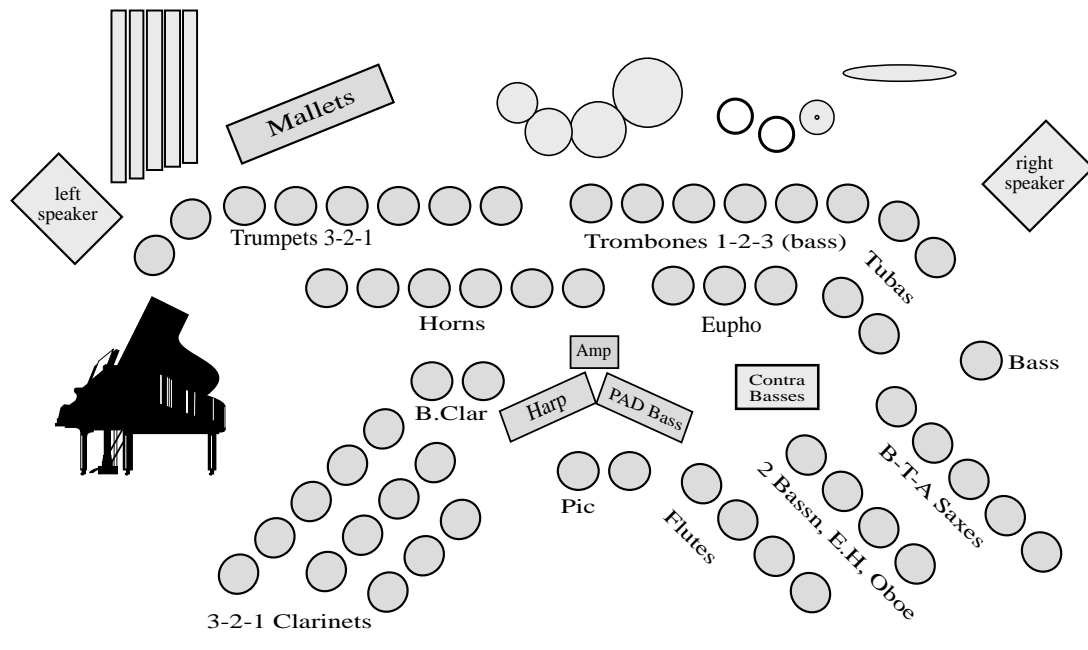


A BRIEF INTRO TO MUSIC BY STEPHEN MELILLO



Angle the asymmetrically positioned speakers, back through the ensemble and toward the keyboardists to allow for warmth of sound and proper mixing. Dependent upon numbers, the Flutes and Clarinets become interchangeable. I have found that for "younger" groups, the flutist's posture is better when staged in reverse of the diagram. The diagram represents the optimum ensemble as composed for. Since I myself have hardly ever had such an ensemble, rest assured that the Music will work in a variety of "in-the-trenches" realities. One thing not revealed in the diagram, but which is of paramount importance, is **space**. By example, I usually allow for **12 feet** of space between the Horns and the Trupnets. With the diagram serving only as a **guide**, I often stage the Horns in the center, and with great space in back of them. So too do the Trombones have much more space afforded them. As another example, in a group of **36** Musicians recording the Chapter 2 CD, there was **65 feet** of space of between the Conductor and the Timpanist. Of course such spacing is not always possible, **BUT**, I maintain that you have yet to fully explore the sonic-scape of this idiom until you experiment with **space**, and sometimes, dependent upon the Music, the use of risers. Godspeed!

Dynamics are exaggerated by stressing the quieter markings. Crescendo markings which do not indicate a "starting" volume level should be considered as starting from "**nothing**". Follow the line shapes *dynamically*. As a general statement... What opens up in terms of interval should also open up in terms of faster air and bow markings, I defer to the conductor and concert master.

A crescendo has a different correlation to time as it expands to a destination or "arrival" point in **STORM Music**. The picture below, better illustrates the effect, which, to ensure a great rendering, must be felt and not merely executed. From Silence, stay to the lower portion of the slope longer... pushing the dynamic effect closer to the end or destination point.

Percussionists should further exaggerate this effect, allowing the winds to remain transparent, staying out of the crescendo until the very last moments. Non-pitched percussionists and people playing repeated notes under lines that rise and fall must do their best to listen and swell appropriately. The result should be a continuous succession of rising and falling, swelling and building. *The dynamic architecture is the Music.*

