

Introduction

Origin – First performances – Recordings

MOMENTE (MOMENTS)

for solo soprano,
4 choir groups and 13 instrumentalists

(Duration circa 113 minutes)

During the first week of January 1962 in Siculiana, Sicily, I made the fundamental sketches of **MOMENTE** for solo soprano, 4 choir groups, 4 trumpets, 4 trombones, 2 electric organs and percussion (3 players).

30 Moments and **71 Inserts** may be joined into various **versions**.

By April 1962, I had composed a first group of Moments, commissioned by the *West German Radio*, which lasted circa 25 minutes. Its world première was conducted by me on May 21st 1962 at the *Cologne radio station*, with Martina Arroyo as solo soprano, the choir and instrumentalists of the *West German Radio*, Aloys and Alfons Kontarsky (Hammond and Lowrey organs).

After that, I worked out another group of Moments which had been planned in 1962, and conducted the *Donaueschingen Version* (duration circa 61 minutes) – likewise with Martina Arroyo and the *WDR* ensemble – on October 16th 1965 during the *Donaueschingen Music Days*.

In 1963 I rehearsed a *Palermo Version*, but it failed because of the choir, and I conducted a *Buffalo Version* in 1964 with Martina Arroyo (soprano) and a student ensemble of the University of Potsdam near Buffalo, New York. The student choir sang from memory.

By 1969, the composition of all the Moments had been completed. For the world première of **all** Moments, I made a new version with a duration of 113 minutes. It was performed under my direction on December 8th 1972 in Bonn at the *Beethoven Hall* with Gloria Davy (soprano), the choir of the *West German Radio*, the instrumental ensemble *Musique Vivante* (Paris), Roger Smalley (large Hammond organ), and Harald Bojé (Lowrey organ).

This was followed by a European tour, which is why this version is designated as the *Europe Version*. We then made a recording for *Deutsche Grammophon*, which is now released by the *Stockhausen-Verlag* as double CD (7 A–B) in the *Stockhausen Complete Edition*.

In 1998, Rupert Huber conducted a slightly altered version at the *Philharmonic Hall* in Cologne and on a tour which followed, with Angela Tunstall (solo soprano), the choir of the *West German Radio*, the instrumental ensemble *musikFabrik*, and two synthesizer players Massimiliano Viel and Antonio Pérez Abellán, with me as sound projectionist. This recording, in which I did not participate, however, has also been released in the *Stockhausen Complete Edition* on CD (80 A–B).

Texts

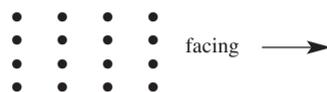
In each performance, four languages occur: the German texts should be sung in the vernacular of the performing ensemble, and some parts – specified in the score – are sung in a first, second and third foreign language.

1. *The Song of Solomon*.
(The German is taken from the Luther translation of the Old Testament, the English is a translation of the German texts.)
2. Excerpts of a letter from Mary Bauermeister.
3. Several exclamations from the Trobriand Islands in British New Guinea (from *The Sexual Life of Savages in Northwestern Melanesia* by Bronislaw Malinowski. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1929).
4. A quote from William Blake: “*He who kisses the joy as it flies lives in Eternity’s sunrise.*”
found in the “Prelude” of the book, *Man’s Emerging Mind* by N.J. Berill, New York: Fawcett World Library, 1955.
5. Names from fairy tales, self-formed names, calls.
6. Audience reactions (shouts, phrases).
7. Self-formed onomatopoeic words and purely phonetic nonsense syllables.

All texts without source indication are by the composer.

Scoring

4 mixed choir groups (4 x 16 voices; in smaller halls perhaps 4 x 12 voices*):

CHOIR I 4 sopranos The choir is seated in 4 rows of 4 singers
4 altos each, one behind the other at the **left**:
4 tenors 4 B 4 T 4 A 4 S
4 basses. 

These 16 singers also play **SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUMENTS** (notated by X):

4 of them each have a **tambourine without jingles**;
the others each have a **cut-off cardboard tube** (diameter ± 12 cm) with glued-on cardboard lid. The lengths of the tubes should be varied so that a scale of pitches results.
The cardboard tubes are struck using rubber-headed beaters.

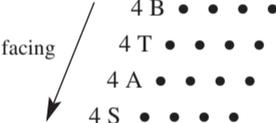
There should be trays attached to the music stands for laying down the supplementary instruments.

