

Introduction

ORCHESTRA FINALISTS

for orchestra, electronic music and
sound projectionist

is the second scene of **WEDNESDAY from LIGHT**.

It may be performed either staged or in a quasi concert version.

Staged, its duration is 46 minutes;
a quasi concert version lasts 2 x 46 minutes.

The composition **ORCHESTRA FINALISTS** presents **orchestra musicians** as **finalists**, in the way musicians publicly perform during music competitions. Whereas in the normal orchestral repertoire the musicians play together and only seldom have short solos, the present score for **ORCHESTRA FINALISTS** consists of soli with a few tutti chords and a tutti finale. In a quasi concert performance, the soli should be played in **two rounds** with 13 plus 12 (or 11) musicians, each time by **different** instrumentalists. This enables the listeners to compare and to become more familiar with the soli. The percussionist (and possibly the horn player) is the same in both rounds. All soli are to be played from memory.

These days, many orchestral musicians aspire to play soloistically without risking a career as soloist. I am therefore hoping that orchestra musicians will also be interested in playing the roles of the **ORCHESTRA FINALISTS**, through which they demonstrate their musicality and skill by a new style of interpretation: playing from memory, moving in an individual way and projecting their personal aura.

The score is dedicated to all *orchestra finalists*.

In the second scene of a **staged performance** of **WEDNESDAY from LIGHT**, 13 **ORCHESTRA FINALISTS** play only **one** round immediately following **WORLD PARLIAMENT** for a *cappella* choir.

Two synchronous 8-track tapes – and 2-track tapes for rehearsals only – of the *electronic music*, as well as various stereo mixes (instruments only, electronic music only, instruments plus electronic music) for rehearsals may be ordered from the *Stockhausen-Verlag* (see *Sound Equipment*).

In *concerts*, the **11 soli** for oboe, violoncello, clarinet, bassoon, violin, tuba, flute, trombone, viola, trumpet, and double bass may also be performed individually or in groups together with tape. 11 separate, individually entitled scores have been published for this purpose (see page X).

World première

The score of **ORCHESTRA FINALISTS** was commissioned in 1993 by Jan van Vlijmen, director of the *Holland Festival*. The **world première** took place on June 14th 1996 at the **CARRÉ** theatre in Amsterdam during the *Holland Festival*.

The following musicians of the *Asko Ensemble* performed:

| | 1st round | 2nd round |
|-------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Oboe | Marieke Schut | Bram Kreeftmeijer |
| Cello | Taco Kooistra | Doris Hochscheid |
| Clarinet | Barbara Bouman | Hans Colbers |
| Bassoon | Jos Lammerse | Margreet Bongers |
| Violin | Jan Erik van Regteren Altena | Erik Kromhout |
| Tuba | Hans Nickel | Hans Nickel* |
| Flute | Eline van Esch | Kathinka Pasveer |
| Trombone | Toon van Ulsen | Harrie de Lange |
| Viola | Bernadette Verhagen | Liesbeth Steffens |
| Trumpet | Hendrik-Jan Lindhout | Cyrille van Poucke |
| Double Bass | Roos Heggen | Piet Smithuysen |
| Horn | Wim Timmermans | Wim Timmermans |
| Percussion | Peppie Wiersma | Peppie Wiersma |

* A second tuba player, Anne Jelle Visser, had rehearsed with Stockhausen and recorded the solo, but fell ill just before the dress rehearsal.

Musical direction and sound projection: K. Stockhausen.

Performance practice

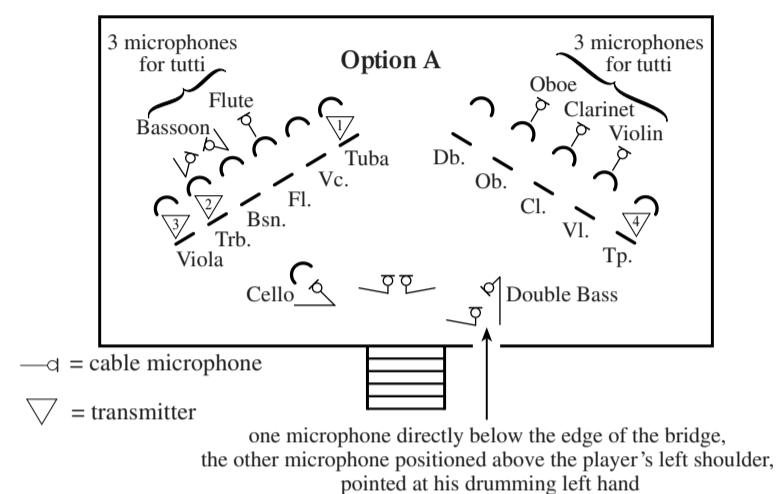
At the rear of the stage are 11 chairs and music stands, and at the front, one chair for the cello.