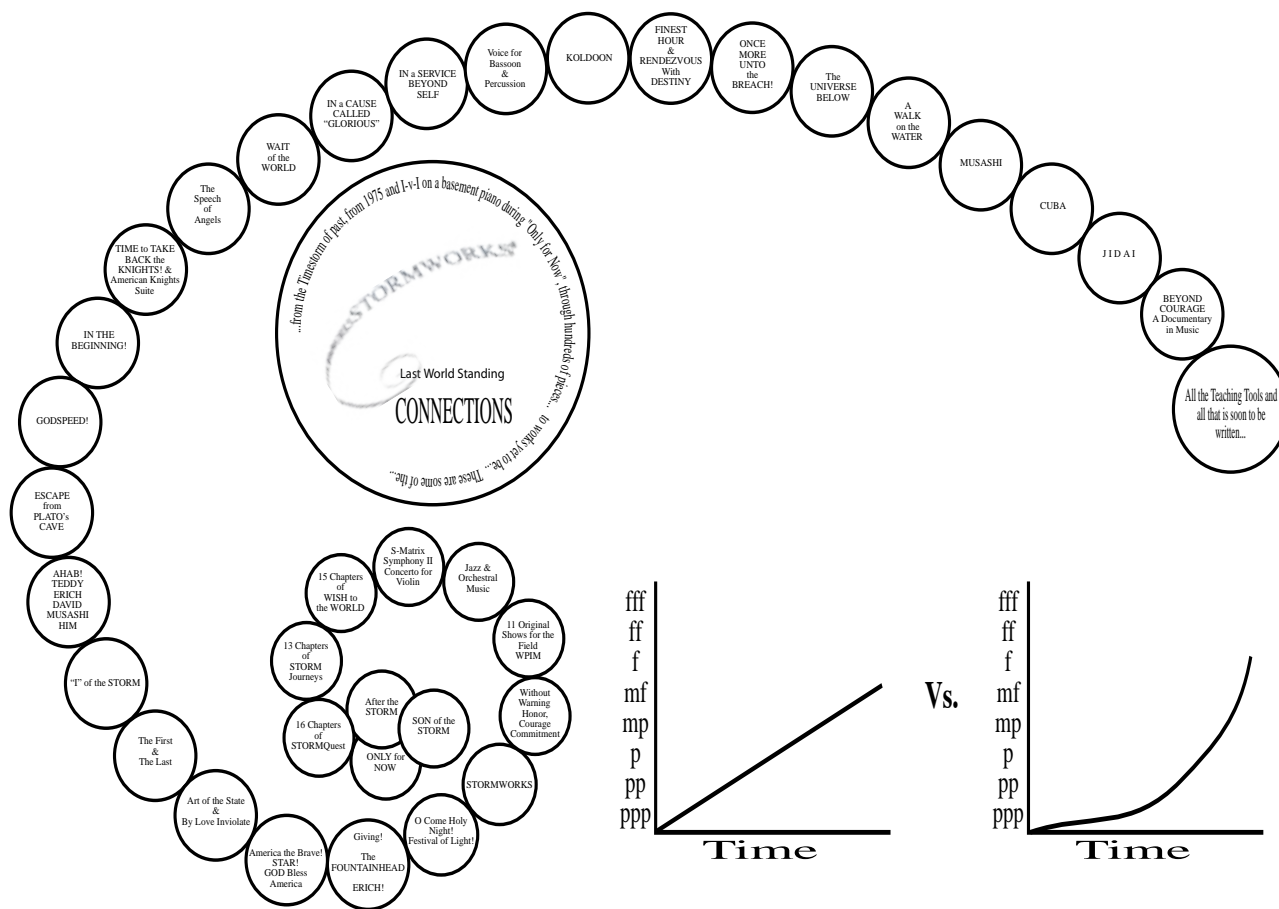
INTENDED ACCENTS are often the result of the way the rhythms are grouped. These are rendered automatically and it saves the eye the additional burden of seeing accent markings above every note. Unless marked to the contrary, usually with tenuto markings,

syncopated rhythms automatically receive a lift, a separation, an accent. A triplet figure in music in 2's is syncopated, therefore, stressed and separated. A duplet figure in music in 3's is syncopated, therefore stressed and separated. This lift and separation are of paramount importance in establishing impetus, pulse and relentless drama.

This marking: \wedge , in all of the "storm" Music, means that the note should have a weighted, symphonic accent. Imagine a full downbow swiped across the string. A swipe is the best way I can explain it... full, fast and hard. It is not necessarily short and it is much more like a jazz style notation... "AAHT!"

A conductor, in viewing the score, may find an A Major chord, for example, spelled vertically as A, Db, E. Please understand that the Music is conceived in a horizontal manner and that notes and enharmonics are chosen based on, more times than not, what the instrumental Musician will read.

The **HARP**, electronic or not, the **PIANO**, electronic or not and the **PAD BASS** must be mixed into the ensemble as any acoustic instrument would be. A new world of colour and student involvement awaits those who will



instrument would be. Just think of these sounds as **REAL** and *beautiful* and capable of orchestral dimension. A new world of colour and student involvement awaits those who will **STORMWORLD** for more.

HARP notation is written for a one-staved harp... (considering, of course, that the part is most likely to be played on a keyboard.) Therefore, the Musician should be aware of how to respond to harp notation. A 7-note figure with a harp-like graphic notation represents a gliss across the whole keyboard. Do not exceed C5 as this will sound associated with the Orchestra. Fast rhythmic figures are designed to work as tremolos between the two hands. The faster written rhythms, sextuplets or 32nd notes are not to be read precisely, but as splashes of colour and rendered in a *harp-like* manner.

Percussion of Choice: One 18" Medium-Thin and one 16" Paper-Thin Zildjian Suspended Cymbals, one 22" Medium-Heavy German Symphonic Zildjian Crash, one Tambourine with German Silver Jingles, one Piccolo Snare, tightly tuned with coated batter head, Deagan Silver Chimes, Large Orchestral Bass Drum, and of course, the highest possible quality of Timpani. The designation "Glockenspiel" always means "Orchestra Bells".

As always, there is a tremendous calls upon the sensitive breath-like phrasing of an insightful Conductor. To your sensitive vision, I leave these languid moments... those whispers which, indeed, are the essence... and the very reason for everything else. Godspeed. *Stephen Melillo*

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