CHOIR II 4 sopranos The choir is seated in 4 rows of 4 singers
4 altos each, one behind the other at the **half-left**:
4 tenors 4 B •••••
4 basses. 4 T •••••
 4 A •••••
 4 S •••••


These 16 singers also play **SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUMENTS** (notated by X):

Each has a pair of **claves** (as varied as possible in pitch).

There should be trays attached to the music stands for laying down the supplementary instruments.

CHOIR III 4 sopranos The choir is seated in 4 rows of 4 singers
4 altos each, one behind the other at the **half-right**:
4 tenors 4 B •••••
4 basses. 4 T •••••
 4 A •••••
 4 S •••••


These 16 singers also play **SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUMENTS** (notated by X):

They each have **1 plastic box** (butter or soap box with lid) **filled with some buckshot**.
X = shake once briefly, X~~~~~ = continually shake or turn in the hand.

There should be trays attached to the music stands for laying down the supplementary instruments.

CHOIR IV 4 sopranos The choir is seated in 4 rows of 4 singers
4 altos each, one behind the other at the **right**:
4 tenors 4 S 4 A 4 T 4 B
4 basses. 

These 16 singers also play **SUPPLEMENTARY INSTRUMENTS** (notated by X):

Each has a pair of short **metal tubes** (for example steel car spanners, very hard material) which produce an extremely high, reverberant sound; if possible all 16 should have different pitches (choose different sizes); the shortest ones should correspond to the length of *claves*.

There should be trays attached to the music stands for laying down the supplementary instruments.

* Therefore, the **correct number** of singers necessary is 64 (4 x 16). If that is impossible, 48 (4 x 12) must be used. Numerous places which are arranged for 3 singers per group must be assigned differently by the conductor if 4 singers per group are available.

See photographs of the supplementary instruments on page VI.

Choir soloists

3 **men choir soloists**, one **choir soprano** and one **choir alto** also sing solo passages: 1 **tenor** in choir II, 1 **baritone** in choir II, 1 **bass** in choir III or IV, one **soprano** in choir II, 1 **alto** in choir IV. In addition, there are some very short solo parts which the conductor assigns.

Each of the 3 men soloists, the choir soprano and the choir alto have a highly directional microphone which can be inaudibly switched on and off. It is also possible to use transmitters.

The 5 microphones (or transmitters) are circuited to amplifiers, the volume of which can be regulated either by the conductor (using 5 faders attached to the conductor's music stand) or by a sound projectionist in the middle of the hall.

Stimmhaftes Flüstern (voiced whispering) should be clearly audible, even when all the others are singing *f*.

The loudspeakers stand at the far left, middle and far right (see seating plan on page VIII).

In the Moments in which the 3 men soloists do not have special parts to sing, they should sing with the choir, as notated in their parts.

Commentary about the choir

The **part** of the **solo choir soprano** is written in the parts of all four choirs, with "evtl. 1 Chorsopran / perhaps 1 choir soprano" (preferably by a soprano in choir II).

In some places the indication "für evtl. 4. Sänger (perhaps for the 4th singer)" is written in every choir part. This does not apply when there are only 4 x 3 voices per choir. In a few places the distribution of the three singers must then be changed.

When there are only 3 singers per voice and the notation is two-part (occasionally as "divisi"), only 1 singer of the 3 should sing the upper part and 2 singers should sing the lower one.

The choir soloists sometimes have *tacet* sections, in which they could sing normally with the choir. This has been done deliberately, however, either to avoid potential microphone problems, or because they should remain "in their role", for example in the I (k) Moment.

After the choir soloists have been chosen (for example the 2 men soloists in choir II), one singer may be lacking in the respective bass group. The conductor then decides on the distribution.

Instruments

4 trumpets in C

Each trumpeter has 3 mutes:

- 1) (S) straight mute, 2) (C) cup mute,
- 3) (W) wawa mute:
 - = almost closed with the hand, ○ = hole of the mute open,
 - = gradually close, ●—○ = gradually open.
 - ∅ = remove mute. (○) = open (without mute).

4 trombones (2 tenor trombones in groups I and III, 2 bass trombones in groups II and IV).

