

# ***32 Middle Tones***

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*for string trio and 2 percussion*

by JORDAN DYKSTRA  
(2019)

*Commissioned by the Middletown Commission on the Arts for the event on  
April 20, 2019 at MAC 650 Gallery in Middletown, CT:  
"Alvin Lucier and Jordan Dykstra: Two World Premieres by Ordinary Affects"*

Composed for – and premiered by – Ordinary Affects

Morgan Evans-Weiler (violin)

Jordan Dykstra (viola)

Laura Cetilia (violoncello)

J. P. A. Falzone (percussion 1)

Luke Damrosch (percussion 2)

Spring 2019  
Middletown, CT

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## 32 Middle Tones (2019)

by JORDAN DYKSTRA

### INSTRUMENTATION

violin (1)

viola (1)

violoncello (1)

percussion (2)

#### Percussion list (1 item per player) – action

stone sheet with sandpaper or stone – rub slowly to create a noisy drone

bass drum (or any low-pitched drum) with soft mallets – soft low roll

bowl of leaves – softly rustle with hands

aluminum foil – softly rustle with hands

cymbal with soft mallets – soft low roll

pair of smooth stones – rub slowly other to create a noisy drone

singing bowl with bow – bow slowly to add a subtle tone to the chord

harmonica or pitch pipe (in unison, or close) – blow with long alternating breaths

plastic bag – softly rustle with hands

### PROGRAM NOTES

General description: While the rest of the ensemble creates a repeating intervallic/textural harmonic form, the cellist slides 32 times into the middle of their chord.

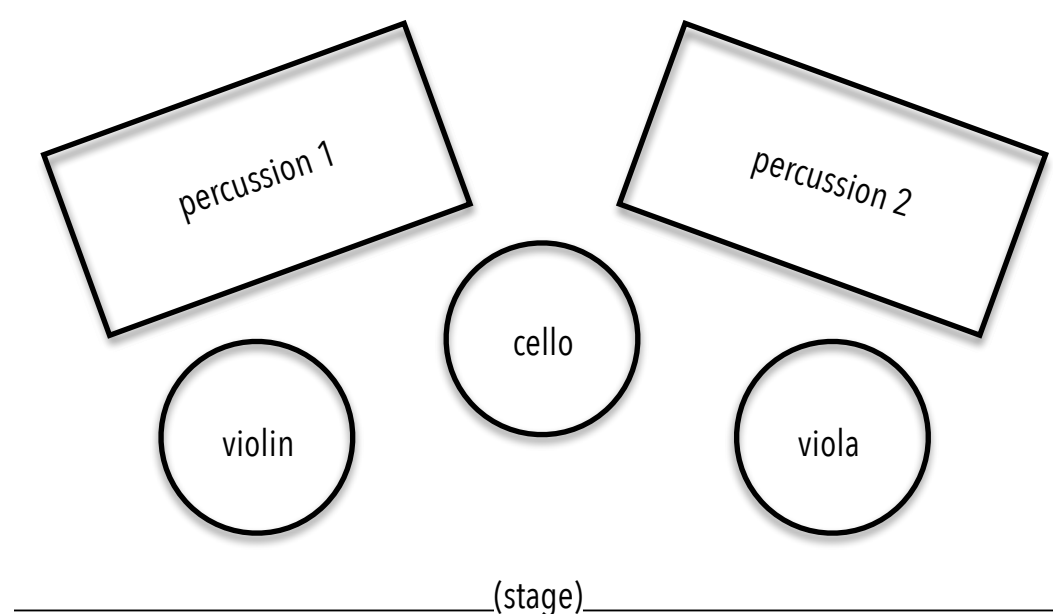
Dynamics: On the softer side, balanced throughout.

Percussion: Sustain your sonic material as much as possible. Players coordinate alternated breathing (harmonica) and bow changes (singing bowl) to avoid any break in the sustained sound texture.

Violin, viola, and 2 percussion: Both the entrances and exits of the 32 chords are played gently and coalesce as one sound.

Cello: At your discretion: enter *ad libitum* sometime during the 45" before each rehearsal mark and quietly use your voice to softly hum *slightly below or above* the sounding pitch of the cello, allowing microtonal beating patterns to shimmer. The voice should be added sparingly and very quietly (nearing non-perceptual, at times). These sections are notated with a "\*".

Stage layout:



# 32 Middle Tones

On the softer side, balanced throughtout

JORDAN DYKSTRA (2019)

①

0:00 0:15 1:00 1:25 1:30 1:55 2:00 2:25

Time

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Violin

Violoncello

Viola

Stone sheet

Bass drum

Leaves

Foil

Cymbal

2 stones

Enter ad lib

\* with voice, sparingly

Enter ad lib

②

3:10 3:35 4:20 4:45 4:50 5:15 5:20 5:45

Time

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Stone sheet

Bass drum

Stone sheet

Bass drum

Leaves

Foil

Cymbal

2 stones

Enter ad lib

\*

③

5:50 6:15 6:20 6:45 6:50 7:15 7:20 7:45 7:50 8:15

Time

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Bass drum

Singing bowl

Cymbal

Leaves

Harmonica

Harmonica

Singing bowl

Singing bowl

Bass drum

Stone sheet

Enter ad lib

\*

④ 9:00 9:25 9:30 9:55 ⑤ 10:40 11:05 11:10 11:35 11:40 12:05

Time

Perc. 1 Stone sheet Bass drum

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Leaves Foil

Stone sheet Bass drum

Leaves Foil

Cymbal 2 stones

Enter ad lib \*

12:10 12:35 12:40 13:05 13:10 13:35 13:40 14:05 14:10 14:35 14:40 15:05

Time

Perc. 1 Bass drum Singing bowl

Perc. 2 Singing bowl

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Cymbal Leaves

Harmonica Harmonica

Singing bowl Singing bowl

Bass drum Stone sheet

Bass drum Cymbal

15:10 15:35 15:40 16:05 16:10 16:35 16:40 17:05

Time

Perc. 1 2 stones

Perc. 2 2 stones

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Plastic bag Plastic bag

Stone sheet Bass drum

Foil Stone sheet

Enter ad lib \*

⑥ 17:50 18:15 18:20 18:45 18:50 19:15 19:20 19:45 19:50 20:15 (21:00)

Time

Perc. 1 Stone sheet Bass drum

Perc. 2

Vln.

Vc.

Vla.

Leaves Foil

Cymbal 2 stones

Bass drum Singing bowl

Cymbal Leaves

Enter ad lib \*