

Any Lucky Ten

Composed by Howard Kenty

For Clarinet in Bb, Violin, and Electronics

Performance notes:

This piece is to be performed fairly loosely, and has a large amount of flexibility in tempo and the timing of individual events. However, to maintain general instrumental synchronization between sections, it is recommended that the clarinet and violin players read from the same score.

The electronics, live input processing, and live input monitoring can be achieved entirely with a laptop and a 2-in/2-out audio interface running MAX/MSP and Ableton Live. The piece requires discrete signals from two microphones, one each for the clarinet and the violin, to be fed into the laptop's audio interface. A stereo output from the audio interface should be routed to stage or house speakers (via a mixer, if desired). Live input processing, sample triggering, and mixing are controlled entirely via an external MIDI keyboard. On the MIDI keyboard, the knobs and sliders control the various volume and playback pitch/speed settings of the samples and live inputs via continuous controllers, while the piano keys trigger sample playback start/stop and live input recording start/stop via discrete notes. The specific keyboard mappings are documented on the diagram in the following page; each name indicates control parameter or sample, which the attached number indicates MIDI controller number, for knobs and sliders, or MIDI note number, for piano keys.

For performance, I use an Edirol PCR-30 keyboard and a Zoom H4n audio interface, but any appropriately-mapped keyboard and equivalent audio interface will suffice. To begin the piece, all volume levels should be set to 0 dB, 'MSP Play Pitch' should be set to -1X, and 'String Crossfader' should be set to 0 (i.e. entirely to 'Strings 1'). The laptop performer may wish to lower the clarinet and violin input volumes until a proper signal level has been set. Input 1 (left) on the audio interface should be used for the clarinet and Input 2 (right) should be used for the violin; the laptop performer should ensure that the MAX/MSP and Ableton Live preferences are set accordingly. All specifically required triggers and volume changes are noted in the score; should the performer need to extend certain sounds (i.e. if the performance tempo is slower than usual), additional single 'Loon' samples are provided, with the designation 'Loon X.s'. The 'MSP Perf. Record' trigger key is also provided, to allow for recording and saving of the dry instrumental inputs for the entire performance.

Performance materials, including MAX/MSP patch, Ableton Live project, audio samples, full and performer scores, and Edirol PCR-30 mapping can be found online in this folder: http://hwarg.com/scores/any_lucky_ten/

- Howard Kenty