Each trombonist has 3 mutes:

- 1) (S) straight mute, 2) (C) cup mute, 3) (W) wawa mute:

For places where manipulating the mute is too difficult (closing and opening the hole of the mute with the hand), each trombonist should have a stand on which a metal or cardboard "hat" is mounted. Then he holds the bell of his instrument in or in front of this hat:

- = almost closed with the hand (or in the hat),
- = hole of the mute open (or next to the hat),
- = gradually close, ●—○ = gradually open.
- ∅ = remove mute. (○) = open (without mute).

Trombonists 1 and 3 sometimes use a plunger instead of a mute.

For the bass trombones, large-sized mutes and large hats must be acquired (do not use French horn mutes). By no means should the mutes be omitted or replaced by the wrong kind.

Mute indications in the Inserts may be changed, if necessary.

2 electric organs

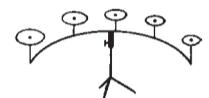
From 1962–1972, 2 electric organs were used: 1 large *Hammond* organ (with a range of 5 octaves), 1 smaller *Hammond* organ or 1 *Lowrey* organ. Both had sliding bars (draw bars) for gradually changing the registers, pedal swells, vibrato which could be gradually changed, and quite a large resonance box with loudspeaker (*Leslie*).

In 1998, synthesizers with similar timbres were used instead of the organs (the recording of MOMENTE on CD 80 of the *Stockhausen Complete Edition* should be studied in this regard). However, it is not recommended to replace the organs by synthesizers any more.

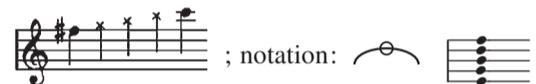
For each organ, an amplifier and a loudspeaker is needed in addition to the monitor loudspeaker, depending on the size of the hall. The volume of the additional loudspeakers should be regulated either by the players or by the sound projectionist in the middle of the hall.

At some places the organists also play percussion instruments:

Keyboard player I 5 **cinelli** (like percussionist I): small thick cymbals (diameter ca. 27–15 cm) on a special stand consisting of an iron arc onto which 5 metal pins with rubber holders have been welded. View from the front:



The stands should be adjustable in height and high enough so that it is possible to strike the cinelli from above. The 5 pitches should be approximately equidistant from each other:

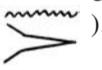


Keyboard player II 1 **sizzle cymbal on stand**: a large cymbal (ca. 70 cm in diameter), the entire surface of which has been drilled full of holes. In these holes there are metal rivets which rattle when the cymbal is struck. (The metal rivets hang loosely in the holes.) Normal stand.

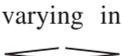
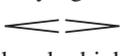
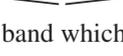
4 cymbals of various sizes **on stands** (for instance diameters of 72 cm - 63 cm - 56 cm - 51 cm).

Both keyboard players need  = 2 hard beaters,  = 2 soft beaters.

Explanation about the organs in the I (d) Moment

The average intensity slowly and continuously oscillates around the threshold of audibility (sometimes becoming inaudible). Now and then short *<pp>*. From time to time briefly switch on fast vibrato (if possible, gradually; if not possible, turn down volume completely before switching on vibrato or begin the vibrato with a slight accent, and then after a quick diminuendo, switch it off again: ).

A graphic scheme is drawn above the staves for the overtone registration. Tendency: gradual change from the brightest to full registration, then to the darkest, back to full and to the brightest registration. Interrupt this timbre band briefly, expand or supplement it (the scheme serves only as an example). If a 2nd Hammond organ (having sliding bars for gradually changing registration) is not available, then before switching between fixed registrations, the volume should be lowered completely, then the timbre switched and the volume gradually raised again.

Only the left hand takes the clusters and very gradually "crawls" key-by-key downwards and upwards again. During this, the right hand can toss in extremely soft short timbre interjections on the upper manual, approximately as often as indicated in the graphic scheme: "wiper" clusters greatly varying in width, more or less glissanded, sometimes  or  or  with the swells; pitch-wise within the register of the band which is being held each time by the left hand. Use reverberation.

The two players are independent of each other.

3 percussionists

Percussionist I (at the left)

There are several places where either percussionist I or keyboard player I plays 5 small cymbals (*cinelli*). In each case, the players decide between themselves who will play the passage.

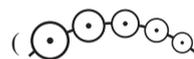
 = DERI glissando drum (see photo at the lower right).

 = oval snare drum with snares (very bright).

 = 5 small cymbals (*cinelli*), on a curved iron stand,

like keyboard player I

equidistantly pitched between 

( manufactured by PAISTE)

∅ ca. 27–15 cm, hard beaters.

 = 1 tambourine with jingles.

