

Josh Modney

CRYSTALLIZATION 1

2021

for soprano saxophone, violin, cello, and piano

for Ingrid Laubrock, Mariel Roberts, and Cory Smythe

First Performance:

April 6, 2021

Modney/Laubrock/Roberts/Smythe Quartet

"Tues@7", Presented by International Contemporary Ensemble, Brooklyn, NY

Performance Notes

The main score is accompanied by four short solo pieces, one per instrument (please see Appendix). These solo pieces may be excerpted and performed on their own, either as written or as source material for improvisation. The solo pieces may also be freely combined with one another. In performances by the Modney/Laubrock/Roberts/Smythe Quartet, the solo pieces are played individually and also form the basis of the compositions *Crystallization 1* and *Ritual/Crystallization 2*.

Crystallization 1 interweaves and deconstructs the solo pieces in an attempt to play with the listeners' perception of what is notated and what is improvised.

In Sections 01 and 02A, large circled letters indicate for the players to refer to the corresponding letter in their solo piece, and to improvise based on those materials.

Helmholtz-Ellis pitch notation is employed throughout the score to indicate just intonation relationships. Whole number ratios are also indicated above the first instance of each sonority.

$\sharp\flat$ = syntonic comma higher (1/8 tone) // $\flat$ = septimal comma lower (1/6 tone) // $\flat\sharp$ = undecimal comma lower/higher (1/4 tone)

Saxophone:

Multiphonic fingerings are given from *The Techniques of Saxophone Playing* by Marcus Weiss and Giorgio Netti

Notes on playing techniques are given in the score.

Strings:

"Rip" – a high frequency, aggressive sound produced by playing a rapid downward gliss with harmonic left hand pressure and strong bow pressure, close to the bridge.

"Scribbly Scrabbly Bow" – an improvised noise texture produced by moving the bow horizontally and laterally with heavy pressure in irregular fashion.

"Jem" (violin) – a low-pitched variegated growl produced by playing with heavy bow pressure while lightly touching harmonic nodes with the left hand. This technique is named for violinist Jem Altieri.

"Duck" (cello) - play with heavy pressure behind the bridge on the winding of the strings.

Piano:

The piano part is performed on a setup devised by Cory Smythe, and is notated on three staves. The bottom two staves represent the piano. Inside-piano techniques are explained in the score. The top staff represents the two auxiliary MIDI controller keyboards, indicated by "QT" (Quarter Tone) and "ROLI" (ROLI Seaboard Block). The auxiliary keyboards produce tone through a software patch which is routed to transducer speakers placed on the soundboard of the piano.

The QT keyboard produces Equal Tempered quarter tones. The sounding pitch is one quarter tone higher than the notated pitch.

The ROLI operates along a continuous pitch spectrum, and is notated at sounding pitch with Helmholtz-Ellis notation.

Crystallization 1

Josh Modney

Top line indicates duration of each bar in seconds. If no duration is indicated on top, refer to the time signatures (eighth = 72)
All indicated timings are approximate. Transitions between each bar should be as sharp and abrupt as possible.
Circled letters indicate improvisation based on the solo materials included in the appendix (please see score notes).

The musical score for "The Great Wall" by John Adams is presented for four instruments: SOP SAX, VIOLIN, CELLO, and PIANO. The score is divided into measures, with durations indicated by circled numbers (8", 3", 3", 16, 3", 16, 8", 3", 3", 16, 5", 16). The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings (e.g., *fff*, *ff*, *p*). Performance instructions are provided throughout, including "noise wall", "con sord - metal", "hyperspiccato", "I - Rip", "IV Rip", "ROLI", and "gliss.". The score is written for a full orchestral ensemble, with the PIANO part featuring a grand staff.

