

Suite of Feathers

Thomas Willmann

PeruUSA!



Suite of Feathers 13'40" for Winds and Percussion. Each of the six movement revolves around the various songs, calls, wails, warbles, and sounds from each species. The songs/calls/sound sets have been set into structures of meter, key/mode, and form through the instruments of the Wind Band. The movements operate independently and the piece can be performed with fewer movements. Sources used to research the birds include the eBird online database, the National Audobon Society, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and various online contributors. Birding became a hobby of the composers during the COVID-19 Pandemic and has yielded a collection of approximately 300 species photographed/sited/catalogued from all over the US and parts of Europe. Birding and Bird photography is a great vehicle to understand nature, conservation, and appreciate wildlife.

Movement Durations

- I. Sulawesi Cuckoo (2'16)
- II. Wood Thrush - (2')
- III. Kaua'i 'ō'ō - (3'26)
- IV. Pileated Woodpecker (1'40")
- V. Loon (1'54")
- VI. Parliament (2'15")

Instrumentation

Piccolo
Flute 1/2
Oboe 1/2
Bassoon
Clarinet in Bb 1/2/3
Bass Clarinet
Alto Saxophone 1/2
Tenor Saxophone 1/2
Baritone Saxophone
Trumpet in Bb 1/2/3
Horn in F 1/2
Horn in F 3/4
Trombone 1/2/3
Bass Trombone
Euphonium
Tuba
Double Bass

Piano
Orchestral Bells
Marimba
Vibraphone
Snare Drum
Bass Drum
Suspended Cymbal
Crash Cymbal
Bongo
Claves
Tambourine
Cabasa
Shaker
Finger Cymbals
Vibraslap
Cowbell
Wood Block
Rain Stick



Movement I

Sulawesi Cuckoo (*Cuculus crassirostris*) is endemic to the Sulawesi island in Indonesia. The bird is sometimes called a Sulawesi hawk-cuckoo and has a distinctive rapid three-note call. The Cuculidae family consists of over 150 species in 33 different genera. They are referenced in ancient Greece, Indian deities, Japanese symbolism, and in a Shakespearean comedy (*Love's Labour's Lost*).

Performance

Play the notes with curved lines as a short portamento before the pitch. Bending with embouchure while using chromatic fingering approximately one whole step below the given pitch. The movement is a dance and should be played with lightness and a bouncy feel often.

Movement II

Wood Thrushes (*Hylocichla mustelina*) are forest-dwelling songbirds sometimes called the 'forest flutist'. Each bird can sing unique songs and has been known to sing more than 50 different songs. These songs include common elements of music; an outlining of a minor chord and the overtone series. The wood thrush is one of the most versatile and musical singers of nature.

Performance

The flutter tongue in the woodwind voices should be very rapid and even. The drum set part needs to be closer to a background feel and may need ample muting devices or a sound barrier to prevent issues with balance.

Movement III

Kaua'i 'ō'ō (*Moho braccatus*) is pronounced 'Co-why-ee oh-oh' or 'Kuh-wai-ee oh-oh' and was a small honey-eating songbird native to Hawai'i. Endemic to the island of Kaua'i the 'ō'ō was named an endangered species in 1973 with only 36 remaining. The species mates for life, but sadly, in 1982 the last female disappeared and the last male was last recorded in 1986. The final recording, by ornithologist Jim Jacobi, is of a male 'ō'ō singing a duet. One can hear the pauses between the calls as the 'ō'ō waits for a mate that will never come. The Kaua'i 'ō'ō story is tragic and knowing the context of the final recording is simultaneously heart-breaking and haunting.

Performance

The final motif played off-stage or "back of house" is up to the listener to interpret. Whether the Endling (meaning the last surviving individual of the species) hears a response, we imagine a response out of sheer hope, or that the bird finally finds a mate in the place after extinction are a few intended interpretations. Mild rubato is encouraged and the connection of the call to the response is integral. The repeated motifs at rehearsal E should sound like a question becoming more desperate.

Movement IV

The Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is a large dashing bird with a flaming crest. Gradually increasing in population after deforestation of the 18th and 19th centuries.

Performance

The Director and/or Percussion can listen to a woodpecker on a tree to imitate the timing and acceleration of the rhythm. The woodwind players that have a mouthpiece/on reed indicator should tongue sixteenth notes and attempt to bend/gliss chromatically up and down as close to the notes given as possible.

