

**toon™
(mmix)**

joey bargsten

CONCERTO/SPECTACLE FOR ORCHESTRA AND LIVE DIGITAL MEDIA

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Since 1979 I have been exploring technology as a means of expanding the expressive range of conventional ensembles.

Extended instrumental/vocal techniques, experimental notation (prerecorded instructions, pitches, and rhythms played for individual performers over headphones—the “Walkman Ensemble”, later supplanted by the “Portable CD Ensemble”, and now the “iPod Ensemble”), structured improvisation, algorithmic composition, and all manner of electronic sound production (*musique concrète*, tape, analog/digital synthesis, MIDI, sampling, digital audio editing and signal processing; and now a bewildering array of digital possibilities housed on a slender laptop) have been important tools in guiding me toward the synthesis of a personal style.

toon™ (mmix) is a huge work which incorporates almost three decades of discovery about the nature of sound and the interaction of performer and machine. More than merely a catalogue of instrumental, vocal, and electronic effects, it is a large-scale symphonic concert piece which takes its imagery from one of the major oracular systems of Western culture, the Tarot. I do not literally depict, for example, *The Hanged Man* or *The Wheel of Fortune* or *The Tower of Destruction*, but rather the music provides an atmosphere in which the cards can be drawn, arranged, and contemplated in the listener’s mind.

The (car)toon(s) in the title refer to the plasticity with which I approach musical elements and the logic with which they interact and transform themselves: musical phrases, textures, and sounds which—in the manner of a Warner Brothers cartoon—can become flattened by steam rollers, pop back into shape, scramble in midair until they realize they’ve run off a cliff; musical black holes that can be grabbed off train tunnels and thrown on the ground in front of angry pursuers, ideas in sound that present faces stretched, inflated, exploded, and revitalized in the course of a few seconds.

These cartoon-like aspects characterize the first portion of the work, which opens with an orchestral watercolor accompaniment to a real-time sampler improvisation and proceeds episodically through a number of alternately dense and sparse textures. This section was conceived as a highly concentrated concerto for orchestra.

—JB

Footnote: Ok, well, so you’ve probably figured out this piece has a little history of its own (however obscure that history is . . .). It started out as its own little piece - “Tarot Cartoons”, then it took on a bunch of other movements as “Cyborg Symphony”, and now it’s back on its own, with the truncated title.

The instrumentation has evolved, too. It began with an unplayably huge orchestra (double winds, eight horns, three bowed pianos, 12 vocalists), which is fine if you’re playing Mahler or the complete *Firebird* or whatever, but, you know, get real. So, I’ve reduced the size of the orchestra to regular size (there might be a little more touching up to do in that department). The electronic instrumentation started out with the MIDI modules, drum machines, and samplers I had in 1992, and the instructions were quite specific. That was a bad idea, since almost all that equipment is no longer available to anybody. Now, the electronic instrumentation is completely and purposely ambiguous, so that as the technology changes, the work can still be performed. The notation is graphic and gestural, allowing improvisation within the time framework (see *APPROXIMATE PERFORMANCE SCALING*, next page).

PERFORMING FORCES (minimum)

2 flutes (doubling piccolos), 3 oboes (third doubling English Horn), Eb clarinet, 2 Bb clarinets, bass clarinet, 2 bassoons, contrabassoon.

4 horns, 3 trumpets in C (first doubling on piccolo trumpet in D), 2 trombones, bass trombone, tuba.

4 percussionist (sometimes playing inside open grand piano), timpani, piano, celesta, harp.

1 - 5 live digital media performers (audio and video)

Strings.

APPROXIMATE PERFORMANCE SCALING

Que Number:	Percentage of Total Length:
1	7
2	6
3	7
4	8
5	10
6	8
7	10
8	8
9	11
10	7
11	3
12	2
13	5
14	8

Orchestra plays each notated que at suggested tempo. Audio digital media performers play beyond que until total length of que is completed, then next orchestral que is played, etc. Visualists and video artists will contribute their live component throughout the piece.