For the amplification, **Option A** or **Option B** may be used.

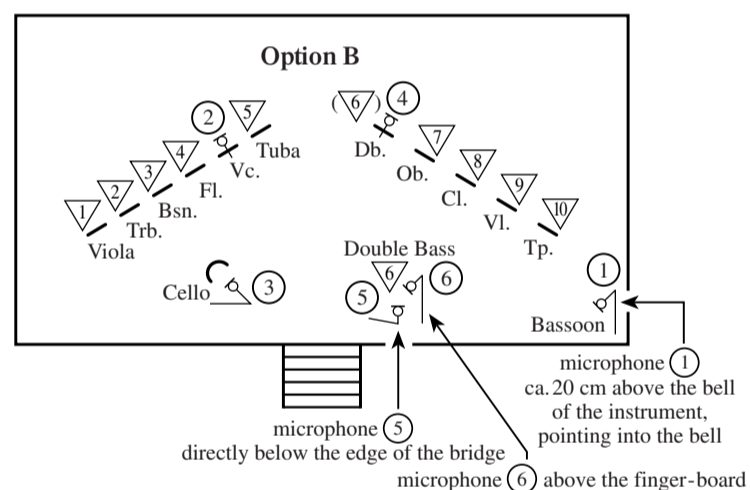
There must be a passage of circa 2 m between the chairs and the back wall of the stage. In **Option A**, 5 microphones for the soli stand at the front of the stage, and in addition, 3 each at the rear left and right for the final tutti. Tuba, trombone, viola and trumpet have transmitters.

A staircase with 6 steps leading to the hall is located at the center of the stage apron.

The sound projectionist is seated at a mixing console in the middle of the hall.



Alternatively, with **Option B**, instead of 11 microphones, **10 transmitters** plus 6 cable microphones may be used:



At the beginning, 11 musicians with their instruments enter from the left – in the order of the instrument signals on the tape – and sit down on the chairs. Their bearing is concentrated all the time as they listen attentively, and they retain this formal attitude throughout the entire performance.

At circa 1'26" the **oboist** walks to the two microphones at the front (**Option A**) and at 1'44" begins the solo (duration ca. 3'05"). At the places indicated, he (she) gives the entries for 5 chords which all the musicians play. In the 10 seconds which follow the solo, the oboist returns to his (her) chair. The cellist then comes to the microphone which is specially prepared for the cello. At 5'16" he (she) sits down and at 5'26" begins to play.

Similarly, the other musicians play their soli in succession. The timing of each **entry** is indicated at the top of each solo part. The musicians each conduct 5 chords at the places indicated, giving the upbeats with their instruments.

The order of the soli is: oboe - violoncello - clarinet - bassoon - violin - tuba - flute - trombone - viola - trumpet - double bass.

During the double bass solo, a percussionist strikes a *Chinese opera gong* once.

As the solos follow one another, the sound-space of the octophonic electronic music changes, dynamically adjusted by the sound projectionist to the playing of each instrumentalist.

The manner of performing with gestures and movements is prescribed for each instrument.

During the performance, a horn player plays **outside** in the corridors. He (she) can be heard occasionally in the distance, and enters only before the final tutti, walking through the auditorium to the stage (compare CD (52)).

10 seconds after the end of the double bass solo (at circa 41'24") the horn player enters at the rear of the auditorium, playing his part from the beginning (regardless of the point he has reached in his part). Alternatively, he may enter from a side door in front of the stage. In 26 seconds he arrives on stage, where he stands in front of the central microphones and plays into the auditorium. He sometimes turns to the left and right towards the other musicians, and three times turns his back to the audience.

He repeats his solo a second and third time, replacing the 1 minute silence by a pause of $\frac{6}{4} = 9$ seconds, and so finishes playing at about 45'14" together with the double bass. He then walks out at the right.

