

Alexander Wu

June 2026

Concert Score

fever therapy

for flutes, bass clarinet, soprano voice, violin, and percussion

duration: 9m

fever therapy

Concert Score

Alexander Wu

duration: 9m

Instrumentation

flutes (bass flute, C flute)

bass clarinet

soprano voice

violin

percussion

china cymbal (on a tray table)

assorted metal objects

squiggle wiggle writer

bass drum (w/ dampening cloth)

crotales (F#6, B6, C#7)

vibraphone

Program Note

I like having a moderate fever. A forced pause. A respectable excuse. I hear, see, and smell things differently, and sometimes a new method of perception stays after recovery. My memory gets altered. Faint recollections become amplified by my heightened senses—an error-ridden process. New interpretations override the old ones such that I can't tell if the new ones are completely false, but that doesn't matter since the old interpretations were often false in the first place. There are a few recurring images every time I get a fever. I am never certain if they really are the same every time. When I told my therapist how fever would bring me joy, he said malaria-induced fever was indeed used to treat neurosyphilis in the early-mid twentieth century (through a very different mechanism than described here, I presume).

Technical Notes

General

Bass flute and crotales are always transposed.

Extended techniques and special notation are explained inline or in the footnotes.

Multiphonic fingering diagrams are included in the score.

Three tremolo lines indicate unmeasured tremolo.

To both acknowledge my inspirations and demonstrate the less common extended techniques, a few reference works are included below:

Bass Clarinet

Color glissandi can be found in many pieces by Salvatore Sciarrino, such as his wind quintet *Il silenzio degli oracoli* (1989).

Violin

Halftone harmonics can be found in Jürg Frey's *streichquartett 2* (1998/2000).

Percussion

My use of **squiggle wiggle writer** was inspired by Jacob Felix Heule's improvisations, and I am using it with his permission. [Here](#) is a short demonstration of some sonic possibilities.

Tempo: ♩ = 48

Annotations:

- for flute, √ always indicates an upward embouchure glissando as exaggerated as possible (about a quarter-tone)
- color gliss: the upper voice (played by l.h.) is modulated by the lower voice (played by r.h.)
- for voice, √ always indicates an upward glissando spanning about 3 quarter tones
- half-tone harmonics: finger the lower note with normal pressure and the upper note with harmonic pressure; the ideal sound is airy with a hint of both pitches
- flaut.
- ord.
- (deadstroke)
- Vibraphone**

Parts: Bass Flute, Bass Clarinet, Voice, Violin, Percussion

Performance Notes:

- Bass Flute:** *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*
- Bass Clarinet:** *ppp*, *ppp*
- Voice:** [m] *sempre ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*
- Violin:** *ppp*, *pp*, *ppp*
- Percussion:** ♩ = 48 (before starting, dampen Bass Drum), *pp*

Measure Numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

B. Fl. $\text{(\sharp\flat)}$

B. Cl. color gliss

Voice

Vln. I (sounding E7)

Perc. Bass Drum (dampened) remove cloth

ppp

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

whistle tone
(aim for 5th partials
and above [G#, B, D])

22

B. Fl. *pp* *sempre*

B. Cl. *pp* *sempre*

Voice *pp*

Vln. I (sounding G#7) *ppp*

flaut. I (sounding B7) *mp ppp*

22 B.D. (undampened)
use elbow to raise pitch *pp non cresc.*

Perc. *pp*

Vibraphone *ppp*

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

B. Fl.

B. Cl.

Voice

Vln.

Perc.

36

36

take squiggle wiggle writer (sww)

29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36

musical score for measures 37-41, featuring staves for B. Fl., B. Cl., Voice, Vln., Perc., and a bottom staff.

Measures 37-41:

- B. Fl.:** *pp* sempre. Measure 41 has a key signature change to one sharp (F#).
- B. Cl.:** *pp* sempre. Includes sixteenth-note runs with fingerings 6 and 5, and triplet markings (3).
- Voice:** *pp* sempre. Includes triplet markings (3).
- Vln.:** *pp*. Includes an "air (mute w/ l.h.)" instruction in measure 37 and an "air" instruction in measure 41.
- Perc.:** *pp*. Includes the instruction "squiggle wiggler writer (sww) on B.D." in measure 37.
- Bottom Staff:** *ppp*. Includes a triplet marking (3) in measure 41.

Measure numbers 37, 38, 39, 40, and 41 are indicated below the staves.

B. Fl.

B. Cl.

Voice

Vln.

Perc.

To Fl.

Flute

air gliss.

poco

p

quietly place Cym. and metal objects on B. D.

3

42

43

44

45

Fl. *pp* blend w/ vln.

B. Cl.

Voice

(sounding)

Vln. *pp* blend w/ fl.

45

improv with sww and objects on B.D.;
create a variety of textures, especially when *mp*/*mf*

Perc.

(*pp*) *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mp*

45 46 47

(sounding) Fl.

the upper voice (played by l.h.) is modulated by the lower voice (played by r.h.)

p *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *pp*

B. Cl.

5 6 5 5 3

pp sempre

Voice

pp sempre

(sounding) Vln.

circular bow to explore multiphonics at these nodes; multiphonics should come in and out

$\frac{1}{2}$ legno

p *mp* *pp* *ord.* 3 1 3

Perc.

pp *mf* *pp* *mp* *pp*

p l.v.