[01] - 2

[02A: S+P DUO]

♩ = 72

SAX: Improvise on solo material (see appendix) in the sequence shown by the circled letters, responding to piano
PIANO: Play written strings material soloistically, with freedom and improvisation

S

A

P

QT

gva

ff

mf

f

gva (loco)

low palm

Hit an indeterminate cluster of low strings with palm

S

B

P

33:11:9:2

"guiro"

with lightness

15ma

plectrum behind b

ff

low palm

**Guiro" - scrape credit card (CC) along strings in irregular, angular patterns [ossia: fingernails]

/02B: V SOLO/

VIOLIN: play as written

Violin Solo (V) and Cello (C) staves. The Violin staff (V) contains musical notation for measures 19-23, including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings (*ff*, *mf*, *f*). The Cello staff (C) is mostly empty, with a final measure (23) showing a double bar line and a *ff* dynamic marking. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4.

/02C: V+C DUO/

VIOLIN/CELLO: play as written until ending

Violin (V) and Cello (C) staves for measures 24-27. The Violin staff (V) contains musical notation for measures 24-27, including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings (*ff*, *mf*, *f*). The Cello staff (C) contains musical notation for measures 24-27, including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings (*ff*, *mf*, *f*). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The Piano (P) staff is empty with a double bar line and a *ff* dynamic marking.

PIANO: play second time only. Improvise over strings. Draw upon "Solo" material and also play free.

Violin (V) and Cello (C) staves for measures 28-31. The Violin staff (V) contains musical notation for measures 28-31, including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings (*f*, *ff*). The Cello staff (C) contains musical notation for measures 28-31, including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings (*f*, *ff*). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The Piano (P) staff is empty with a double bar line and a *ff* dynamic marking.

/o2D: QUARTET/

SAX: Begin improvisation over strings. Draw upon "Solo" material and also play free. High energy, building intensly to end of section.

The image displays a musical score for a string quartet, specifically focusing on the Violin (V), Viola (C), and Cello (P) parts. The score is written in 3/4 time and consists of two systems of music.

Violin (V) Part:

- First System:** Features a melodic line with triplets and sixteenth notes. It includes dynamic markings such as *f* (forte) and *ff* (fortissimo). Performance instructions include "scribbly scabbly bow" and "with lightness".
- Second System:** Continues the melodic development with similar rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

Viola (C) Part:

- First System:** Provides harmonic support with a bass line, including triplets and sixteenth notes. It includes dynamic markings like *f* and *ff*.
- Second System:** Continues the harmonic support with similar rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

Cello (P) Part:

- First System:** Features a melodic line with triplets and sixteenth notes. It includes dynamic markings such as *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f*.
- Second System:** Continues the melodic development with similar rhythmic patterns and dynamics.

Piano (P) Part:

- First System:** The piano part is mostly silent, indicated by a large 'X' over the staff.
- Second System:** The piano part is mostly silent, indicated by a large 'X' over the staff.

Performance Instructions:

- Violin (V):** "scribbly scabbly bow", "with lightness", "III - rapid light gliss", "IV - 'Rip' - msp", "S.S.B.", "f", "ff".
- Viola (C):** "scribbly scabbly bow", "with lightness", "I - 'Rip' - msp", "S.S.B.", "f", "ff".
- Cello (P):** "circular bowing unpitched", "S.S.B.", "V st", "f", "ff".
- Piano (P):** "PIANO: Enter around here with improvisation. Inside piano/noise sounds + Roli only. High energy, building intensity to end of section."

/03: ROLITRIO/

Senza misura, rubato

Circled letters below the staff indicate the fundamentals of JI chords.

Choose a pacing that allows each sonority to blossom briefly before continuing on with the glissando.

The musical score is written for three staves: Violin (V), Cello (C), and Right Hand (R). The notation includes glissando lines and various JI chord fundamentals circled below the R staff.

Violin (V) Staff: Starts with a fermata, then a glissando. Chord fundamentals: 11, 7:4, 12:11, 8:7 (11), 11, 7:4, 11:5. Ends with a fermata and the instruction "senza sord".

Cello (C) Staff: Starts with a fermata, then a glissando. Chord fundamentals: 7:4, 9:4, 8:7, 7:4. Ends with a fermata and the instruction "senza sord".

Right Hand (R) Staff: Starts with a fermata, then a glissando. Chord fundamentals: 9:7:6, 16:9:8, 12:11:6, 7:4, 5:2, 7:3, 5:4. Ends with a fermata and the instruction "Attacca Section 04 'Panels'".

