Robert Casteels



Compositional notes for the benefit of the performers only:

The title $D \hat{o} m e$ refers to the structure of the composition: the music in rehearsal letter A corresponds to rehearsal letter S, B to R, C to P, D to O, E to N, F to L, G to K and H to J. The center or cupola is thus bar 168 to 170 during which the performers sing the word "dome".

Figure five underpins the whole composition with five elements adapted from compositional from Casteels's symphony no 6

- five times one melody (bar 5, 149, 171, 328 and 347);
- five times the incipit of this melody (bar 33, 63, 94, 243 and 274)
- five times a chain of five chords (bar 101, 118, 190, 223 and 332);
- five times a syncopation rhythm (bar 2, 28, 168, 325 and 339);
- five times the cupola chord (bar 32, 168, 302, 342 and 345);
- ten times polar pitch A (first occurence in bar 2);
- fifteen times the cupola motive (first occurence in bar 2).

Many phrases count five bars. Tempo markings are also multiple of five. The score counts 355 bars with 55 bars in 5.

Programme notes:

Domes are awesome. Domes conjure elevation, perfection and purity.

Unlike vaults and arches, domes have no cornerstone to cement their stability.

Domes can be adorned on their top with a small dome called cupola.

That is what I did in my composition DôME for percussion ensemble of ten players with piano and harp opus 141.

However, whereas my eye can travel in ANY direction along the hemispherical spanning element,

my ear is unable to hear the future before the present. Each present moment is immediately relegated to the past.

As a composer necessarily obsessed with time, I have (not yet?...) managed to superimpose in real time a past-present-future time line and a future-present-past time line. I choose the dome over the ouroboros ring. I travel sonically far away from home

to finally return home. The word dome itself derives from the Ancient Greek word meaning home.

My composition is entitled DôME because it mirrors the structure of a dome:

all musical events unfold one after the other until a mid-point, after which they reappear in the exact reverse order. The tam marks the beginning, the central point or dome and the end of the composition. Including a cupola motive, the five compositional elements of DôME, each one appearing five times, originate from my symphony no 6 opus 138. This massive piece premiered in 2024 is based on the vault and contains extended non conducted percussion cadenzas. My trio for percussion opus 140 entitled ARCH is based on the arch.

With challenging solos, energetic tuttis, delicate ensemble playing and a spiritual ending, I hope having contributed to the limitless and rich world of percussion.

Duration: 11'

Instrumentation:

- idiophones: triangle, piccolo triangle, suspended cymbal, a pair of crash cymbals, 1 temple bell, 1 singing bowl and tam (or gong in Fa), jingle bells, sleigh bells, singing bowl, church altar bell (or dining bell), wind chimes, wind bells, bell tree, Chinese bell tree, crotal bell, singing bowl, church altar bell, 5 suspended and pitchless glass bottles, 5 temple blocks or woodblocks, tambourine and egg shaker (or maracas)

- mallets: crotales, two glockenspiels, xylophone, vibraphone and marimba

- membranophones: timpani, 2 snare drums, 1 tenor drum, 1 floor drum and 1 bass drum

- harp

- piano

European instruments may be substituted by non european ones, such as: kempul tiga for the tam, mu yu for the temple blocks, tibetan bowl for the singing bowl, kecer for the tambourine, gu zheng, kayagum or koto for the harp.

Performance notes:

This piece can be performed without a conductor. The instruction "lead" means that a player must control and impose a precise tempo.

The small hooks indicate five-bar phrases.

Barlines at letter G and K are dashed: the vertical alignment as appearing in this full score does not correspond to the sonic reality because of the superimposition of 10 different tempi.

The 5 players performing on the same bass drum must memorize bars 21 to 31 and 333 to 342. The purpose of the fermata of bar 31 and 342 is to enable players #3, #5 and #6 to reach their instruments in time. If there is sufficient time, disregard these fermatas.

At letter I, all players choose pitch F or C# and sing the word DOME. These two pitches should sound balanced. Men sound an octave lower than women.

The rhythmic notation in bar 112 (glass) and 113 (timpani) indicates an acceleration followed by a deceleration.

