

Robert Casteels

Musings

Indetermined duration

The conductor controls the duration of every bar.
The whole overture is fairly short and intense.

Indetermined instrumentation

Performance notes

An orchestra practising on stage before the beginning of the concert produces an extraordinarily complex and whirling soundscape, like a painting by Jackson Pollock. Here and there one can recognise snippets. This chaos is meaningful because it has unity in purpose and content.

From this chaos emerges the tuning. The sound of an orchestra tuning always moves me, whether I am backstage waiting as a conductor or listening in the audience. The multiple and disparate practising voices zoom onto a single pitch. More than just enabling tuning, this one pitch creates organic unity and mental focus with the single aim to make music with the best minds and hearts.

No explanation should be given to the audience prior to the performance of this concert overture. A verbal explanation may be given after the performance of "Musings".

Players practice with conviction.
The tuning procedure is real.

Musings

concert overture for orchestra opus 143A

Robert Casteels

A

Starts to conduct any part of the 1st movement of a piece programmed on the same concert






Conductor

Woodwinds

Brass

Strings

All other instruments

	
	
	
Every string player chooses one challenging extract from the 1st movement of a piece programmed on the same concert, and starts practising fervently, ignoring the conductor and ignoring each other	
	

B

Conductor's sign 1

2

Shows sign 1 and conducts any part of the 2nd movement of a piece programmed on the same concert






Conductor

Woodwinds

Brass

Strings

All other instruments

	
Every woodwind player chooses one extract from the 2nd movement of a piece programmed on the same concert, and starts practising fervently, ignoring the conductor and ignoring each other	
	
All gradually stop practising when they hear the woodwinds	
	

C

Conductor's sign 2

3

Shows sign 2 and conducts any part of the 3rd movement of a piece programmed on the same concert






Conductor

Woodwinds

Brass

Strings

All other instruments

	
All gradually stop practising when they hear the brass	
Every brass player chooses one extract from the 3rd movement of a piece programmed on the same concert, and starts practising fervently, ignoring the conductor and ignoring each other	
	
	

D**Conductor's sign 3**

Shows sign 3 and conducts any part of the 4th movement of a piece programmed on the same concert



Conductor	
Woodwinds	
Brass	
Strings	
All other instruments	

E**Conductor's sign 4**

Chooses another extract from any movement of a piece programmed on the same concert, and conducts



Conductor	
Woodwinds	
Brass	
Strings	
All other instruments	

6 **F** Conducts brass and all other instruments in a gradual diminuendo till cut-off.

Conductor		
Woodwinds	All continue like in the previous bar	
Brass	All watch the conductor, decrease their intensity and stop practising on his/her cut-off sign	
Strings	All continue like in the previous bar	
All other instruments	All watch the conductor, decrease their intensity and stop practising on his/her cut-off sign	

7 **G** Conducts woodwinds in a gradual diminuendo till cut-off.

Conductor		
Woodwinds	All watch the conductor, decrease their intensity and stop practising on his/her cut-off sign	
Brass		
Strings	All continue like in the previous bar	
All other instruments		

8 **H** Conducts all strings in a gradual diminuendo till cut-off

Conductor		
Woodwinds	First oboe starts to play here and there pitch middle A. Other woodwinds: tacet	
Brass		
Strings	All watch the conductor, decrease their intensity and stop practising on his/her cut-off sign	
All other instruments		

9 **I** Stops conducting

Conductor

Woodwinds First oboe plays pitch middle A

Brass

Strings Concermaster rises and invites strings to tune

All other instruments

10 **J** **K** **L** Invites orchestra to stand, turns to the audience and bows

Conductor

Woodwinds First oboe plays A. All woodwinds tune

Brass All brass tune

Strings

All other instruments

Tacet

Tacet

Tacet

Tacet