

Israel Lai (2018)

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# Icecrack

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for wind quintet

*Icecrack* draws inspiration from a single image in my mind: a crystalline ice wall upon a sharp impact. The whole piece is a collage of different perspectives that I look at this event from: the smoothness of the surface, the tension on the surface of the impact and the subsequent expansion, the violence of the attack, the sonic breaking, the beautiful network of cracks, the melting of the debris...

Recurrent gestures and related harmonies are used in multiple ways to alert the listener to the multiplicity of this sonic painting. Near the end, the scene-switching intensifies and everything slowly blends together in a blurry image.





#### Instrumentation

flute  
oboe  
clarinet in Bb  
horn in F  
bassoon

#### Transposed score

# Performance notes

## Flute

- gliss.* or  Rotate the mouthpiece to bend the pitch by up to (approximately) a semitone.
- quarter tones  Rotate the mouthpiece to produce slight pitch alterations; see the guide below.
-  Using the diamond note as a fundamental, sound the notated harmonic.
-  Jet whistle: increase air pressure, peaking at the note marked with an accent.


## Oboe

- quarter tone Use embouchure to bend the pitch as close to the notated quarter-tone as possible.
- multiphonics See the diagrams provided in the part score for suggested fingerings.

## Clarinet

-  Slap tongue




## French horn

- quasi gliss.* Rapidly and roughly hit the notes notated (in other words, fake it).
- muted A mute is expected, but hand-stopping is acceptable.  
Hand-stopping.  
All notes are open unless specified through the symbol + or
- stopped / + text.  
(The performer is sometimes required to glide between stopped and open timbres within the duration of one note.)
-  Tap the mouthpiece with the palm to produce a resonant attack.

## Bassoon

- multiphonics See the guide below for the expected pitches and the diagrams provided in the part score for suggested fingerings.

## Quarter tone guide

-  Quarter sharp (between natural and sharp)
-  Quarter flat (between natural and flat)
-  Three-quarter flat (between flat and double flat)

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Motionlessly ♩ = 60 approx.

Flute  
*f* *senza vib.*  
*gliss.*

Oboe  
*f* *senza vib.*

Clarinet in Bb  
*f* *senza vib.*  
*gliss.*

Horn in F  
*f*  
*precipitando*

Bassoon  
*f* *senza vib.*



Proceed freely to the next bar any time as long as at least one instrument is playing a long note; gradually *dim.* over time

6  
*mp espr.* *sfz*

6  
*mp espr.*

*p quasi gliss.*

15"  
*f*

10

Musical score for measures 10-13. The score is in 3/4 time and features five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music includes dynamics such as *pp*, *p*, *fp*, and *f*. A fermata is present over the first measure of the second staff. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of measure 13.

14

Musical score for measures 14-16. The score is in 3/4 time and features five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music includes dynamics such as *pp*, *mf*, *p*, and *ff*. A trill is marked in the second measure of the second staff. A sixteenth-note triplet is marked in the third measure of the second staff. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of measure 16.

17

Musical score for measures 17-19. The score is in 3/4 time and features five staves. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fifth staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music includes dynamics such as *mf senza vib.*, *f*, and *f*. A five-note triplet is marked in the second measure of the second staff. A five-note triplet is marked in the second measure of the fifth staff. A three-note triplet is marked in the third measure of the fifth staff. A double bar line with repeat dots is at the end of measure 19.

stringendo

**B** Poco più mosso ♩ = 72

19

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*sfz*

*ff*

36 48

36 48

36 48

36 48

36 48

23

*p*

*mf*

*p*

*f violento ma molto vibrato*

*simile*

*p*

*mp*

*pp violento ma molto vibrato*

*p sub.*

*mp*

27

*f* 3

**C**

31  $\sharp E$  7

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

Measures 31-34. The score consists of four staves. The first and third staves are in treble clef, and the second and fourth are in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 2/4 and back to 3/4. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many beamed notes and slurs. Dynamic markings include *f* (forte) in all staves.

**D**

35

*gliss.*

*pp senza vib.*

*muted*

*pp senza vib.*

*fp*

Measures 35-39. The score consists of four staves. The first and third staves are in treble clef, and the second and fourth are in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 and back to 3/4. The music includes a glissando in measure 35, a *pp senza vib.* (pianissimo senza vibrato) marking in measure 38, a *muted* marking in measure 38, and a *fp* (fortissimo) marking in measure 39. There are also rests in several staves.

40

*pizz.*

*pp*

*p senza vib.*

*ff*

*p sub.*

*sfz*

*f*

*p*

*fp*

*mp* < *ff*

Measures 40-43. The score consists of four staves. The first and third staves are in treble clef, and the second and fourth are in bass clef. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The time signature changes from 3/4 to 7/8, 2/4, 4/4, and back to 3/4. The music includes a *pizz.* (pizzicato) marking in measure 40, a *pp* (pianissimo) marking in measure 41, a *p senza vib.* (piano senza vibrato) marking in measure 42, a *ff* (fortissimo) marking in measure 41, a *p sub.* (piano subito) marking in measure 42, a *sfz* (sforzando) marking in measure 42, a *f* (forte) marking in measure 42, a *p* (piano) marking in measure 42, and a *fp* (fortissimo) marking in measure 43. A dynamic range from *mp* to *ff* is indicated at the bottom.

45 **E** ord.

*f* liberamente ed espr.  $\leftarrow$  *sfz*

6

3

48

*p*

*f*

*pp*

open

*fpp*

*p*  $\leftarrow$  *mf*

51 **F**

*mp* espr.

*p* marcato

*p* marcato

*p* marcato

*pp*

*mp* espr.



55

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

59

gliss.

ff senza vib.

ff

ff senza vib.

ff

ff senza vib.

ff

ff pesante

ff senza vib.

fff

62

G

$\leftarrow \text{♩} = \text{♩} \rightarrow$

$(\overset{3}{\text{♩}} = \text{♩})$

p

p

p

p

mp

mp

mp

65

Musical score for measures 65-67. The system consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes and slurs. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

68

Musical score for measures 68-70. The system consists of five staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes and slurs. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The bottom staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

71

flz.

ord.

2"

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*ff*

*mp*

6

6

Musical score for measures 71-73. The system consists of six staves. The top staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features complex rhythmic patterns with many sixteenth notes and slurs. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The fifth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score includes dynamic markings *ff* and *mp*, and performance instructions *flz.* and *ord.*. There are also numerical markings '6' and a bracketed section labeled '2"'. The time signature is 4/4.

Tempo primo ♩ = 60 approx.

10"

pizz.

75

*f* *p*

*f* *p*

*f* *p*

*f* *pp*

*f* *p*

stopped



8<sup>va</sup>

79 ord.

flz.

pizz.

*ff*

flz.

ord.

*ff*

flz.

gliss.

open

*ff*

cuivré

*ff*