 = 1 tam-tam with a diameter of ca. 85 cm (for example manufactured by PAISTE).

2 metal tubes like choir IV.

Percussionist II (at the right)

There are several places where either percussionist II or keyboard player II plays 4 cymbals and one sizzle cymbal. In each case, the players decide between themselves who will play the passage.

 = vibraphone.

 = 3 tom-toms (middle, low, very low),
tuning for *l*(k): 

like keyboard player II

 = 4 cymbals on stands (ca. 72 - 63 - 56 - 51 cm in diameter).
1 sizzle cymbal: large bright cymbal which is full of holes in which rivets loosely hang. These rattle for a long time when the cymbal is struck (for example manufactured by PAISTE).

1 pair of claves like choir II.

 = 1 tambourine with jingles;

2 metal tubes like choir IV.

Percussionist III (middle), at the back of the stage

 = large tam-tam, diameter 160 cm (PAISTE): struck with special heavy beater and several other beaters (see photograph on page VII).

 = 1 tambourine with jingles.

2 metal tubes like choir IV.

 = 1 guero on a stand.

 = hard beater,  = soft beater.

Always mute percussion instruments when a rest is notated.

Kinds of strokes for the  glissando drum and  tom-toms, for example in *l*(d) and KM:

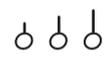
• = hit the head with stick.

 = tremolo on the head.

 = rub stick on the head.

 = rim-shot.

○ = hit the rim of the drum with stick.

 = stick on the rim with various distances between hand (holding stick) and rim.

× = press the tip of one stick onto the head and hit the stick with the other one.

 = increase distance between the hand and the place hit.

 = decrease the distance.

 = hit head and stick on stick simultaneously.

 = roll from the rim to the middle.
rim → middle

 = holding tip of 1 stick on the head (for example, with the left hand), make a rapid tremolo above and below that stick with 2 sticks held in the other hand (for example, right hand) – i.e. 3 sticks are used.

 etc. = write on the head with rough wood (broken-off end of stick or plastic rod) : see K(m) or K.



Percussionist I

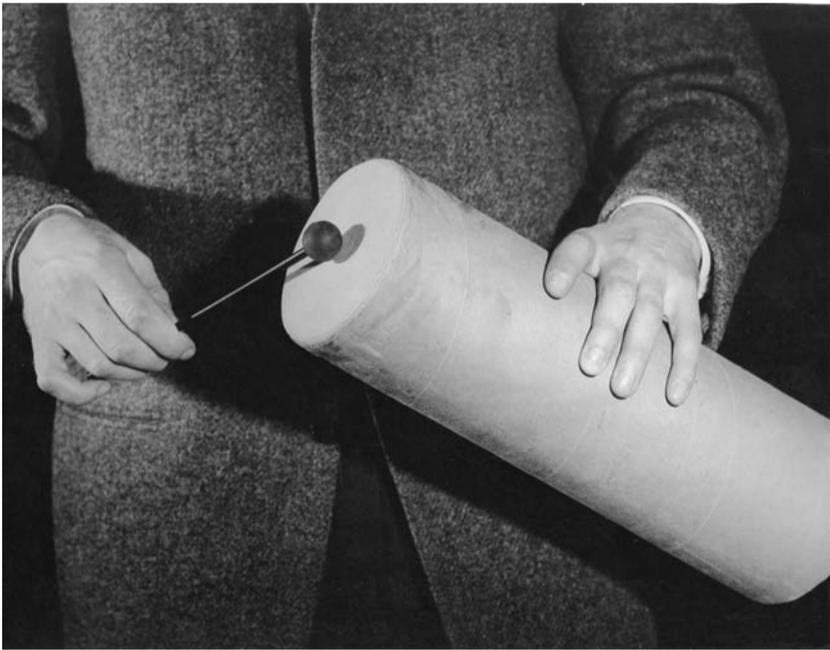
Deri kidney drum for MOMENTE with calfskin head (not plastic), on which all pitches within a range of $1\frac{1}{2}$ octaves can be produced.



Bass group of choir I (MOMENTE rehearsals at the WDR on May 20th 1962).



Soprano group of choir I (MOMENTE rehearsals at the WDR on May 20th 1962).



Choir I has 12 (or 8) tuned cardboard tubes with glued-on lids and 4 tambourines (played with a rubber-headed beater or sometimes with the hand).



