## Full Score (Transposed)

# Ripple the Ocean of Eyes 

for Orchestra

## by-Aidan Gold

4 Horns in F
3 Trumpets in C (all with straight and harmon mutes)
3 Trombones (2 Tenor, 1 Bass - all with straight mutes)
Tuba
Timpani -4 drums, plus the following Crotales to be placed on the Timpani: C4, C\#4
(sounding 15 ma )
3 Percussionists:
Percussion 1: Bass Drum, Kick Drum, 2 Triangles (high and low), 2 Jingles (Sleigh Bell-like, high and low), Sandpaper Blocks, Splash Cymbal, Your Favorite Drum (a unique/special drum that you really like the sound of)
Percussion 2: Marimba (4 oct., optional 5 oct. part), Large Metal Can (e.g. an upsidown trash can), Alarm Bell (Fire Bell), Metal Spring, Snare Drum, Large Field Drum, Misc. Wind Chimes (metal, glass, wood, etc. mix freely), Castanets, Your Favorite Drum (a unique/special drum that you really like the sound of)
Percussion 3: Tam-tam (the largest one you have), Water Gong (small Tam-tam with water bucket for raising/ lowering pitch), Bell Plate (any pitch, the largest one you have), 2 Wooblocks (high and low), Clash Cymbals, 3 "Special" Cymbals (strange and/or unique sounding cymbals that you have - e.g. spiral cymbal, a cracked china cymbal, etc. - be creative!), Tambourine, Your Favorite Drum (a unique/special drum that you really like the sound of)

## Harp

## Piano (strings accessible, doubling Celesta)

## Violin I

Violin II
Viola
Cello
Bass

## Program Note

The conductor stands in front of the orchestra, ready to begin. As they raise their hands, they are greeted by dozens of pairs of eyes lighting up - each one unique and slightly different like the musicians they belong to, but so many that, like molecules of water, they begin to blend into an ocean, as the sound of an individual is supposed to blend into the collective of the orchestra. However, there is yet another reason for the heightened anticipation of this specific moment - the musicians do not know which of them will be chosen, who will be the recipient of the conductor's proverbial casting of a stone into the water - who will initiate a ripple in the ocean of eyes. Is it the conductor who holds all the power in this moment? Perhaps, but once the ripple begins it is quite literally out of their hands. Each musician enters a few seconds after they hear one of their neighbors begin playing, each with their own idiosyncratic version of the music, at their own speed, on their own instrument, with their own interpretation, infused by their unique personality, in a way that no other member of the orchestra can, using that which no conductor or composer can control - their artistic voice. Soon the entire orchestra joins the ripple, and we stop hearing each voice, and start hearing a sea of sound. The conductor reaches their arms across and around the sea, pushing the water - and the ocean responds, each part of it in their own way, as individual, as collective, as one, as many, and completely controlled by no one.

This is a piece about questioning, dialoguing with, and challenging aspects of the relationships between the composer, conductor, orchestra, and individual musicians - a play of agency, control, freedom, and choice, tumbling through ripples, imitations, droplets, games, waves, thunderclaps, and cascades. At times the conductor asserts control and plays the orchestra like a giant instrument, panning between different sonic landscapes, improvising hits and swells, and starting ripples. At other times the orchestra wrests control away from them and from the composer, as the individual musicians decide who is going to play the next melody, or when they will enter, or just how loud that next tam-tam hit will be.

## Performance Directions

This piece is a combination of several sections in standard notation and several interactive or improvisatory sections. Each section has instructions on how it is performed for the conductor and for the musicians, both of which are included in this full score. Several sections use indefinite instrumentation, in which the instrumentation is determined by the conductor or by other musicians on the spot, and because of this, there are no instrument names listed in the score for these sections.

The main score of this piece is found in pages 4-57 of this document. After the main score, pages 58-67 are a "Reference" score that lists every instrument's possible part for sections where the full score uses indefinite instrumentation, such as the beginning and rehearsal letters D, E, G, I, J, N, R, and T.

The conductor should use a cue or gesture to signal each rehearsal mark that is significantly different from improvisatory cues within each rehearsal mark, and should communicate what this cue will be to the orchestra beforehand so that everyone is clear on when they arrive at various rehearsal marks.

Several of the interactive events in this piece involve the musicians listening to and reacting to their neighbors - that is, the musicians next to them, in front of them, and behind them. Each musician should be aware of who their neighbors are, and be able to hear them.

Ideally, all the decisions made by the conductor and the musicians should happen in real time - the musicians should not know beforehand who the conductor will point at to begin various sections, and the other musicians should also not know who the musicians playing the melodies in rehearsals $D$ and $R$ will choose to play the next melody.