Circa 26 seconds after the double bass has finished playing, all stand up and walk to the microphones – if the rear microphones are used (**Option A**) – concentrating on the loudspeakers. Circa 36 seconds after the double bass has finished playing, the oboist begins to play his (her) solo again. One after another, all enter at intervals of 4 seconds in the order of the soli as previously played, each playing his solo once again, this time superimposed polyphonically.

Cello, bassoon and double bass play at their microphones. The musicians who do not have transmitters play in front of the microphones at the rear left and right (see illustration **Option A**). The four with transmitters, or – if 10 transmitters are used (**Option B**) – all the others who have transmitters may move freely. The trumpeter does not go down the steps again into the hall, but rather moves back and forth on the stage from the middle to the right.

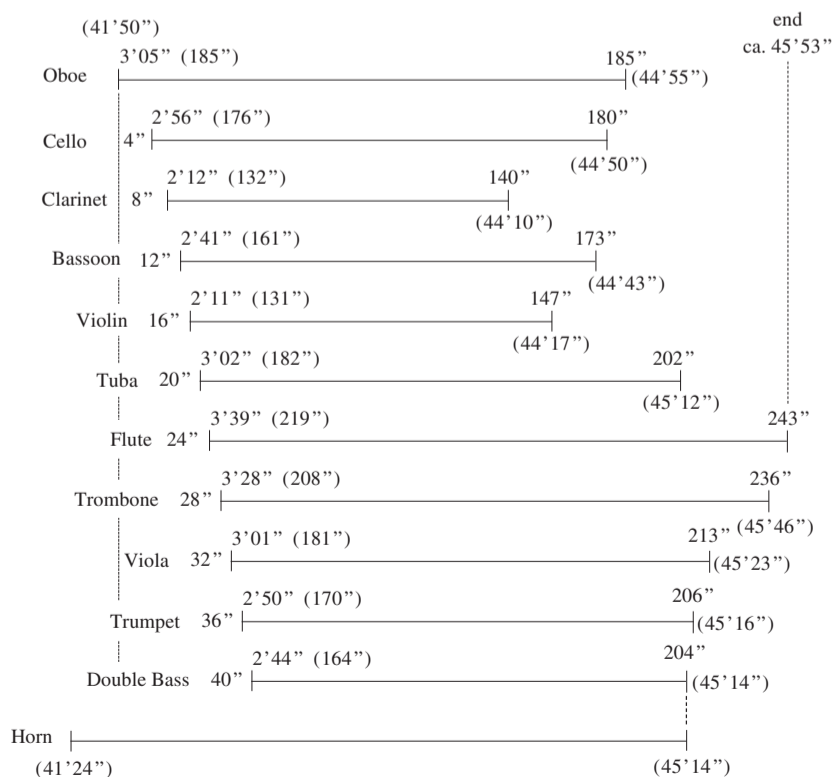
The orchestra chords are not played in the tutti.

After finishing his part, each musician exits at the right (see form scheme of the tutti). The tutti ends at circa 45'53".

In a **quasi concert** performance, the **second round** begins after the intermission with **11 other** musicians on the stage and a horn player outside in the corridors. The percussionist for the gong beat may be the same, since he is disguised.

In a **staged** performance, the musicians – with the exception of the percussionist who has a special role – should be dressed as **musicians from 12 different alien cultures**. In a **quasi concert** performance they wear, for example, pastel shirts and trousers or blouses and long skirts in various spring colours.

The entries and durations may be seen in the following form scheme for the **final tutti**:



Close transmitters at the end of the soli.

Staging ORCHESTRA FINALISTS

The **element of WEDNESDAY from LIGHT** – and thus also of the second scene, **ORCHESTRA FINALISTS** – is **air**.

In the first scene, the **WORLD PARLIAMENT** is in session above the clouds on the top floor of a skyscraper or in a floating glass dome, accessible from glass elevators in which the parliamentarians arrive from below. The blue sky surrounds it, and sometimes helicopters and doves fly by.

In **ORCHESTRA FINALISTS** the orchestra **floats** high up in the air, far away: the individual soloists fly closer, each of them in and above his (her) own **space**.