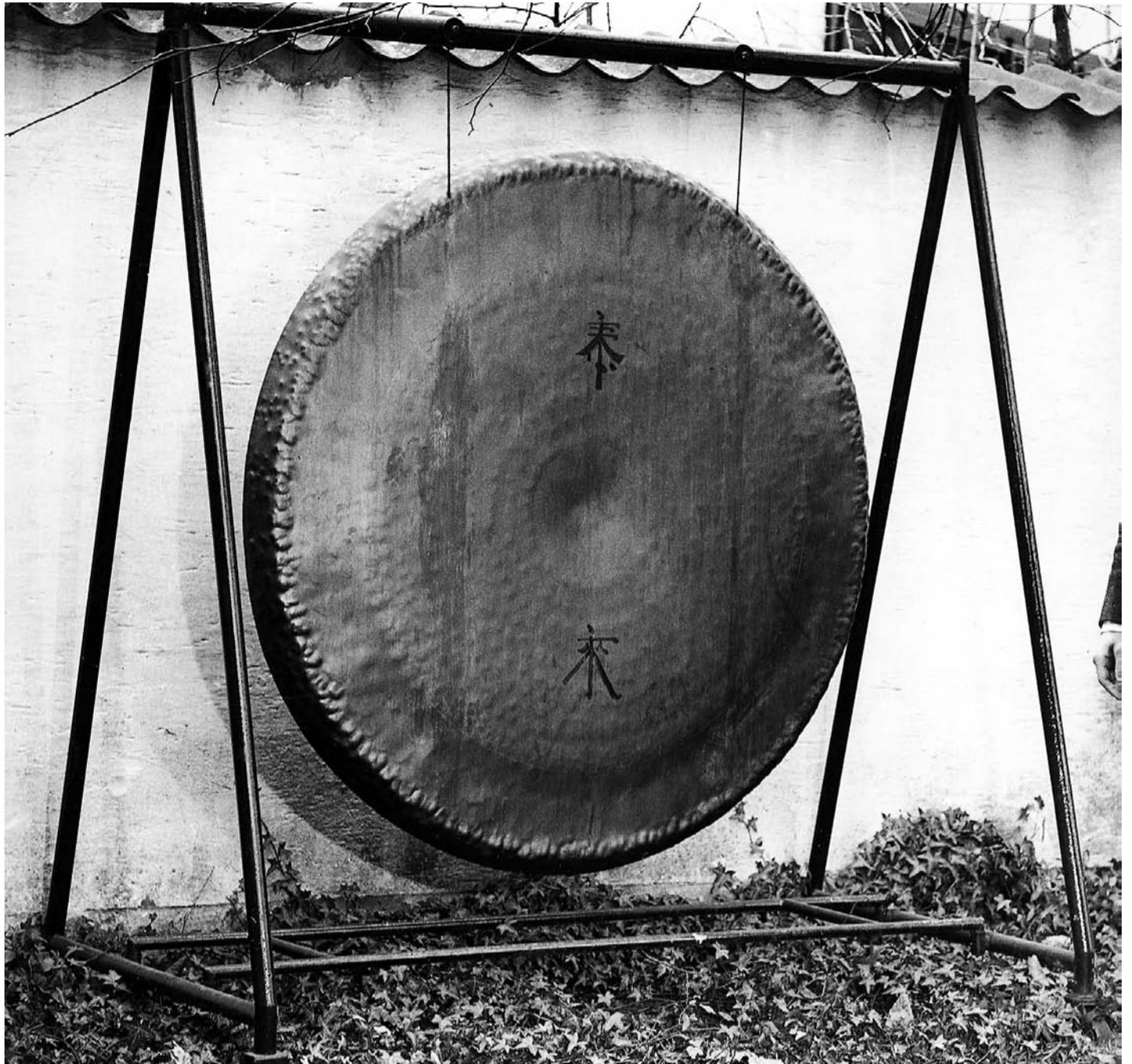
Choir III has 16 (or 12) "shot-boxes" (plastic containers, soap boxes etc., containing a small amount of buckshot); these are jolted, continuously shaken, or turned like maracas.



Choir II has 16 (or 12) pairs of variously-pitched claves (cylindrical pieces of hard wood) that are hit against each other or tremoloed.



Choir IV has 16 (or 12) pairs of variously-pitched metal tubes (car spanners) that are struck against each other or continuously tremoloed.