Total time will vary according to number of digital media performers (between 1 and 5 recommended, playing separately or together). Suggested length: between 11 and 26 minutes.

toon™ (mmix)

joey
bargsten



(Please see note on ques and time scaling, previous page)

(Please see note on performing forces, previous page)

Score for **toon™ (mmix)** by Joey Bargsten. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with the following parts listed on the left:

- Piccolo 1, 2
- Flute 1, 2
- Oboe 1, 2, 3
- English Horn
- E♭ Clarinet
- B♭ Clarinet
- Bass Clarinet
- Bassoon 1, 2
- Contra-Bassoon
- Horn 1, 2, 3, 4
- Trumpet 1, 2, 3
- Trumpet C 1, 2, 3
- Tom Tom
- Bass Drum
- Tuba
- Snare Drum 1, 2, 3, 4
- Tam-tam
- Piano
- Celesta
- Harp
- Violins I
- Violins II
- Violas
- Bells
- Basses

The score includes a **Transposed Score** for the basses, marked with a double bar line and the number 222. A **Live Digital Media** section is indicated by a vertical dashed line, containing a **DEE** (Digital Electronic Effects) track with the following time markers: **DEE 04 → 05 → 05 → 04**. The **DEE** track includes a **5-10: cyc-x** section and a **PARK LANDSCAPE 1. (REV-6, 11:00)** section. The **DEE** track also features a **415K** section with **DSP: 0** and **PTON: 122** markings. The score concludes with a **THE** marking at the bottom right.

Woodwinds: Flute I & II, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinet in E-flat, Clarinet in B-flat I & II, Bass Clarinet, Bassoon I & II, Contrabassoon.

Brass: Horns I-IV, Trombones I-IV, Trumpets I-IV, Trombones I & II, Trombones III & IV, Trumpets I-IV.

Strings: Violins I & II, Viola, Violoncello, Double Bass, Harp.

Percussion: Snare Drum, Cymbal, Tom-tom, Triangle, Bells, Chimes, Gong, Mallets.

Other: MIDI (Computer Music Interface).

Handwritten Annotations:

- Some effects falling in...
- 12" 15" 15"
- 12" 15" 15"
- at bottom
- 12" 15" 15"

Lyrics: AM RANO NITTE ROSE:

Musical Details: The score is in 3/4 time. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs. A large '2 >>>' is written at the top right, and a '2' is at the bottom left.

♩. = 120

3 >>>

Handwritten musical score for a symphony orchestra. The score is arranged in systems, with each instrument or section on its own staff. The instruments listed on the left include:

- Flute I & II
- Oboe I & II
- E. Clarinet
- Clarinet in E-flat
- Clarinet in B-flat I & II
- Bass Clarinet
- Bassoon I & II
- Contrabassoon
- Horn I, II, III, IV
- Trumpet I, II, III
- Trombone I, II, III
- Drum Major I & II
- Timpani
- Bass Drum
- Cymbals
- Snare Drum
- Double Basses
- Celli
- Violins I & II

The score features various musical notations, including notes, rests, and dynamic markings such as *mp*, *pp*, and *ppp*. There are also performance instructions like *Sul Pont.* and *En (b)*. A large handwritten number '17' is placed above several staves, indicating a specific measure or section. The bottom of the page shows the string section staves (Violins I, Violins II, Violas, Cellos, and Double Basses) with their respective parts.

4>>>

$\text{♩} = 88$

Cl. Eb
Cl. Bb¹₂
Bass Cl.

I
II

I
II
Vcl. solo
Vla
Vc
Cb.

Flute 1 & 2
 Flute 1 & 2
 Oboe 1
 Clarinet 1

SUNG (senza vib.) *mf*
 multiphonic *mf*
mf

Cornets
 Saxophones
 Trombones

w.
w.

EVILOX
 ESR-1
 MOD
 WHEEL

Via Solo

vibr.
gliss.
mf

9:6

mf

ff

9:6

1 con sordino

2 con sordino

3 con sordino

4 con sordino

5 con sordino

6 con sordino

mf

ff

pan cymbal

mf

ff

I.

II.