Movement V

The Loon (*Gavia immer*) is an aquatic diver similar in size and shape to ducks and geese. The bird can be heard from a great distance as it has a loud wailing or yodeling call that is unlike any other. Species include the Pacific, Arctic, Common, Red-throated, and Yellow-billed. The Yellow-billed loon is on watch for conservation concerns where freshwater habitats are becoming rare in their regions.

Performance

Bend and gliss slowly and evenly to achieve a somewhat mournful feel.

Movement VI (Owls)

Parliament: Boreal, Eastern Screech, Flammulated, Mountain Pygmy, Northern Pygmy/Northern Saw-whet, Southern White-faced, Brown Wood, and Powerful Owl. There are over 200 species of owls and many are nocturnal and solitary. Owls are birds of prey with binocular vision, binaural hearing, sharp talons, and feathers that allow for silent flight.

Performance

Bend and gliss slowly and evenly to achieve a somewhat mournful feel.

Suite of Feathers

Duration 13'40"

I. Sulawesi Cuckoo

Thomas Willmann

10

B

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2 *opt. 8vb*

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1 *mp*

T. Sax. 2 *mp*

Bari. Sax. *mf*

Tpt. 1 *mp*

Tpt. 2 *mp*

Tpt. 3 *mp*

Hn. 1/2 *mp*

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mp*

Tbn. 3 *mp*

B. Tbn. *mp*

Euph.

Tba.

pizz. *mp*

Db.

Mar.

Perc. 1 *mf*

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

4

18

C

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1 *f*

Ob. 2 *f*

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1 *f*

A. Sax. 2 *f*

T. Sax. 1 *f*

T. Sax. 2 *f*

Bari. Sax. *mf*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2 *p* *mf*

Hn. 3/4 *p*

Tbn. 1 *b* *f* *mf*

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph. *f*

Tba. *p*

Db. *mf*

Mar. *f*

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 Cowbell

Perc. 3

The musical score consists of 20 staves of music for a full orchestra. The instruments listed include Piccolo, Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe 1 (dynamic *f*), Oboe 2 (dynamic *f*), Bassoon (dynamic *mf*), Clarinet 1, Clarinet 2, Clarinet 3, Bass Clarinet (*mf*), Alto Saxophone 1 (*f*), Alto Saxophone 2 (*f*), Tenor Saxophone 1 (*f*), Tenor Saxophone 2 (*f*), Baritone Saxophone (*mf*), Trumpet 1, Trumpet 2, Trumpet 3, Horn 1/2 (*p*, *mf*), Horn 3/4 (*p*), Trombone 1 (*b*, *f*, *mf*), Trombone 2, Trombone 3, Bass Trombone, Euphonium (*f*), Tuba (*p*), Double Bass (*mf*), and Timpani (Maracas dynamic *f*). The score is numbered 18 at the beginning of the section, and a rehearsal mark 'C' is placed above the Flute 1 staff. A large red 'X' is drawn across the page, covering the measures from 18 to the end of the score. The 'X' is thick and covers most of the staves, indicating that these measures are either incorrect or have been removed.

49 **G**

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1 *mp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Cl. 2 *mp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

Cl. 3 *mp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

T. Sax. 2 *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

Bari. Sax. *mp*

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba. *mf* solo *f*

Db.

Mar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

55

H

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

D. B.

Mar.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Claves

II. Wood Thrush

10

I = 98

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

Perc. 1 SET
Snare Drum
Bass Drum
Crash Cymbal
Vibraslap

Perc. 2 Cabasa
Finger cymbals

A

REVISÃO

mf

mf

mf

flz.
mp
flz.
mp

p

p

p

p

sm. brass mfts

p

mf
p

p

S.D. rim
B.D.
p

p

Vibraslap

F.C.
p

cabasa

B

Picc.

Fl. 1 flz. (nat.)

Fl. 2 mp flz. (nat.)