A telescopic \bigcirc observation of the stage reveals, through the telescope and corresponding to the music, the towering roof of a cathedral, aeroplanes flying over the sea, a harbour, etc. The **electronic music** delineates **11 spaces**. They follow each other in succession, are superimposed in three layers for various lengths of time, and are clearly differentiated through octophonic spatial projection:

- ① oboe above a cathedral;
- ② cello above an airport by the sea;
- ③ clarinet above a harbour (also with aeroplanes);
- ④ bassoon above a railway train with steam locomotive;
- ⑤ violin above a bird reserve (also individual birds);
- ⑥ tuba in flocks of birds and swarms of bees;
- ⑦ flute above a kindergarten with little goats;
- ⑧ trombone above a swimming pool with elephants;
- ⑨ viola with wild geese above a railway train;
- ⑩ trumpet above a market-place in Marrakech, zebras, lions, wild geese, horses;
- ⑪ double bass above a sailing-ship with tree frogs, rattletrap.

Objects inherent to these spaces protrude out of the floor. Above this, each soloist floats back and forth in a particular way (each also flies at a different altitude). At the end, all fly upwards in different directions, playing.

Sound equipment

5 + 6 cable microphones on the stage (**Option A**).

4 transmitters (**Option A**), preferably 10 transmitters, with special microphones (**Option B**).

1 mixing console at the middle of the hall (32 → 8, 4 VCA faders).

1 16-track digital tape recorder (for example two *Tascam* 8-track tape machines) with time code drive.

8 x 2 loudspeakers in a cube (I to VIII).

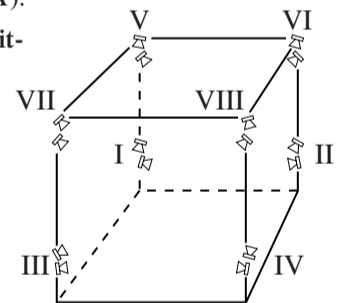
The *electronic music* is projected octophonically.

The **microphones for the transmitters** must be attached to each instrument in a special way. On the trombone, tuba, and trumpet the microphone is held next to the opening of the bell by a thick wire attached to the tuning slide (not to the bell). For the double bass, it is affixed high up on the player's left shoulder to amplify the voice and the drumming of the left hand on the body of the instrument. On the violin and viola it is affixed on the player's chest or, if a contact microphone, to the bridge. For the flute, oboe and bassoon it is attached at the upper left on the chest, and for the clarinet it is held above the keys by a special wire mount on the instrument.

When 10 transmitters are used, one transmitter microphone is not enough to sufficiently **amplify the bassoon**. To avoid having another microphone on a stand at the middle of the stage, I placed one on a high stand at the far right for the bassoon. Before his solo and also for the final tutti, the bassoonist went and played there.

For the **double bass player**, in addition to the transmitter microphone, two additional microphones are necessary: one (microphone ⑤) in front of the double bass on a low stand directly below the edge of the bridge, and one (microphone ⑥) on a stand at the left side of the player pointed at the finger-board in order to ensure sufficient amplification of the scraping noises at the beginning of each bar of his solo starting at bar ⑪.

8 x 2 loudspeakers in a cube:



At the present time, all mixing consoles allow **panorama settings** only between odd (left) and even (right) group outputs. Therefore, for this composition the loudspeaker groups are correspondingly numbered: I–II lower front, III–IV lower rear, V–VI upper front, VII–VIII upper rear.