I

II

III

IV

cb

solo pizz.

mf

ff

solo pizz.

mf

ff

I Picc
 II Picc
 I Fl.
 II Fl.
 I Ob.
 II Ob.
 Engln.
 Cl. Eb
 I Cl. Bb
 II Cl. Bb
 Bass Cl.
 I Fg.
 II Fg.
 Cfg.
 Pans
 Cym.
 hf
 MIDI
 cb. (all)

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring multiple staves with complex notation, including triplets and dynamic markings such as *ff*. A large graphic watermark "6>>>" is overlaid on the right side of this section.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, including parts for various instruments and MIDI. The parts are labeled on the left as follows:

- lm
- trp I II III IV
- trb I II III IV
- tuba
- perc I
- hf.
- MIDI
- vl sob
- va. I II
- vc. I II III IV
- cb

The MIDI part includes the instruction "GOVET" and "let decay". Dynamic markings include *pp* and *ppp*. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat signs.

$\text{♩} = 76$

pic. 1/2
fl. 1/2
ob. 1/2
E. horn
Cl. Bb 1/2
B. Cl.
Fg. 1/2
Ctg.

Trp. 1/2
Tbn. 1/2
B. Tbn. 3
Tuba
MIDI (5-10)

Vln. I
Vln. II
v/a.
Vc.
Cb.

Perc 1/2
 Fl. 1/2 *mf*
 Cl. 1/2 *mf*
 B.Cl. *mf*
 Fg. 1/2 *mf*

Hr. 3/4 *mf*

Perc. *tubular chimes*
Temp.
pp *gliss.* *mp*

MIDI *Ditch Mod:* $\begin{matrix} +12 \\ 0 \\ -12 \end{matrix}$ *mp* *(decay also glissando)*

Vln. I *mp* *ppp*

Vln. II *mp* *ppp*

Vla *mf* *pp*

Vc *mf* *ppp*
 solo Cb. *pp* *gliss.* *mp* *dizz. i.v.*

Dec 1/2
 Fl. 1/2
 E. horn
 1 cl. Bb
 2
 B. Cl.
 1 Fg.
 2
 3 tm.
 4
 Perc.
 MIDI
 I vln.
 II
 vla.
 vc. 1
 vc. 2
 cb.
 cb.

large sus. cymbal.
P.A.: decay ord. hit (reversed)
chitarra: sul ponticello
pizz.
mezzo sforzato

This is a handwritten musical score for a symphony, likely from the late 19th or early 20th century. The score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with multiple staves for different instruments. The instruments listed on the left include Piccolo (pic), Flute (fl), Oboe (ob), English Horn (E. hn), Clarinet in D (cl.), Clarinet in Bb (cl. 1, 2), Bassoon (Bcl.), Bassoon in C (Bcl. 2), Horns (1-4), Trumpets (1-3), Trombones (1-3), Tuba (tub), Snare Drum (xyb), Cymbals (xyb), Percussion (perc.), Timpani (timp.), Violin I (vn I), Violin II (vn II), Viola (vb.), Violoncello (vc.), and Double Bass (cb.). The score is written in a 3/4 time signature and features a variety of musical notations, including notes, rests, and articulation marks. Dynamic markings such as *sfz*, *mf*, and *sf* are used throughout. Performance instructions like *muto* and *rubber* are also present. The score is divided into measures, with a vertical dashed line indicating a specific point in the music. The handwriting is clear and legible, typical of a composer's or arranger's manuscript.

T>>>

Perc 1
 Fl. 2
 Ob. 2
 E. Sn.
 Cl. 1
 Cl. 2
 B. Cl.
 Sax. 1
 Sax. 2
 C. Sax.
 Hr. 2
 Hr. 3
 Hr. 5
 Hr. 6
 Trp. 1
 Trp. 2
 Trp. 3
 Tuba
 Xyb.
 Marimb.
 MIDI
 vn. I
 vn. II
 via.
 w.
 cb.

Musical score for a symphony orchestra, page 14. The score includes parts for Percussion, Flute, Oboe, English Horn, Clarinets, Bass Clarinet, Saxophones, Horns, Trumpets, Tubas, Xylophone, Marimba, MIDI, Violins I and II, Viola, Woodwinds, and Cymbals. The music is in 3/4 time and features various dynamics and articulations.

