

*Written for Kokoro (Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra)*

# Gembird

## Seven! for Six

### **Preface**

*Gembird: Seven! for Six* sets out on a musical exploration of pattern and the organisation of time by using properties of the number 7! (that is,  $7 \times 6 \times 5 \times 4 \times 3 \times 2 \times 1$ ). It has a seven-note mode, a seven-note motif, a structure designed around the exponential form of factorials from 2! to 7!.

The motif is played by the six instruments in turn but the notes of the motif are never in the same order. They have been selected at random from the 5040 possibilities. The instruments always take turns with the motif in a different order as well – selected at random from the 720 possibilities. Where in the instrument's range (high, middle, low) each iteration is played has also been selected using a random number technique.

Around this core, different timbres and textures interlace the same seven notes into layers of foreground and background, with only a glimmer of the five-note complement allowed towards the end. The result is a colourful work, constant patterns always changing – the same but never the same.

Anna R. Matthews, November 2012

### **Instrumentation**

Flute  
Clarinet in B flat  
Percussion (1 player)  
    Xylophone (sounding one octave higher than written)  
    Tambourine  
Piano  
Violin  
Cello

### **Notation and performance instructions**

Tambourine	The tambourine should be struck rather than shaken.
Flute	+ indicates key clicks whilst playing normally
Violin and Cello	All harmonics are natural harmonics. The string is not specified.

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Vivace assai ♩=290

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes Flute, Clarinet in Bb, Percussion, Piano (Grand Staff), Violin, and Violoncello. The second system includes Cl. (Clarinet), Xylophone, Pno. (Piano Grand Staff), Vln. (Violin), and Vc. (Violoncello). The score is in 7/8 time with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The tempo is marked 'Vivace assai' with a quarter note equal to 290 beats per minute. The dynamic marking *mf* (mezzo-forte) is used for the melodic lines in the Flute, Piano, Violin, Cl., Xylophone, and Vc. parts. The Flute and Piano parts have a melodic line starting in the second measure of the system. The Violin and Vc. parts have a melodic line starting in the first measure of the system. The Cl. and Xylophone parts have a melodic line starting in the third measure of the system. The Percussion part has a rhythmic pattern starting in the first measure of the system. The Pno. part has a rhythmic pattern starting in the first measure of the system. The Vln. part has a rhythmic pattern starting in the first measure of the system.

Musical score for measures 7-10, featuring Cl., Perc., Pno., Vln., and Vc. with dynamic markings like mp, f, mf, ppp, and pp.

7

Cl. *mp*

Perc. *f*

Pno. *mf*

Vln.

Vc. *mp*

10

Fl. *mf* *ppp*

Cl.

Perc. *mp*

Pno.

Vln. *mp*

Vc. *pp*

55 bend pitch

Fl. *ppp*

Cl. *ppp*

Perc.

Pno. *pp*

Vln. *f* arco

Vc. *f* arco *pp*

57

Fl. *f*

Cl. *pp*

Perc. *f*

Pno.

Vln. pizz. *f*

Vc. *p*

59

Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

Tamb.

*f*

*mp*

*pp*

*ppp*

arco

arco

61

Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*f*

*mf*

*mp* < *f*

*mp* < *f*

Xyl.

*f*

*mp*

*pp*

*mp* < *f*

*mp* < *f*

*mp* < *f*

*mp* < *f*

64

Fl.

Cl.

Perc.

Pno.

Vln.

Vc.

*mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* *ff* *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f*

*mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f*

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

*mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* *f*

*mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 64, 65, and 66. The score is for a full orchestra, including Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The Flute part features a melodic line with dynamics *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* in measures 64 and 65, followed by a *ff* dynamic in measure 66. The Clarinet part has a similar melodic line with *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* dynamics. The Percussion part is mostly silent, with a few rests. The Piano part has a complex texture with a *f* dynamic in the bass line and *mp* dynamics in the treble line. The Violin part has a melodic line with *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* dynamics. The Viola part has a melodic line with *mp*  $\leftarrow$  *f* dynamics. A large watermark 'Sample' is visible across the page.

106

Fl. *f sub.* *ff*

Cl. *mp < f* *mp <*

Perc. *ff*

Pno. *pp* *mp < f* *mp <*

Vln. niente *f*

Vc. pizz. arco arco *ff sub.* *mp < f* *mp <*

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for a chamber ensemble. It features six staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The music is in a key with two flats and a 3/4 time signature. The Flute part has a melodic line with dynamics *f sub.* and *ff*. The Clarinet part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *mp < f* and *mp <*. The Percussion part has a simple rhythmic pattern with a dynamic of *ff*. The Piano part has a complex texture with dynamics *pp*, *mp < f*, and *mp <*. The Violin part has a melodic line with dynamics *niente* and *f*. The Viola part has a rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics *ff sub.*, *mp < f*, and *mp <*. There are various musical notations including slurs, accents, and dynamic markings throughout the score.

140

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Cl. *mp* *mf*

Perc. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *mp* *mf*

Vln. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *mp* *mf*

143

This musical score page features six staves: Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cl.), Percussion (Perc.), Piano (Pno.), Violin (Vln.), and Viola (Vc.). The music is in a key with two flats and a 6/8 time signature. The score is divided into three measures. The first measure shows a melodic line for each instrument, with dynamic markings of *fff* and accents. The second measure is a rest for all instruments, with a *p* dynamic marking. The third measure shows a dynamic shift from *p* to *f* for all instruments. A large, semi-transparent watermark is visible across the page.