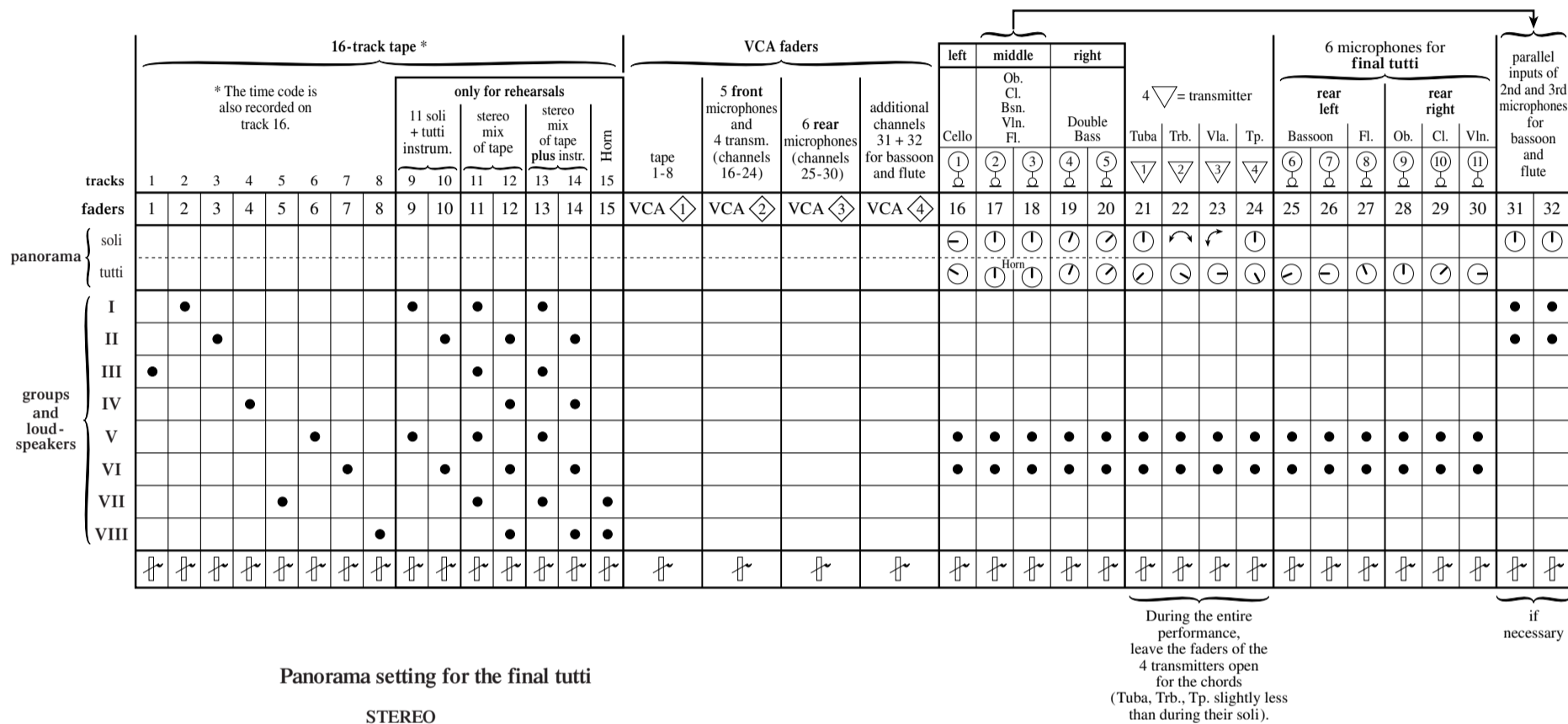
For rehearsals, a 16-track tape is used (or two synchronized 8-track tapes). On tracks 1–8 of the first tape are the 8 tracks of the *electronic music*. Tracks 9–16 are used only for *rehearsals*. Tracks 9–10: stereo mix of the instrumental soli with chords and final tutti; tracks 11–12: stereo mix of the *electronic music*; tracks 13–14: dynamically balanced stereo mix of the *electronic music* and instruments including horn; track 15: horn only

(dynamically the same as on tracks 13–14); track 16: extra time code (if necessary).

The **stereo pairs** may be played back during the *rehearsals* to help the soloists' orientation and for comparison. For *performances*, only one 8-track tape recorder is necessary for playing back the *electronic music* on tracks 1–8.

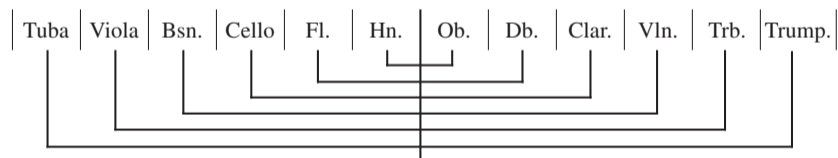
The individual musicians may **practise** using **stereo tapes** of the *electronic music* (full level, to be balanced with the instruments), of the instrumental soli, and of the *electronic music* plus instruments. These tapes may also be ordered from the *Stockhausen-Verlag*.