This page contains a handwritten musical score for an orchestra. The instruments and parts are listed on the left side of the page:

- Zoc. 1, 2
- fl. 1, 2
- ob. 1, 2
- E.m.
- cl. 1, 2
- B.cl.
- fg. 1, 2
- ofg.
- hr. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- tr. 1, 2, 3
- trb. 1, 2, 3
- perc.
- MIDI
- harp
- vn. I
- vn. II
- va.
- vc.
- cb.

The score is written in a single system with multiple staves. It includes dynamic markings such as *mf*, *mfz*, *f*, and *fz*. There are also performance instructions like "less drum" and "1. 2. sl. mode". The notation includes various rhythmic values, accidentals, and phrasing slurs.

Handwritten musical score for a symphony orchestra, featuring various instruments such as flutes, oboes, clarinets, bassoons, and strings. The score includes tempo markings (♩ = 98 and ♩ = 76) and dynamic markings (mf, f, sfz, sfz = e, sfz = 2). The piece is marked "to pic. 3 & 4" and "st. mode". The score is divided into two systems, with the first system ending at measure 3 and the second system starting at measure 4. The instrumentation includes:

- Flutes (Fl. 1, 2)
- Oboes (ob. 1, 2)
- E-flat Clarinets (Eb. Cl.)
- B-flat Clarinets (Bb. Cl. 1, 2)
- Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.)
- Saxophones (Sax. 1, 2)
- Trumpets (tr. 1, 2, 3)
- Trombones (tbn. 1, 2, 3)
- Tuba
- Maracas (marc.)
- Musical Instruments (MIDI)
- Harps (hp.)
- Violins (vn. I, II)
- Viola (via.)
- Cello (vc.)
- Double Bass (db.)

Additional markings include "REV: 7 (10/9)", "ESQ: MINI AN", "triangle: mf", "medium - large cast: mf", "dampen", "held rattle by neck; fingers drumming on body:", and "cool legno, let bow bounce:". The score is marked with a large "8" and arrows pointing right, indicating a section of 8 measures.



Flutter-tongue

Piccoblo I
II
III
IV

trp I
II
III

trbn I
II
III

tuba

trp

MIDI

vn I

vn II

sov. viola

vla.

st. mute

st. mute

mute

mp *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

ff *mf* *f* *mf* *ff*

Picc I II III IV
 ob.
 cl.
 Sg I II
 Cfg
 Trp I II III IV
 tm I II III
 toba
 bell cymb. at crown, rubber mallet: *pp sempre*
 sizzle cymb. (bruscia): *pp sempre*
 harp
 MIDI electronic diré:
 dsp on diré: (strike, pitch lock) *ppp*
 vln I *div. 23*
 vln II *div. 23*
 violas (all) *pizz. non-div.*
 vc *pizz. non-div.*
 cb *pizz. non-div.*

Musical score for a symphony orchestra, featuring woodwinds, brass, percussion, harp, MIDI, and strings. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (pp, mf, pp), and performance instructions like "straight tone" and "flutter".

ob

♩=112

oboe

Musical score for oboe, starting with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The score includes a series of notes with dynamic markings *mf sfz* and *f sfz*. A vertical dashed line is present at the end of the first system.

tuba

Musical score for tuba, featuring a large graphic symbol **10>>>** and the instruction *spoken/sing through horn*. The score includes notes with a dynamic marking of *mf* and the text *un-kuh*.

Piano accompaniment score for multiple instruments, including strings and woodwinds. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mp*, *mf*, and *pp*. It features complex rhythmic patterns, including a section marked *5:4*. The score concludes with the instruction *divisi, sul G pp*.