Ob. 1 mp

Ob. 2

Bsn. mf

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl. mf

A. Sax. 1 flz. flz. flz. flz.

A. Sax. 2 flz.

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax. mf

Tpt. 1 con sordino (str.) mp

Tpt. 2 con sordino (str.) mp

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2 mp

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1 mp mf

Tbn. 2 mf

Tbn. 3 mf

B. Tbn.

Euph. mf mp

Tba. mp mf

Db. mp pizz. mp

Orch. Bells

Mar. p

Vib. cr. cym. choke ch.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

20

C

Picc. *mf* — *p* *mf*

Fl. 1 *mf*

Fl. 2 *mf*

Ob. 1 *mf*

Ob. 2 *mf*

Bsn. *p* *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

Cl. 3 *p* *mf*

B. Cl. *p* *mf*

A. Sax. 1 (nat.) *p* *mf*

A. Sax. 2 (nat.) *p* *mf*

T. Sax. 1 *p* *mf*

T. Sax. 2 *p* *mf*

Bari. Sax. *p* *mf*

Tpt. 1 *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mf*

Tpt. 3 *mf*

Hn. 1/2 *mf*

Hn. 3/4 *mf*

Tbn. 1 *p* *mf*

Tbn. 2 *p* *mf*

Tbn. 3 *p* *mf*

B. Tbn. *mf*

Euph. *p* *mf*

Tba. *mf*

Db. *p* *mf*

Orch. Bells

Mar. *mf*

Vib. *mf*

Perc. 1 *p* *mf*

Perc. 2

D

28 E

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1 *mf*

Fl. 2 *mf*

Ob. 1 *mf*

Ob. 2 *mf*

Bsn.

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

Cl. 3 *mf*

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1 *mf*

A. Sax. 2 *mf*

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1 *mf*

Tpt. 2 *mf*

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2 *mf* 8va opt.

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Orch. Bells

Mar. *mp*

Vib. *mp*

Perc. 1 *mp*

Perc. 2

III. Kaua'i 'ō'ō

Adagio, lament

mf *molto rit.* *a tempo*

A

Perc. 1
Rainstick (+ ocean drum)
Wind Chimes

=

mf *echo* *molto rit.* *a tempo*

B

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
Bsn.
Cl. 1
Cl. 2
Cl. 3
B. Cl.
A. Sax. 1
A. Sax. 2
T. Sax. 1
T. Sax. 2
Bari. Sax.
Pno.
Orch. Bells
Mar.
Vib.

23

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Pno.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

C.

rit.

8

1

mp

8^b

34 **D** *a tempo*

Picc.

Fl. 1 *gliss.*
mf *f* *mf* *mp* *p*

Fl. 2 *p* *p*

Ob. 1 *p*

Ob. 2 *p*

Bsn. *p*

Cl. 1 *p* *p* *opt.* *ppp*

Cl. 2 *p* *p* *opt.* *ppp*

Cl. 3 *p* *p* *opt.* *ppp*

B. Cl. *p*

Pno. *pp* *p* *p* *p* *pp*

Mar.

Vib. *mf* *p* *p* *pp* *pp* *pp*

Perc. 1 *let ring* *p* *ring to decay* *ocean drum* *+ wind chimes* *n*

E *molto rit.*

off stage or
back of house (*just audible*)
(whistle opt., percussionist)

off stage or
back of house (*just audible*)
(whistle opt., percussionist)

IV. Pileated Woodpecker

18

49

Freely (Perc solo)

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

Lrg. WB

Perc. 1
Large
Woodblock

mf

Perc. 2
Small Cowbell

USA!

The score consists of two systems of music. The first system (measures 1-16) features woodwind entries (Piccolo, Flutes, Oboes, Bassoon) with dynamics ranging from pp to f. The second system (measures 17-24) features brass entries (Trombones, Horns, Bass Trombones) with dynamics ranging from pp to f. The Large Woodblock part provides a constant rhythmic foundation with a sixteenth-note pattern throughout both systems.

19

A Allegretto $\text{♩} = 112-116$

Picc.

Fl. 1 p

Fl. 2 p

Ob. 1 (song sparrow) on reed f

Ob. 2 on reed f

Bsn. p

Cl. 1 mouthpiece f f

Cl. 2 mouthpiece f f

Cl. 3 mouthpiece f f

B. Cl. p

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2 mp

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2 mp

Hn. 3/4 mp

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph. p

Tba. p pizz.

Db. p pizz.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2 sm cowbell sd sticks $\underbrace{\text{3}}$ 6 $\overbrace{\text{3}}$

A page from a musical score for orchestra and choir, page 92. The score includes parts for Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob. 1, Ob. 2, Bsn., Cl. 1, Cl. 2, Cl. 3, B. Cl., A. Sax. 1, A. Sax. 2, T. Sax. 1, T. Sax. 2, Bari. Sax., Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Tpt. 3, Hn. 1/2, Hn. 3/4, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, B. Tbn., Euph., Tba., Db., Orch. Bells, Mar., Vib., Perc. 1, and Perc. 2. The music features various dynamics like *mf*, *f*, *mp*, and *mf*, along with glissando markings. A large red 'P' and 'ruso' are overlaid on the page.