Mixing console configuration for 16- (15-) track tape, 11 microphones, 4 transmitters (Option A)

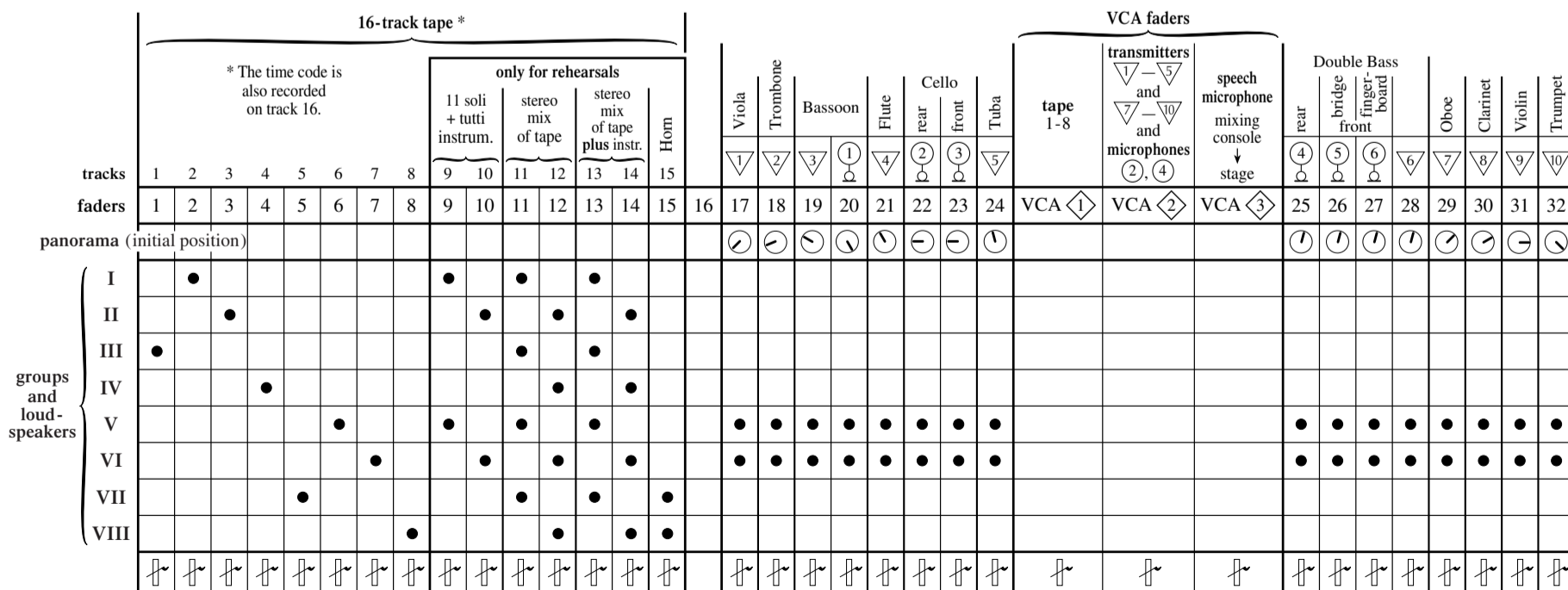


Panorama setting for the final tutti

STEREO



Alternative mixing console configuration for 16- (15-) track tape, 6 microphones, 10 transmitters (Option B)



The panorama settings must be changed during the individual solos, to correspond to the players' positions and movements.

Performance of the individual soli

As mentioned on page VII, in **concerts** the **11 soli** may be performed **individually** or in groups with tape .

Before a solo, the auditorium lights are slowly faded out and a special lighting for the soloist is slowly faded in. Parallel with the fading in of the lighting, the **sound projectionist** fades in the tape according to the following list, and during this, the soloist slowly enters and walks to the place where he begins to play his solo.

After the end of a solo, the soloist slowly leaves, and the sound projectionist fades out the tape, during which the light is also faded out slowly.

For the fade-ins and fade-outs the sound projectionist uses the complete score of ORCHESTRA FINALISTS. In the individual scores for the soloists, the timings of the complete score are indicated, corresponding to the time code on the 8-track tape.

For **rehearsals and possible stereo performances**, a compact disc of the electronic music may be ordered together with the score from the *Stockhausen-Verlag*. On this CD, the beginning points of the fade-ins for the soli are indicated by track numbers.

If two or three soli are performed in the same concert, and if these soli immediately follow each other in the complete score, the fade-ins and fade-outs between the soli are omitted. In consideration of the concert planning, lengthy periods of only electronic music between the soli should be avoided. Only **one** solo without instrumentalist may be played with tape alone.