## Notation

= the standard system divider symbol. In this score, several indeterminate passages have gaps in the page between parts of the orchestra doing different things, but these are not system breaks. Unless this symbol specifically appears, there is $n \boldsymbol{n} \boldsymbol{o}$ system break in the page.
 happens (such as all the musicians reaching a certain repeated cell)

= these solid lines indicate a continuation of the previous event and usually appear in one of two situations:
$=$ sustain the note until the end of the line, usually used in the context of an open bar.
$=$ repeat the figure between the repeat signs until the end of the solid line. Similarly to music within an open bar, this can be either in strict tempo or freely, depending on which is specified in the score. Note that these repeat signs are not barlines - they occur within other bars. Repeats are never used as barlines in this piece.

$=$ play a very high / very low note - the exact pitch is up to the performer.

= (for harp) buzz effect, used in two different contexts: for a 'thunder' gliss, where you gliss. quickly across the low strings so that they collide and buzz together, and for a pedal buzz, where you pluck a string with the pedal in half position.

$=$ a harmonic. For Harp and Piano, this is notated at played pitch and sounds an octave higher. For Strings, this is notated at sounding pitch.

Piano Pedaling is left up to the performer. The pedal should be depressed for all inside-the-piano effects (plucking the strings, stopping the strings to create harmonics, etc.)


Disclaimer: the instruments will enter in a different order depending on the seating of the orchestra and who the conductor chooses to start playing first Each player has a slightly different part. The parts on this page do not necessarily reflect the order that the instruments will actually enter (i.e., the first instrument does not have to be a treble instrument). For a list of the specific music in each player's part, see the Reference Score (pg. 58).




CONDUCTOR: Conduct the meter with the right hand for Trombones and Percussion. With your left hand, continue panning around the rest of the orchestra as before.
B Conductor beats with RH $J=69$





## CONDUCTOR:

Choose one musician (any instrument except Low Brass, Perc.
Harp, Pno., and Low Strings) and point to them to begin
playing the written melody. Then remain mostly still as the musicians pass the melody between themselves.


## MUSICIANS (all except LOW BRASS, PERC., HARP, PIANO, and LOW STRINGS):

IF the conductor points at you, STAND UP and then play melody 1. After finishing, choose one other musician (any except low brass, perc., harp, pno., or low strings) and point to them, and then sit down.
IF another musician points at you, STAND UP and play the NEXT melody (if they played melody 2, you play melody 3, etc.). Once you finish the melody, choose one other musician and point to them, then sit down.
If you are chosen to play melody 6 , sit down after playing without pointing to anyone else.
If you are not pointed at, don't play anything. While others are playing a melody, turn to watch them in case they point at you next!

## LOW BRASS, PERC. 1 and 2, HARP, PIANO, and LOW STRINGS:

Continue playing your sounds / figures from the beginning of rehearsal D, fading out where notated.
BACKGROUND (while the other musicians are passing the melody between each other):


For a list of the specific music in each player's part, see the Reference Score (pg. 59-60).

E

## CONDUCTOR:

Like the beginning - choose any musician (except for Flutes, Perc. 1 and 2, and Piano), and cue them to begin playing.
However, this time, cue with an upbeat at $=138$ and continue beating quarter notes at $\quad=138$
throughout this section - the musicians will synchronize with this tempo.

$\stackrel{>}{\boldsymbol{p} \boldsymbol{p}}$ cresc.


## MUSICIANS (all except FLUTES, PERC. 1 and 2, and PIANO):

 Begin playing IF:a) conductor cues you OR
b) 2-4 BEATS (quarter notes at $d=138$ ) after anyone next to you (either to the side or directly in front or behind you) begins playing.

Play strictly in time at $d=138$, following the conductor's pulse. Once you arrive at the repeated figure, repeat it until the conductor cues rehearsal F.


In strict rhythm d $=138$


## FLUTES, PERC. 1 and 2, and PIANO:

Enter right at rehearsal $\mathbf{E}$, regardless of who the conductor cues first. Following the conductor's pulse, play your part as notated at $d=138$, fade away, and then don't play until the conductor cues rehearsal F.
E In strict rhythm $d=138$ slap tongue







## CONDUCTOR:

Stop conducting a pulse. Give cues to various instruments (other than Perc. 1 and Strings). Whenever you cue them, they will play a
short accented note. Perform a rhythmic improvisation for approx. 25 seconds with these cues, as if you were 'playing' the orchestra like
a giant keyboard. Feel free to vary the speed and different combinations of instruments, and to use both hands simultaneously or


For a list of the specific music in each player's part, see the Reference Score (pg. 62).

## MUSICIANS (all except PERC. 1 and STRINGS):

Every time the conductor cues in your direction, play figure $\underline{\boldsymbol{c}}$.

## PERC. 1 and STRINGS:

Repeat figures at $\boldsymbol{=} 138$ throughout this page. Conductor is not pulsing - Perc. 1
keeps time and Strings listen to the pulse of the kick drum to stay together.






