

PROGRAM

I. DEPARTURE

1. [Tutti] THRENODY I: Night of the Electric Insects
2. [Trio] Sounds of Bones and Flutes
3. [Duo] Lost Bells
4. [Solo: Cadenza accompagnata] Devil-music
5. [Duo] Danse Macabre
(Duo alternativo: Dies Irae)

II. ABSENCE

6. [Trio] Pavana Lachrymae (Der Tod und das Mädchen)
(Solo obbligato: Insect Sounds)
7. [Tutti] THRENODY II: BLACK ANGELS!
8. [Trio] Sarabanda de la Muerte Oscura
(Solo obbligato: Insect Sounds)
9. [Duo] Lost Bells (Echo)
(Duo alternativo: Sounds of Bones and Flutes)

III. RETURN

10. [Solo: Aria accompagnata] God-music
11. [Duo] Ancient Voices
12. [Trio] Ancient Voices (Echo)
13. [Tutti] THRENODY III: Night of the Electric Insects

(NUMEROLOGY)

13 times 7 and
7 times 13

7 in 13

13 over 7

7 and 13

13 times 7

13 under 13

*) 7 times 7 and
13 times 13

13 over 13

7 times 13

13 and 7

7 over 13

13 in 7

7 times 13 and
13 times 7

*) This central motto is also the numerological basis of the entire work

Commissioned by the University of Michigan and Dedicated to the Stanley Quartet
(G. Ross, G. Rosseels, R. Courte, J. Jelinek)

[IMAGES I]

BLACK ANGELS

THIRTEEN IMAGES FROM THE DARK LAND

for Electric String Quartet

George Crumb
(in tempore belli, 1970)

I. DEPARTURE

1. Threnody I: Night of the Electric Insects [Tutti] [13 times 7 and 7 times 13]

Vibrant, intense! ♩ = 60
sempre sul pont. e glissando

Electric Violin I.
Electric Violin II.
Electric Viola.
Electric Cello.

7 3 4 7

7

7

7

*) Make a continuous glissando, without dwelling on given pitches. The tremolo should be extremely rapid.

**) The numbers under brackets indicate duration in seconds; and since quintuplet = 1 second, play 7 quintuplet groups in first bracket, 3 groups in second bracket, etc.

7. Threnody II: Black Angels! [Tutti]

7 times 7 and 13 times 13

Furiously, with great energy! ♩ = ca. 200 *

The musical score is written for four instruments: Electric Violin I, Electric Violin II, Electric Viola, and Electric Cello. It consists of several systems of music. The first system includes a 3-measure rest for the violins. The score is filled with complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth notes. Performance instructions include 'sul pont.', 'pizz.', 'arco sul pont.', 'trillo di diavolo', and 'shout ff'. There are also dynamic markings such as 'ff', 'mf', and 'mp'. The score includes Japanese text 'くminatatu!' and 'jū san!' with phonetic guides. The piece concludes with a 'tutta forza!' marking.

* This piece should be performed in a very free manner. However, all precisely indicated durations should be approximately in tempo.

** ♯ = a percussive pizzicato

*** The numeral thirteen in Japanese, Russian, and Swahili. Pronounce: Joo-sahn, Tree-nahl'-sahl, koo-me'nahi'lah-too (g = slight pause between syllables)