If several soli which are temporally widely separated are performed in a programme, then the fades of sound and light must be made.

CD tracks

- 1 **Oboe** from the beginning of the tape to 5'16" (duration 5'16").
Fade-in and fade-out are on the tape.
- 2 **Violoncello** 5'16"–8'39" (duration 3'23").
Fade-in and fade-out are on the tape.
- 3 **Clarinet** 8'38"–11'37" (duration 2'59").
Fade in in 2 seconds, fade out before 11'37" (starting at circa 11'25").
- 4 **Bassoon** 11'03"–14'53" (duration 3'50").
Begin at full level at 11'03", slowly fade out starting at 14'36".
- 5 **Violin** 14'27"–17'47" (duration 3'20").
Fade in from 14'27" to 14'32", slowly fade out from 17'32" to 17'47".
- 6 **Tuba** 17'09"–21'30" (duration 4'21").
Begin at 17'09" at full level, fade out from 21'14" to 21'30".
- 7 **Flute** 20'47"–26'00" (duration 5'13").
Fade in from 20'47" to 20'52", fade out from 25'43" to circa 26'00".
- 8 **Trombone** 25'31"–29'43" (duration 4'12").
Fade in from 25'31" to 25'37", fade out just before 29'43".
- 9 **Viola** 29'00"–33'33" (duration 4'33").
Fade in from 29'00" to 29'10", fade out from 33'20" to 33'33".
- 10 **Trumpet** 32'30.5"–36'55" (duration 4'24.5").
Begin at 32'30.5" at full level, gently fade out at 36'55".
- 11 **Double bass** 35'57"–circa 44'18" (duration 8'21").
Begin at 35'57" at full level, slowly fade out starting at 43'00".

The **chords** are omitted in the scores of the individual soli.

As in a performance of the entire ORCHESTRA FINALISTS, all soli must always be played **from memory with the prescribed movements**.

CD (52) of the *Stockhausen Complete Edition* is recommended for study purposes.


Notation

The score does not include a detailed transcription of the tape.

A *form scheme* with indications for the three layers E(VE), M(ICHAE), L(UCIFER) is reproduced following the score.

Timing

Above each solo stands the **tape timing** of the characteristic event which serves as orientation for the soloist's entry (for example above the first solo, oboe: *click of ventilator being switched on 1'31", entry 1'44"*).

The indication *elektr. Fagott*  above the bassoon solo refers to a **sampled** bassoon tone on this pitch.

Each soloist tries out when he should stand up and walk to the front, or to the half-left (cello), right (bassoon), or half-right (double bass).

The **tape timings** of striking events are in bold print. These include sung or called syllables and words, as for example the soprano voice in the solo of the flute: [ɔrr] [kε] [sterr] etc.

Timings in brackets are the **solo timings** of the first recording for a compact disc (*Stockhausen-Verlag* CD (52)). This recording can also be played back during rehearsals with the 16-track tape (2 x 8 tracks of the *Tascam DA-88* tapes). The track distribution of this tape is: tracks 1–8 electronic music, tracks 9–10 instruments only, tracks 11–12 electronic music only, tracks 13–14 instruments plus electronic music (**with time code**).

At the end of each solo the approximate **duration of the solo** is indicated together with a timing indication for a striking **tape event**, for the soloist's orientation (for example following the oboe solo: "*pater noster*" – *click of switch at 4'47.5*" means that a priest sings "*pater noster*" immediately followed by the click of a ventilator being switched off).

Often, an additional timing indicates the duration until the characteristic event preceding the beginning of the **next** solo (for example following the oboe solo: *28.5" until the sea and sea-gulls*).

The **sketches** of ORCHESTRA FINALISTS with all details about the **tempo curves** of the soli and about the composition of the **electronic music** have been published by the *Stockhausen-Verlag* in a booklet entitled *Stockhausen Courses Kürten 1998, Composition Course* (German and English).