In the last bar, hear internally your sound before playing. Play with utmost care and refinement. Listen to the ensuing silence.

Distribution of the parts:

- player 1 on triangle, piccolo triangle and temple blocks,

- player 2 on all cymbals, glass bottles and crotal bell,
- player 3 on tam, glockenspiel 2, snare drum and floor drum (+ sharing the bass drum),
- player 4 on tambourine, glockenspiel 1 and a cluster of jingle bells,
- player 5 on egg shaker, a pair of finger cymbals and tenor drum (+ sharing the bass drum),
- player 6 on crotales, timpani and bell tree (+ sharing the bass drum),
- player 7 on xylophone, tubular bells, wind bell and wind chimes,
- player 8 on vibraphone and sleigh bells,
- player 9 on marimba and temple bell,
- player 10 on snare drum, bass drum and a Chinese bell tree.

In the last bar, the pianist also plays with a singing bowl and the harpist on a church altar bell.

Parts contain cues. Harp part contains pedal markings.

for percussion ensemble opus 141 (full score)





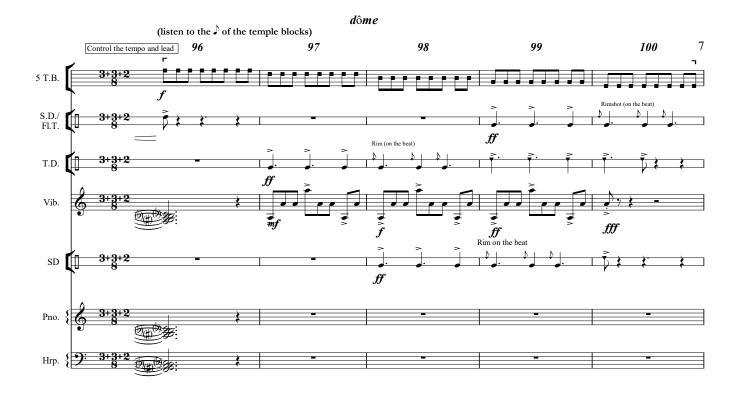
With medium BD mallet, normal

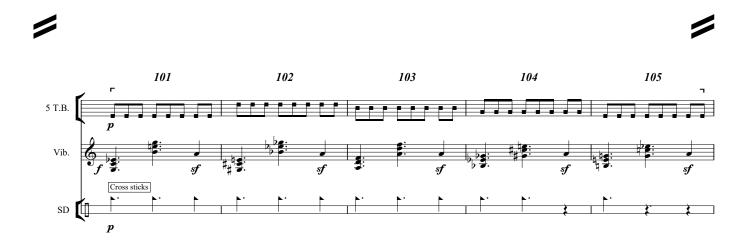


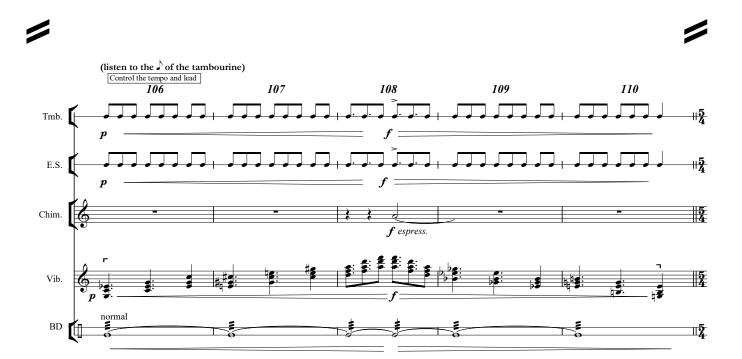






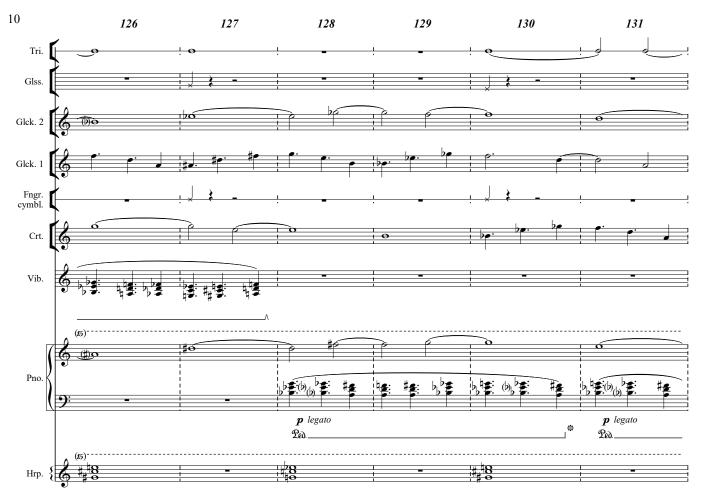


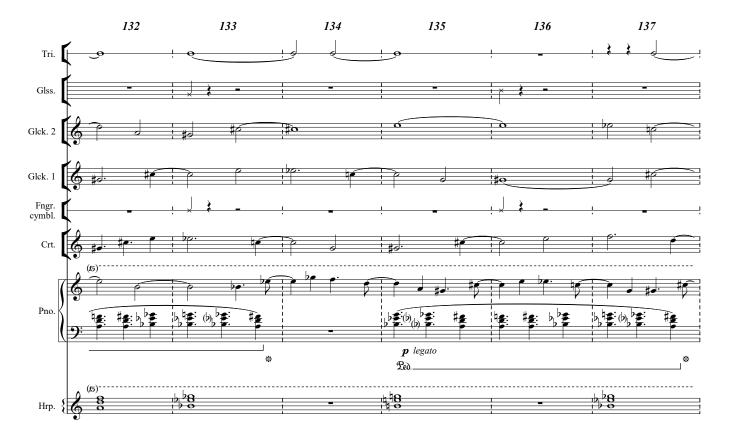


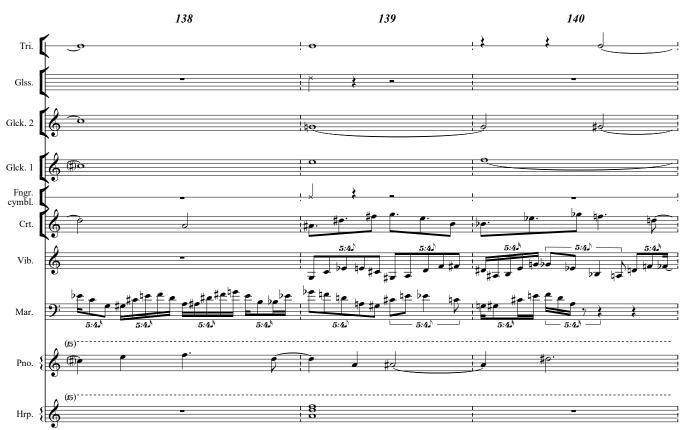




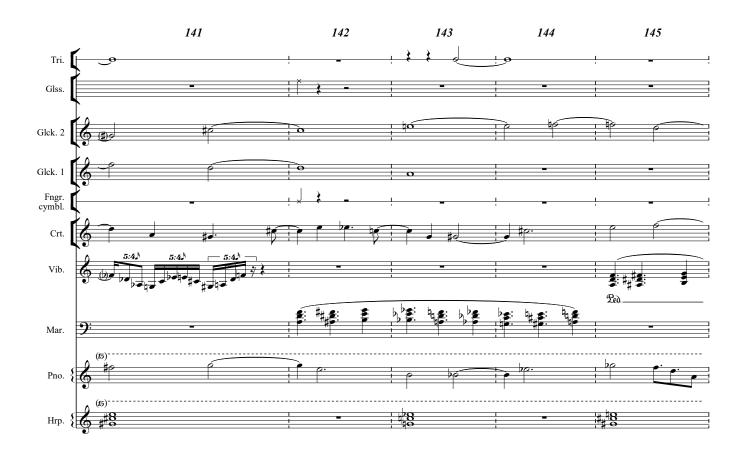


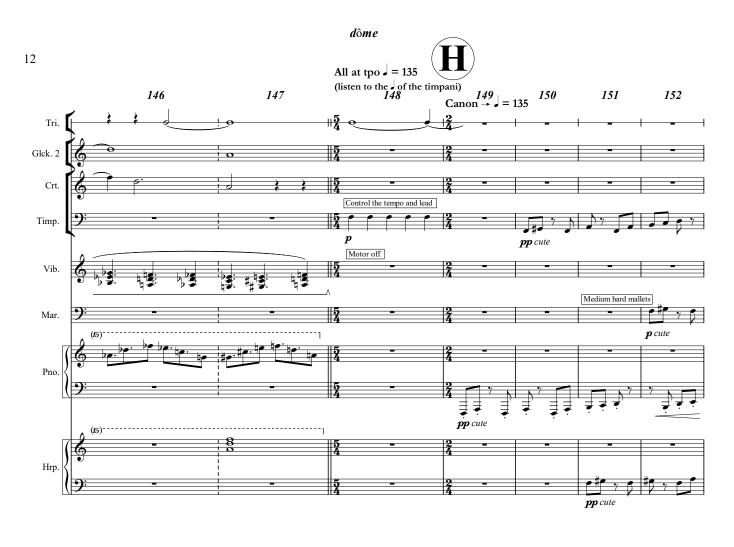






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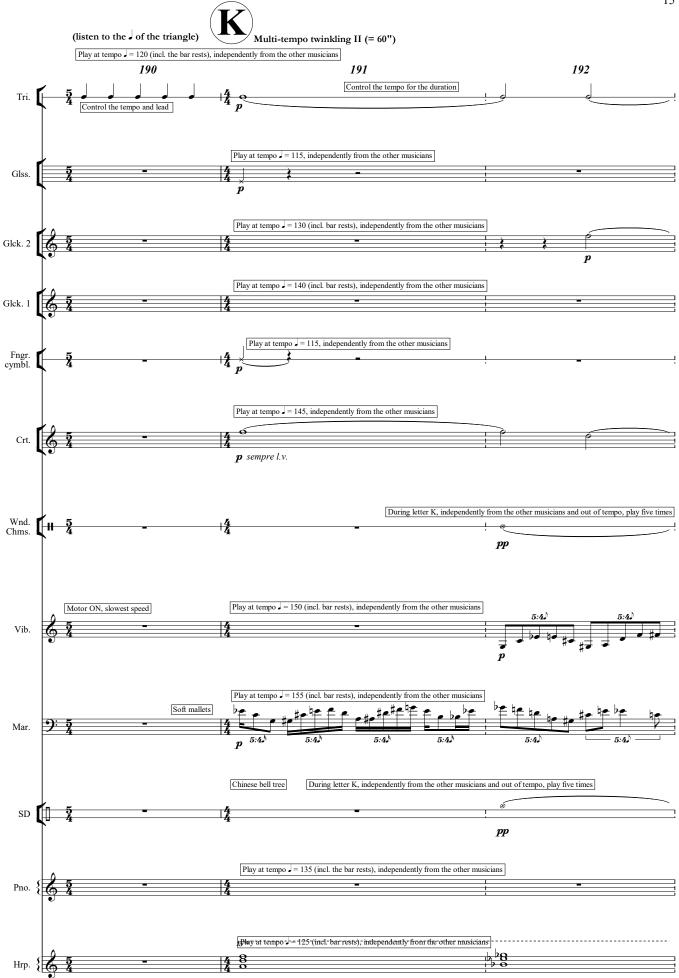