Annotations:

- con sord (leather) (Violin and Cello)
- ROLI: Enter during resonance of Section 02 final piano chord (Right Hand)

/o4: PANELS/

Improvise on the material within the repeats.
Nothing should be in unison within cells. Duration of cells will vary, ad lib (violin will cue to move on)

S
pp 5
fingers + air (no pitch)
pitch emerges
n pp

V
pp 3 3 3 3 3
S.S.B.
pp
V st

C
pp 5
S.S.B.
pp
V st

P
pp 3 3 3 3 3
ROLI
"guiro"
pp

4

S

air

pp

V

12:11

pp

3 many subtle swells

3

3

3

pitch fading to noise

circular bowing unpitched

"solo"

pp

arpeggios

C

11:2

pp

3 many subtle swells

3

3

3

pitch fading to noise

circular bowing unpitched

P

many subtle swells

pp

3

3

3

crumple paper (or other unpitched sound ad lib)

Appendix: Solos

Solo

System 1:

- Tempo: $\text{♩} = 72$
- Section A: ff , mf , f , ff , mf , f
- Instructions: "teeth on reed (or similar high register improvised sound)", "Growl 't'", "Improvised downward gesture", "delicato", "Growl 't'", "5"
- Formulas: $\textcircled{2} \text{S/Bb} + \text{Eb}$

System 2:

- Section B: mp , f
- Instructions: "tongue pizz", "air sounds (irregular)", "Growl 't'", "delicato", "angry cat" (pitchless, angular improvisation)
- Formulas: $\textcircled{85} \text{S/B-6} + \text{C}_{12}$

System 3:

- Section C: mp , ff , f
- Instructions: "with lightness", "Growl 't'", "5"

Solo

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[illegible]

CELLO

Solo

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A

$\text{♩} = 72$

ff

"duck"

mf

f

II - 5.
III - 7.

I II III
1 2 3

I/II - gliss down
harmonic pressure

B

III - rapid light gliss
gva

"duck"

mf

f

5

I II III
1 2 3

circular
bowing
unpitched

11:2

"duck"

III - rapid light gliss
gva

6

scribbly scrabbly bow

15:14

f

5

with lightness

"duck"

I - "Rip"
msp

ff

3:2

9 **(C)**

S.S.B. *f* *V st* *ff* *3* *I / II - gliss down harmonic pressure* *mf* with lightness *5* random high harmonics *jeté* *I - Rip* *mp* *f* *ff*

3 *"duck"*

12 **(D)**

mst *4:3* *f* *III - rapid light gliss* *3* *7.* *7.* *7.* *Random high partials* *gliss.* *gliss.* *jeté* *V* *pp* *p* *ff*

15

I - Rip *V* *V* *V* *secco* *I - 4. / II* *(ossia)* *f* *ff* *p* *mst - sotto voce* *3* *mf*

Solo

♩ = 72

A QT

gva

ff

mf

f

gva (loco)

mf

f

low palm

Hit an indeterminate cluster of low strings with palm

The musical score for the 'B' section of 'Cumbia de la Calle' is presented in three systems. The first system is in 3/8 time, featuring a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a complex, rhythmic accompaniment including triplets and sixteenth notes. The second system is in 2/4 time, marked with a circled 'B', and includes a 'low palm' instruction for the bass line. The third system is in 3/4 time, featuring a treble staff with a melodic line and a bass staff with a complex, rhythmic accompaniment including triplets and sixteenth notes. The score concludes with a final measure in 3/4 time, marked with a circled 'C' and the instruction 'Guero* - scrape credit card (CC) along strings in irregular, angular patterns [ossia: fingernails]'.

7

with lightness

plectrum behind br.

15ma

low palm

C

ROLI

OT

gliss w/ plectrum along white keys (unpitched)

"guiro"

f

ff

mf with lightness

pp

mp

f

ff

low palm

ff

pizz. +

8...

D

OT

ROLI

OT

15ma

pizz (w/ plectrum if that makes following gesture more ergonomic)

f

ff

p

mf

ff

secco