$\text{♩} = 53,5$ = metronome tempo [53.5]. Due to the approximate calibration of most metronomes, it is necessary to choose the nearest tempo (for example [54] instead of [53.5]). It is hoped that in the near future, metronomes will be available which have **12 chromatic tempi** (numbered 1 to 12) within the temporal octaves 15 - 30 - 60 - 120 - 240.

tempo scale of ORCHESTRA FINALISTS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------|-----|-------|-------|-----|-------|------|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|
| 23.75 | 25 | 26.75 | 28.25 | 30 | 31.75 | 33.5 | 35.5 | 37.5 | 40 | 42.5 | 45 | |
| 47.5 | 50 | 53.5 | 56.5 | 60 | 63.5 | 67 | 71 | 75 | 80 | 85 | 90 | |
| 95 | 101 | 107 | 113.5 | 120 | 127 | 134 | 142 | 150 | 160 | 170 | 180 | 208 |

rit. = slow down to half-tempo.

molto rit. = slow down to quarter-tempo.

vibr. = *vibrato*. Often, the *vibrato-tempi* are notated; either precisely, as for example in bar (20) of the oboe solo: *vibrato tempo 160 (17 à 160)*, or approximately, as for example in bar (3) of the clarinet solo: *fast - rit. - accel. / slow / fast*.

∨ = breathing pause **within** the measured duration.

∩ = caesura **added** to the measured time (often with indication in seconds, otherwise, of various lengths).

♩ = *staccato* is always short, regardless of the note value above which it stands.

— = although all note values without *staccato* should be held for their full value, a line above a note is a reminder of this.

$\frac{mf}{mp}$
 $\frac{f}{pp}$ = The dynamics for the oboe solo are indicated below the notes by a staff with 5 lines. Crescendi and decrescendi within this staff should be played precisely.

Flzg. = flutter-tongue.

Movements

In each solo there are indications for **movements**. These are to be performed by the soloist in a ritualistic way (for example in bar (12) of the oboe solo: *oboe very high | bow | high again | very deep bow | normal position*).

Some movements are very unusual (as in the trombone solo). They demand skilled interpreters and special training.

Chords

In a performance of the entire ORCHESTRA FINALISTS, 5 chords are played within each solo. The pitches for these are not assigned to particular instruments, so their instrumentation is free. However, at the end of this score, all these chords 1.1-1.2-1.3-1.4-1.5 to 11.1-11.2-11.3-11.4-11.5 are reproduced in an instrumentation chosen by me, which was used in the first performances (see pages 27–30).

Each soloist synchronises the 5 chords from where he (she) is playing, by turning to the other players and giving clear upbeats.

As said on the previous page, the chords are omitted in performances of individual solos.

Sound projection

Above the staves are indications in bold type for **balancing** the tape playback and solo. This is done by the sound projectionist from the middle of the auditorium.

Test material is on the tape at the following *absolute* timings:

- 1:50'00" **track announcement** for tracks 1–12 **simultaneously**,
- at 1:52'00" **reference tone** -8 dB on all tracks,
- at 1:53'30" **periodic noise** -12 dB,
- at 1:56'00" **rotating track announcement (1–12)**,
- at 1:59'30" **rotating periodic noise** (8-channel),
- at 2:03'00" **noise** 12-channel.

If there is no special reason to check the adaptation of the 16-track playback and the mixing console, then one starts the tape at 1:56'00" with the **rotating track announcement** (tracks 1 to 8 for the electronic music) and chooses a dynamic level for *forte*, all channels **heard** equally loud.

The gain at the input of the mixing console should be set so that the position of the **group fader (VCA) for tracks 1–8** is at **zero**. If this is not possible, then it is necessary to draw a scale next to the VCA fader.

The fader position for *forte* of the soli should be set so that when the tape is played back while the instrumentalist is playing, all details of the solo are clearly intelligible.

Thus, the **indications for the tape balancing** are as follows:

- -3 = *diminuendo* to minus 3 decibels,
 - -5 = *diminuendo* further to minus 5 dB,
 - ◀ -2 = *crescendo* to minus 2 dB,
 - ◀ +2 = *crescendo* to plus 2 dB (i.e. 2 dB above 0),
- etc.

Depending on the acoustics, and the playing intensity of the soloists, some of the tape balancing may be slightly different or may even be omitted.

In several soli, not only must the tape be balanced, but also the **solo**. This balancing is notated only in some places. In any case, no detail of a solo should ever be covered.

The indications for **balancing a solo** are:

- ⊕ = amplified **much more** than usual (for example + 12 dB),
- ⊕ = amplified **more** than usual (for example + 6 dB),
- ⊞ = **normal** amplification again,
- ⊖ = amplified **less** than usual.