Ad Astra

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For Large String Orchestra

Duration approx. 10 min.

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Notes:

- *Premuto* indicates a complete scratch tone, i.e. no pitch should be heard.
- Similarly, whilst *sul pont.* indicates that the tone should contain many harmonics, *molto sul pont.* indicates that the tone should contain only harmonics and no fundamental.
- *Pizzicato* harmonics should be played by releasing the finger of the left hand almost immediately upon plucking the string with the right hand: this allows the note to ring. This is not necessary for Double Basses as their harmonics are naturally resonant.
- Artificial harmonics are notated according to manner of execution, i.e. a normal note-head showing the stopped note and a diamond note-head showing where to place the harmonic.
- Natural harmonics are shown at actual pitch.
- Dynamics are extremely important and are specific to each part.
- Passages marked *ppp* should be only just audible, and *pppp* at the threshold of hearing.
- Slurs with lines indicate that the bow should not stop between notes, but instead a long note with pulsations should result.
- Slurs with dots as well as lines indicate that the notes should be separate, but *tenuto.*
- Slurs with dots indicate that notes should be short and light but still on the string.
- The triplet figure which appears in the celli in bar 80 should be played *ricochet.*
- *Crescendi* and *diminuendi* from/to nothing (indicated by the small circle) should be achieved with careful control of bow pressure and speed.
B

2/4

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.

Plus 3rd back desk

mf

Pizz.

arco mp cresc.

f

Pizz.

arco mp cresc.

(f)

f

Pizz.

arco mp cresc.

(f)

f

Pizz.

arco mp cresc.

(f)

f

div.

fp

mf

p

mp

div. in 2

ancora div. in 2

unis.

fp

mf

p

mp

div. in 2

ancora div. in 2

div. in 2

sub. p

div. in 2

sub. p

div. in 2

sub. p

div. in 2
Vln I

Vln II

Vb

Vc.

Db.

C-basses only arco; sul pont.

Tutti

Cresc.
Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.
Tempo II

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vc.

Db.