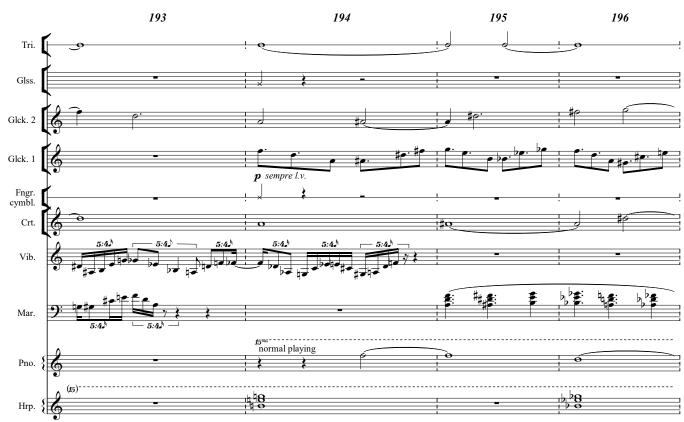


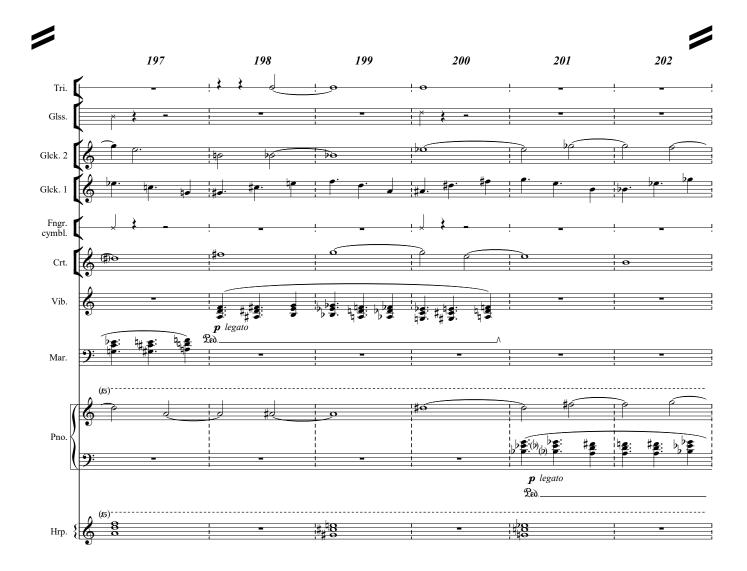




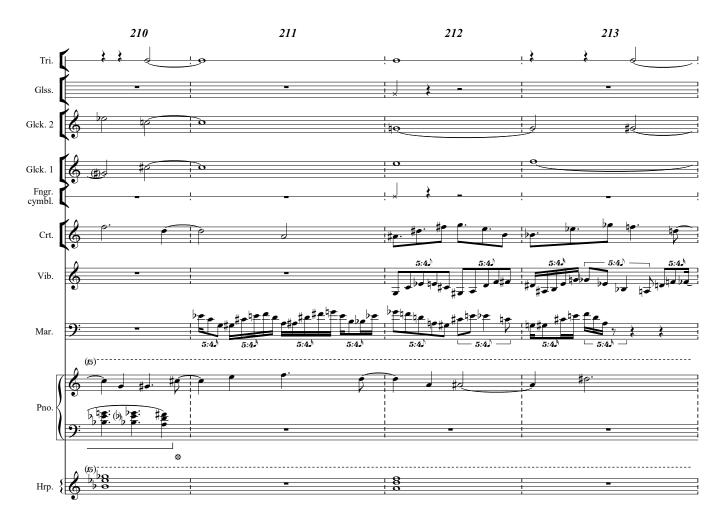










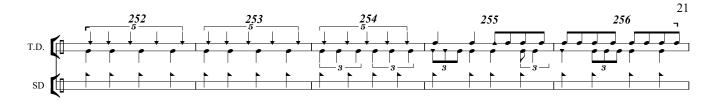


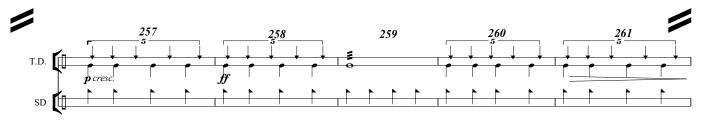


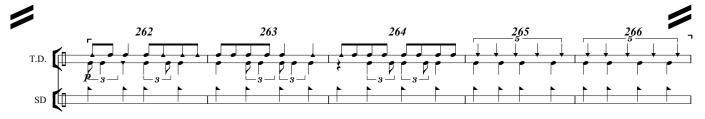
























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