

# THE SOUND OF A SOUND

By Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

## INSTRUMENTATION

Conductor Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5
Vocalist	1

Put all those “extra-curricular” sounds your students like to make on their instruments to good use in this fun and entertaining novelty selection. Your audience will laugh out loud as each section takes a turn adding an unusual sound to a simple dance in 3/4 time. As the piece progresses, the counting gets more and more challenging, keeping all of your students on their toes. There’s even a part for a solo “vocalist” to show off their screaming and gargling skills!

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

Measures 16, 32, 60, 88, and 140 should sound very chaotic as the players produce their “sound” randomly with no regard to rhythmic pulse. The conductor should stop conducting completely in these measures. How long these measures last is up to the conductor (around 5 seconds is suggested).

A “cut-off” from the conductor should be used to signal to the players to stop making sound. Following mm. 16, 32, 60, and 88, the tempo should resume with very little pause. There should be no pause between mm. 140 and 141, with the conductor cueing the vocalist (after five seconds or so of chaos!), whose scream on beat one of m. 141 will signal players to stop making sound.

The vocalist should be seated in front of the orchestra next to the conductor, dressed formally (in a choir robe if possible), holding their music in a plain choir folder, with a bottle of water at their side. A ceremonial introduction of the vocalist before the piece begins will be most effective. The vocalist should take in all of the proceedings very seriously and should at no time show any emotion. At m. 102, the vocalist should stand and open their folder in preparation for their solo. The vocalist should give the impression that they are reading music from their folder.



# The Sound of a Sound

CONDUCTOR SCORE  
Duration - 3:45

By Richard Meyer (ASCAP)

Andantino semplice (♩ = 132)

**Violins**  
I  
II

**Viola**

**Cello**

**String Bass**

**Vocalist**

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

Front half of section (stand, then sit)

Back half of section (stand, then sit)

*sim.*

*sim.*

*div.*

10 11 12 13 14

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

**Tutti**  
(Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off)

*pizz.*  
4

*p*

*mp*  
(*pizz.*)

*p*

*pizz.*

*p*

*pizz.*

*p*

15 16 17 18

Rapid gliss. on E string  
to end of fingerboard

arco *f* *pizz.*

Score for measures 19-22. The score includes parts for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Vocal. Measure 19 features a rapid glissando on the E string of the violin I part, marked *f* and *arco*. Measure 20 has a *pizz.* marking. Measures 21 and 22 continue the string accompaniment. The vocal part is silent.

19 20 21 22

arco *f* 25

Score for measures 23-27. The score includes parts for Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Vocal. Measure 23 features a rapid glissando on the E string of the violin I part, marked *f* and *arco*. Measure 25 has a *f* marking. Measures 26 and 27 continue the string accompaniment. The vocal part is silent.

23 24 25 26 27

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

*pizz.*

*p*

28 29 30 31

Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off

arco

33 Vivace (♩ = 170)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

32 33 34

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass  
Vocal

35 36 37

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 35, 36, and 37. It features six staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Vocal. The vocal line is empty. The string parts consist of rhythmic patterns of eighth and sixteenth notes. A '4' is written above the second measure of the Viola part. A 'V' is written above the second measure of the String Bass part. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass  
Vocal

38 39 40

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 38, 39, and 40. It features six staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, String Bass, and Vocal. The vocal line is empty. The string parts continue with rhythmic patterns. A '39' is written above the first measure of the Viola part. A 'pizz.' instruction with two '1' fingerings is written above the first measure of the Viola part in measure 40. A 'V' is written above the first measure of the String Bass part. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

arco

pizz.

arco

rit.

4

41 42 43

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

Tempo I (♩ = 132)

Bartok pizz.

*p*

*mp*

*p*

*ff*

Bartok pizz.

*ff*

44 45 46 47 48

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

arco V

*p*

*ff*

*p*

49 50 51 52 53

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

arco V

*ff*

*ff*

*p*

*ff*

*p*

54 55 56 57 58 59



61 Vivace (♩ = 170)

**Vlns. I**  
Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off  
*f*  
arco

**Vlns. II**  
*ff*  
*f*

**Vla.**  
*f*

**Cello**  
Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off  
*f*  
arco

**Str. Bass**  
*ff*  
*f*

**Vocal**

60 61 62

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

63 64 65

67

Vlns.

I  
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

66

67

68

Vlns.

I  
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

69

70

71

72



73 Tempo I (♩ = 132)

**Vlns. I**  
*pp*

**Vlns. II**  
*pp*

**Vla.**  
*mf*  
on C string  
1

**Cello**  
*f*

**Str. Bass**  
*p*

**Vocal**

73 74 75 76 77

**Vlns. I**  
81 *pizz.*

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**  
*sim.*

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

78 79 80 81 82

arco

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

83 84 85 86 87

89 Vivace (♩ = 170)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

88 89 90

Each individual play randomly with no definite rhythm until cut-off

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

91 92 93

**Vlns.**  
I  
II

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

94 95 96

*ff* *pizz.*

1

**Vlns. I**  
arco

**Vlns. II**  
arco  
*f*

**Vla.**

**Cello**  
arco  
1

**Str. Bass**  
arco  
*f*

**Vocal**

*molto rit.*

97 98 99

102 **Slow and solemn** (♩ = 88)

**Vlns. I**  
*mf*

**Vlns. II**  
arco  
*mp*

**Vla.**  
*f*  
*mp*

**Cello**  
*f*  
*mp*

**Str. Bass**  
arco  
*mf* > *mp*

**Vocal**  
Stand and open folder

100 101 102 103 104

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

Scream!

*ff*

105 106 107 108 109

110 Tempo I (♩ = 132)

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

Scream!

*mf*

110 111 112 113 114

117 Vivace (♩ = 170)

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

Scream!

115 116 117 118

**Vlns. I**

**Vlns. II**

**Vla.**

**Cello**

**Str. Bass**

**Vocal**

119 120 121



123

Vlns.

I  
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

122

Scream!

123

124

Vlns.

I  
II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

125

Scream!  
Take a drink

126

127

130

Vlns. I *f* *mp* pizz.

Vlns. II *f* *mp* pizz.

Vla. *f*

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f*

Vocal Gargle on pitch

128 129 130 131

134

Vlns. I *f* arco

Vlns. II *f* arco

Vla. *f* pizz. *ff* arco

Cello *f*

Str. Bass *f* *ff* arco

Vocal *f* Scream!

132 133 134 135

Vlns.

I

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

136 137 138 139

Everyone play randomly with no definite rhythm until scream

arco

pizz.

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

Scream!

Vlns.

I

II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

Vocal

140 141 142 143

A tempo

arco

pizz.

f

ff

f

ff

f

ff

ff

ff

Scream! on cue