Eb cl. *f me - ff 2 - ff 3* *sf sf* *ff* *mf - ff* *3 rrr*
 cl 1 *2 - ff - 6 2 sfz* *ff - me f* *ff f - me*
 cl 2 *sf - f - 2 mf* *ff - me* *sf* *f* *mf*
 B. cl *f* *mf f* *mf* *f sfz* *ff* *sf mf* *e*

perc. *3 4*
 timp *3 4*
 MID *3 4*

vn I *mf* *rrr* *me* *rrr* *me*
solo plus section (div.) *sfz*
sul tasto
 vn II *mf* *rrr* *me* *rrr* *me*
solo plus section (div.) *sfz*
sul tasto
 vla *mf* *rrr* *me* *rrr* *me*
solo plus section *sfz*
sul tasto
 vc *mf* *rrr* *me* *rrr* *me*
solo plus section *sfz*
sul tasto
 cb *mf* *rrr* *me* *rrr* *me*
solo plus section *sfz*
sul tasto

Handwritten musical score for the first system, featuring four staves with complex notation including triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings like *f*, *mf*, and *sf*.

Handwritten musical score for the second system, consisting of three staves with simplified notation, primarily using eighth notes and rests.

Handwritten musical score for the third system, featuring a dense arrangement of staves with complex notation, including many slurs, dynamic markings, and some text annotations.

Eb
 1
 Cl. Bb
 2
 bass



1
 2
 3
 4
 5
 6
 7
 8
 horn
 1
 I
 2
 Percussion (inside drums)
 3
 II
 4
 celeste
 harp
 MIDI
 I
 vn
 II
 vla
 vc
 cb.
 1
 2

1) Lower strings struck by large wool tam-tam beater. 2) Upper strings struck by snare sticks (behind nut-not on string proper).

12 >>>

13 >>>

**(rapid, unmeasured trill/rattlers which slow)*

ob 1
2

E. horn

fp 1
2

cf

horn
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

trumpet piccolo in D

MIDI

sol. violin

vn I

vn II

va

vc

cb

1
2
3
4
fl.
E♭cl
1
Cl. B♭
2
Acl.

sfz
mf
sfz*

Trp D (piccolo)

sfz mf sfz mf sfz

1
2
3
4
trp
bass
trp
trp

cresc. molto
mf
mf
mf
mf

MIX

3/4
4/16

solo violin

arco pizz
arco
mf

I
II
vn

4/16

va.

7/16

1
2
3
4
vc.

sfz
sfz
sfz

cb

sfz

Handwritten musical score for a symphony orchestra. The score includes staves for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), English Horn (Eng. Hr.), Clarinet in E-flat (E♭ Cl.), Clarinet in B-flat (B♭ Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Saxophone (Sax.), Trombone (Tbn.), Trumpet (Trp.), Percussion (Perc.), Timpani (Timp.), and strings (Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, Contrabass). The score is marked with a tempo of $\text{♩} = 76$ and features dynamic markings such as *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. A section of the score is marked "mute out" with a dashed line. A large handwritten number "14" with three arrows pointing right is written across the middle of the page. At the bottom, a MIDI section is labeled "ANGRY SWELL (:08)" and shows a digital audio waveform with time markers at 2, 3, 8, 11, and 16 seconds. The page number "29" is visible in the bottom right corner.

14 >>>

ANGRY SWELL (:08)

digital audio:

Fl. 1 & 2
Ob. 1 & 2
Eng. 1 & 2
Bp. 1 & 2
Bb. 1 & 2
A. cl.
Fg. 1 & 2
Og.

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8

1
2
3
1
2
3
tuba
tmp

perc
harp
NIP1

I
Vn.
II
vla
vc
cb

digital audio:
orchestral RT
reverb (ans. 2000)
- 20

Soli:
con
Sordano

$\text{♩} = 60$

Totò Cartoons

A set of ten empty musical staves, arranged in two groups of five. The top group consists of five staves with treble clefs, and the bottom group consists of five staves with bass clefs. These staves are currently blank, intended for the accompaniment of the solo parts.

Solo musical notation for five instruments, arranged in two groups of two and one. The notation includes various dynamics such as *pp*, *mf*, and *mezz*, as well as performance markings like *pizz arco*. The music is written in a 3/8 time signature and features complex rhythmic patterns and phrasing. A large asterisk symbol is located to the right of the solo notation.

* suggested ending, optional: segue to next part (available on request).