

Robert Richardson

SOUNDPIECE  
for Men's Glee Club

NOTES

BALLOONS. Should need about six, but experiment around until a good number is found, making sure that they are never too loud. To be played in a variety of ways, from rubbing to letting the air leak out. This also should be experimented with, and the balloon players should work out their own part according to what seems best in the context.

BELLS. Should be small, as worn on leather around the neck or on shoelaces. Try to get as many different sounding bells as possible. Be sure that they don't get too loud, and work on stereo placement and manner in ringing them.

GIUITAR. Must be steel-stringed and played with pick. Bottleneck or metal bar should be used to bar. Try for as many different kinds of sound as possible.

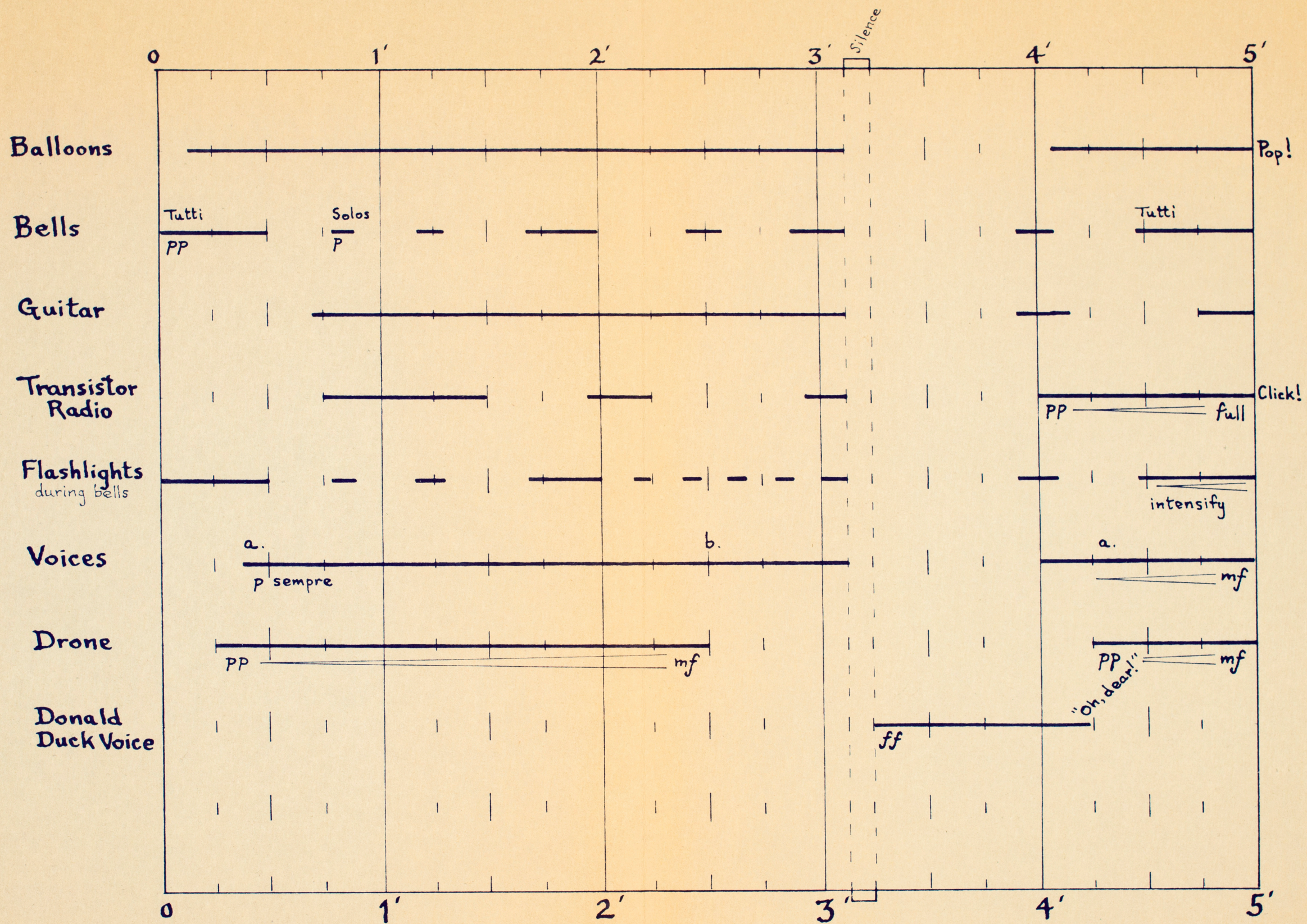
TRANSISTOR RADIO. Rather large portable, but it must be transistorized. Try different things, like tuning it, and finding obnoxious advertisements. Volume control is important. Sneak it onto the stage with audience unaware. Preferably in back row, so it sounds from an unseen spot.

FLASHLIGHTS. Use as many as seem appropriate; put colored jells on them. House lights as low as possible for entire piece.

DRONE. Two good basses and two good baritones, back row center. In fifths, strong, but just a base to the rest of the music. Use different vowel sounds, but do what seems best to the singers. Change key for second entrance?

VOICES. While the drone is going, the voices should be singing Gregorian Chant lines, using Latin phrases, preferably secular in nature ("pecunia radix malorum omnium," "amor vincit omnia," etc. — cf. Canterbury Tales) in the "a" sections. Decide on a

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mode, or even a particular chant. The more the voices work together, the more it will sound like one voice even in improvisation. When the drone ends, the voices should do pitchless mutterings and mumbblings ("b"), preferably with the stereo idea of moving the sound back and forth.

DONALD DUCK VOICE. This is really the only solo instrument in the piece. Merely begin reading an interesting text after the grand pause, as loudly and calmly as possible. The end of the speech comes in regular voice, words noted on the score.

MISCELLANEOUS. Perhaps the club will want to add other sounds, such as hand claps, foot stamps, and that sort of thing. But the main idea to get across by the individual members is a feeling of calmness and relaxed minds; not "controlled," but relaxed because they are free. Try not to let anything get too loud or dominate, with the exception of the Donald Duck Voice. Perhaps a few snickers or giggles after 20 or 30 seconds of the D. D. Voice, but if a tension builds up in the audience, don't let it off the hook.

The main thing is that the members of the club will have to discuss the piece and really work together, not shrinking from new ideas as long as the public impression remains relaxed.

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