For a list of the specific music in each player's part, see the Reference Score (pg. 63).
MUSICIANS (all except PERC., HARP, and PIANO):
Every time the conductor points their hands in your general direction, play figure d. Don't
coordinate your entrances or swells with other musicians.

## PERC. and HARP:

Repeat figures at $\bullet=138$ throughout this page. Conductor is not pulsing - Perc. 2 keeps time


CONDUCTOR: This is the same as rehearsal I (the previous page), but the pitches/patterns have changed. Improvise with fluid hand


For a list of the specific music in each player's part, see the Reference Score (pg. 63).

## MUSICIANS (all except PERC., HARP and PIANO):

Every time the conductor moves their hands in your general direction, play figure $\boldsymbol{e}$. Don't coordinate your entrances or swells with other musicians.

## PERC., HARP and PIANO:

Repeat figures at $d=138$ throughout this page. Conductor is not pulsing - Perc. 2 keeps time and Perc. 1, 3, Harp and Piano listen to the accents of the marimba to stay together.











## HORNS and TRUMPETS:

Begin playing IF:
a) conductor points at you

OR
b) 3-4 seconds after a Trumpet or Horn player next to you begins playing. Play without regard to staying together with each other or the rest of the orchestra. Once you arrive at the repeated figure, repeat it until the conductor signals rehearsal O .









CONDUCTOR: Once you reach the open bar before rehearsal 0 , continue pulsing at $\bullet=138$. Wait until all the Trumpets and Horns have made it to their repeated figure, and then cue rehearsal O (next page)










R


MUSICIANS (all except CBSN., LOW BRASS, PERC., HARP, PIANO., and LOW STRINGS):
IF the conductor points at you, STAND UP and then play melody 1. After finishing, choose one other musician (any except Cbsn., Low
Brass, Perc., Harp, Pno., or Low Strings) and point to them, and then sit down.
IF another musician points at you, STAND UP and play the NEXT melody (if they played melody 2 , you play melody 3 , etc.). Once you finish the melody, choose one other musician and point to them, then sit down.
If you are not pointed at, don't play anything. While others are playing a melody, turn to watch them in case they point at you next!

LOW BRASS, PERC. 1 and 2, HARP, PIANO, and LOW STRINGS:
Continue playing your sounds / figures from the beginning of rehearsal R, fading out where notated.


## CONDUCTOR:

After the performer playing melody 4 enters, cue the note marked $*$ for the melody 4 player AND Contrabassoon, Perc. 3, and Piano. At rehearsal S, cue the Marimba and conduct the 2 bars of rehearsal S normally.


## MELODY 4 PLAYER, CONTRABASSOON, PERC. 3, and PIANO:

The note marked with a $*$ is cued by the conductor, and should be simultaneous between all four instruments.

[^0]Disclaimer: the instruments will enter in a different order depending on the seating of the orchestra and who the conductor chooses to start playing. In this case, each player has a significantly different part. The parts on this page do not necessarily reflect the order that the instruments will actually enter. $\mathbf{T} \quad$ For a list of the specific music in each player's part, see the Reference Score (pg. 67).


## CONDUCTOR CUE 2



T In strict rhythm $d=152$


## ALL MUSICIANS (except PERC. 2): <br> Begin playing IF: <br> a) conductor cues you OR

b) 2-4 BEATS (quarter notes at $d=152$ ) after anyone next to you (either to the side or directly in front or behind you) begins playing.

Play strictly in time at $d=152$, following the conductor's pulse. Once you arrive at the repeated figure, repeat it until the conductor cues rehearsal $U$.

PERC. 2:
Continue playing at $\boldsymbol{d}=152$, and repeat the repeated figure until the conductor cues rehearsal U.

CONDUCTOR CUE 3













MUSICIANS: Same as rehearsals W, Y, and AA - play figure $i$ ONCE when the conductor's hand points in your direction.

1st fermata is over when
tam-tam stops
(not cued by conductor)



This is the end of the piece. What follows is a Reference Score for the sections of the piece notated with indefinite instrumentation in the main score:

$$
\text { Measure } 1 \text { and rehearsals D, E, G, I, J, N, R, and T. }
$$

The Reference Score displays ONLY the music that each instrument has in their specific parts during these sections, and is not a reflection of how those parts should be performed together as an orchestra. For directions on how to perform these sections, consult the main score.

Reference Score

## m. 1 REFERENCE - See pg. 4








## N REFERENCE - see pgs. 31-35

(the rest of the orchestra continues in metered time at $\boldsymbol{\bullet}=138$ )
Freely, at your own tempo $\bullet=80-108$

Hn 1



Freely, at your own tempo $=60.90$

2 Freely, at your own tempo $=60 \cdot 90$
VIn


T REFERENCE - see pgs. 44-45



[^0]:    At rehearsal S, the conductor will conduct normally. Melody 4 player - fade out as written and then sit down.

