mp

8va

8va

b

28

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

mp

mp

mp

mp

+

b

[illegible][illegible]

45
syn



54

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

8va

8va

58

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

8va

8va

61

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

8va

64

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

8va

8va

8va

8va

8va

66

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

8va

8va

68

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

8va

8va

71

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

8va

8va

73

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

8va

8va

75

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

8va

8va

77

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

8va

8va

79

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

80

81

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

82

83

84

83

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

8va

change to harp

85

syn

mp

8va

smp

mp

91

syn

8va

smp

100

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

8va

104

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

105

106

107

108

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

109

110

111

111

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

114

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

118

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

D2 minim E2 minim F2 minim G2 minim

122

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

Ab2 minim Bb1 minim

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

D2 minim

E2 minim

F2 minim

G2 minim

A2 minim

Bb1 minim

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

A2 minim

Bb1 minim

A2 minim

Bb1 minim

Bb2 held as drone until end of m143

132

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

This musical system covers measures 132 to 137. The clarinet (cl) part features a complex melodic line with several eighth-note runs, some of which are highlighted with red boxes. The guitar (gtr) part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The violin (vc) and double bass (dk) parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The synth (syn) part provides harmonic support with chords. The sample (smp) part has a low, sustained note.

136

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

Quavers in clarinet

Quavers in clarinet

This musical system covers measures 136 to 138. The clarinet (cl) part features a continuous eighth-note run, which is highlighted with red boxes and labeled "Quavers in clarinet". The guitar (gtr) part has a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The violin (vc) and double bass (dk) parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The synth (syn) part provides harmonic support with chords. The sample (smp) part has a low, sustained note.

38

Quavers in clarinet

Quavers in clarinet

as written

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp

cl

gtr

vc

dk

syn

smp