48

49

50

51

Fl. w/ vln, perc 53 *mp* *pp* *mfpp* *< p pp*

B. Cl. *mp* *p sempre* *3*

Voice [ə] sempre *mp* *p sempre* *3*

(sounding) Vln. *mp* *pp* *mf* *< p pp* m.s.t. ord.

Perc. *mp pp* *mf* *p* *p*

52 53 54 55 56 57

Fl.

B. Cl.

Voice

(sounding)

Vln.

Perc.

58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

mf *p pp* *mp sub.* *mf* *f*

mf *p pp* *mp sub.* *mf* *f* *pp*

remove objects from B.D., dampen B.D. w/ mallets remove cloth

To Crot. Crotales

p

m.s.t. ord. 3 ord. I

8va 15ma

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

mf pp mp sub. mf f pp

mf pp

To Crot. Crotales

p

m.s.t. ord. 3 ord. I

8va 15ma

3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3 3

mf pp mp sub. mf f pp

mf pp

To Crot. Crotales

p

67

Fl.

p *mp* *p*

open and close register key to let the F# undertone emerge and disappear as smoothly as possible (rhythm need not be exact)

B. Cl.

p *mp* *p*

mp *p*

Voice

[a] sempre

p *mp* *p*

mf *p*

mf *p*

p non cresc.

Vln.

flaut. sempre

mp *p*

mp *p*

mp *p*

67

(B.D.) (undampened) (as before, use elbow to raise pitch)

p

(I.v.)

mp *p*

Perc.

(Crot.)

p

67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

Fl. *mfpp* *p* *sempre* 5

B. Cl. *p* *p* *sempre* 3

Voice [m] *sempre* *p* *sempre* 3 3 5 3 3

Vln. *mfpp* *p* *sempre* flaut. 3 3

Perc. *mp* (l.v.) *p* *sempre* 77

Perc. *p* *sempre* 3 3

75 76 77 78 79 80 81

Fl.

B. Cl.

Voice

Vln.

Perc.

China Cym.

Vib (deadstroke)

82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89

Fl.

B. Cl.

Voice

Vln.

Perc.

90 91 92 93 94 95 96

sung (match w/ voice)

sung

[m]

[a]

(half-tone harmonics)

B. D. (i.v.)

mp

ppp

(deadstroke)

To Crot.

Crot.

To Vib.

f

ff

place China Cym. on B.D.

mf

97 102

Fl. *f* *mf* *sfz* *f*

B. Cl. *f* *mf* *f*

Voice [a] sempre *f* sempre

Vln. *f* sempre

Perc. 97 102
Cym. + B. D. *f*
Vib. *f*

97 98 99 100 101 102

- upward gliss. on every note until the end;
- if there is no rest between two notes, end the first note early to leave a short gap (<); rests are omitted for legibility

- for violin, / indicates an upward glissando spanning anywhere between one and three quarter tones;
- glide up on both strings by the same distance to produce two different glissandi at once;
- if there is no rest between two notes, end the first note early to leave a short gap (<); rests are omitted for legibility

upward gliss. on every note until the end

jet

p *f*

Fl.

B. Cl.

Voice

Vln.

Perc.

103 104 105 106 107 108

110

Fl. jet *sfz* *f* *mf* jet *sfz*

B. Cl. *f* *mf* *f*

Voice

Vln. 3

Perc. 110 111 112

meanwhile, take sww!

p *f* *p* *f*

f *p*

109 110 111 112

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 109 to 112. The score is for five parts: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Voice, Violin (Vln.), and Percussion (Perc.). The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. Measure 109 features a Flute entry with a 'jet' marking and a *sfz* dynamic, followed by a *f* dynamic. The Bass Clarinet plays a *f* dynamic. The Voice part has a melodic line with a triplet. The Violin part has a melodic line with a triplet. The Percussion part has a *p* to *f* dynamic change. Measure 110 features a Flute entry with a *mf* dynamic, followed by a *f* dynamic. The Bass Clarinet plays a *mf* dynamic. The Voice part has a melodic line. The Violin part has a melodic line with a triplet. The Percussion part has a *p* to *f* dynamic change. Measure 111 features a Flute entry with a *sfz* dynamic, followed by a *f* dynamic. The Bass Clarinet plays a *f* dynamic. The Voice part has a melodic line. The Violin part has a melodic line with a triplet. The Percussion part has a *p* to *f* dynamic change. Measure 112 features a Flute entry with a *sfz* dynamic, followed by a *f* dynamic. The Bass Clarinet plays a *f* dynamic. The Voice part has a melodic line. The Violin part has a melodic line with a triplet. The Percussion part has a *p* to *f* dynamic change. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and dynamics.

113 whistle tone
(#) =

Fl. *pp*

B. Cl.

Voice *(f sempre)*

Vln. *(f sempre)* 3

113 with sww on B.D.,
play Cym. normally
with drumsticks

Perc. pick up sww
on downbeat

(deadstroke)

pp

113 114 115 116 117 118