Percussionist III

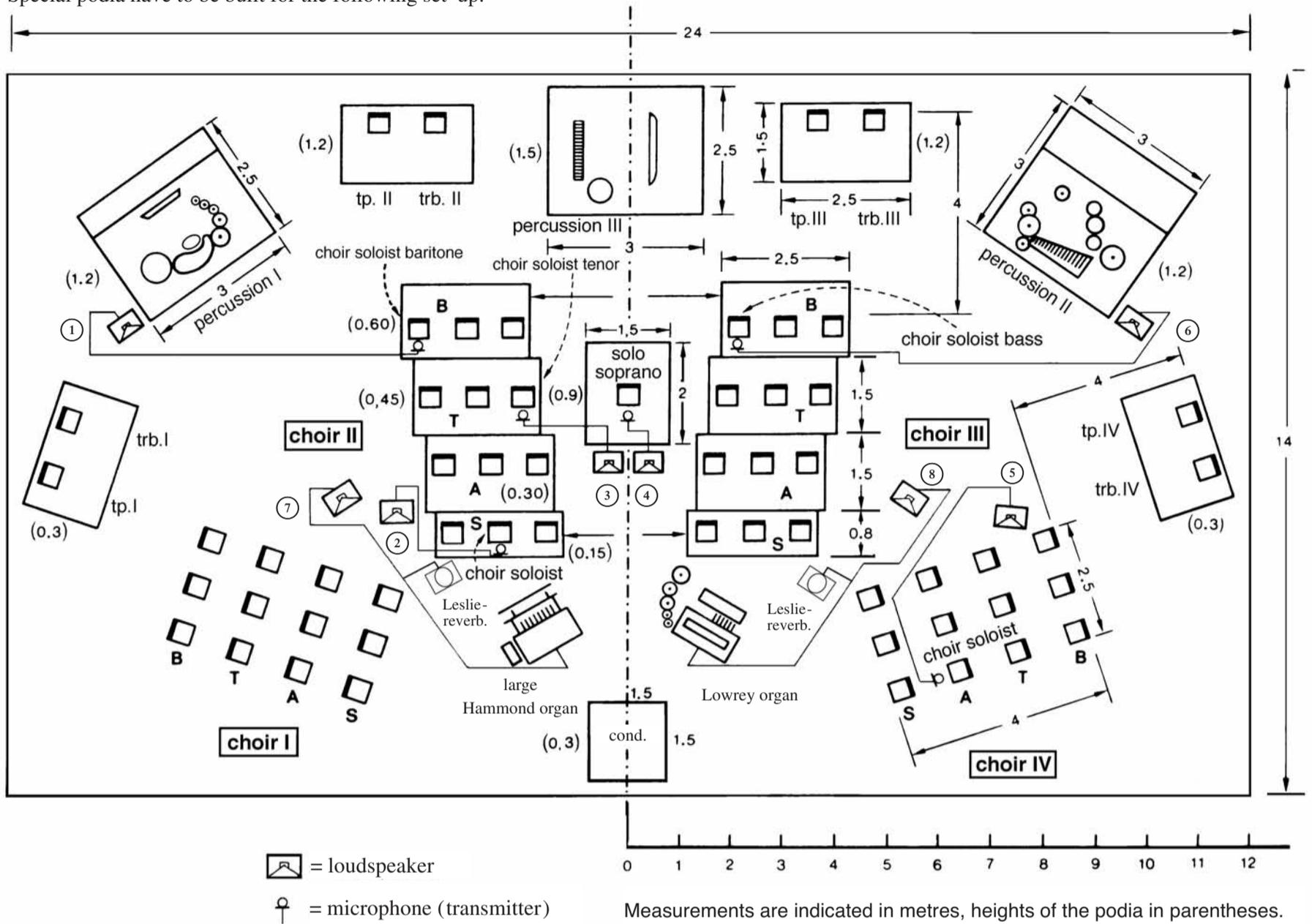
The large tam-tam for
MOMENTE (manufactured
by PAISTE).



MOMENTE rehearsal at the
WDR Cologne
in October 1965:
Aloys Kontarsky
(Hammond organ).

Seating plan for the solo soprano, 4 choir groups and instruments (This seating plan is drawn for 12 instead of 16 singers per choir.)

Special podia have to be built for the following set-up.



Dress rehearsal of MOMENTE at the large broadcast auditorium of the West German Radio in Cologne on May 21st 1962.
The soloist was Martina Arroyo.