99 (tr) rit. **E** Freely

Picc.

Fl. 1 *mf* *p* *pp*

Fl. 2 *mf* *p* *pp*

Ob. 1 *f* *on reed* *gliss.* *p* *pp*

Ob. 2 *f* *on reed* *gliss.*

Bsn. *mf*

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2 *mf*

Bari. Sax. *mf*

Tpt. 1 *senza sordino* *p* *pp*

Tpt. 2 *p* *pp*

Tpt. 3 *p* *pp*

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1 *p* *pp*

Tbn. 2 *p* *pp*

Tbn. 3 *p* *pp*

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

Perc. 1 *solo* *mf* *mf*

Perc. 2

V. Loon

24

24

Legato $\text{♩} = 78$

A

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

12

B

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

C

24

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

31

Picc.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Bsn.

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Cl. 3

B. Cl.

A. Sax. 1

A. Sax. 2

T. Sax. 1

T. Sax. 2

Bari. Sax.

Tpt. 1

Tpt. 2

Tpt. 3

Hn. 1/2

Hn. 3/4

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn. 3

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Orch. Bells

Mar.

Vib.

VI. Parliment

Boreal, Eastern Screech, Flammulated, Mountain Pygmy, Northern Pygmy/Northern Saw-whet, Southern White-faced, Brown Wood, and Powerful Owls.

28

30

C

Picc. *mf*

Fl. 1 *mf*

Fl. 2 *mf*

Ob. 1 *mf*

Ob. 2 *mf*

Bsn.

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

Cl. 3 *mf*

B. Cl. *f*

A. Sax. 1 *mf*

A. Sax. 2 *mf*

T. Sax. 1 *mf*

T. Sax. 2 *mf*

Bari. Sax. *f*

Tpt. 1 *f*

Tpt. 2 *f*

Tpt. 3 *f*

Hn. 1/2 *f*

Hn. 3/4 *f*

Tbn. 1 *f*

Tbn. 2 *f*

Tbn. 3 *f*

B. Tbn.

Euph.

Tba.

Db.

Mar.

Vib. *f*

Perc. 1 sus. cym. *mf*

crash cym. *mf*

sus. cym. *mf*

on bell *mf*

Tri. *mf*

D

41

poco accel.

Picc. *p* *mf*

Fl. 1 *p* *mf*

Fl. 2 *p* *mf*

Ob. 1 *mf*

Ob. 2 *mf*

Bsn. *p* *mf* *mf*

Cl. 1 *mf*

Cl. 2 *mf*

Cl. 3 *mf*

B. Cl. *mf*

A. Sax. 1 *mp*

A. Sax. 2 *mp*

T. Sax. 1 *mp*

T. Sax. 2 *mp*

Bari. Sax. *p*

Tpt. 1 *mp*

Tpt. 2 *mp*

Tpt. 3 *mp*

Hn. 1/2 *mp*

Hn. 3/4 *mp*

Tbn. 1 *mp*

Tbn. 2 *mp*

Tbn. 3 *mp*

B. Tbn. *p*

Euph. *mp*

Tba.

Db. *pizz.* *mp* *mf*

Mar. *mp* *mf*

Vib. *mp* *mf*

Bongos

Perc. 1 *p* *mf*

Cabasa

Perc. 2 *p* *mf*

A detailed musical score page featuring a large orchestra. The instrumentation includes Picc., Fl. 1, Fl. 2, Ob. 1, Ob. 2, Bsn., Cl. 1, Cl. 2, Cl. 3, B. Cl., A. Sax. 1, A. Sax. 2, T. Sax. 1, T. Sax. 2, Bari. Sax., Tpt. 1, Tpt. 2, Tpt. 3, Hn. 1/2, Hn. 3/4, Tbn. 1, Tbn. 2, Tbn. 3, B. Tbn., Euph., Tba., Db., Mar., Vib., Bongos, and Perc. The score is in 2/4 time, key signature is B-flat major. The music consists of two systems of measures. Measure 57 starts with a dynamic of p , followed by mf , then f , ff , and fff . Measure 58 starts with mp , followed by mf , then f , ff , and fff . The score concludes with a dynamic of ff and a "crash cym." instruction.