

# Music Box Prelude

Karim Al-Zand (2004)



## NOTE:

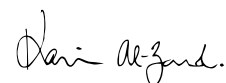
Measures 1-8 are played a total of (at least) 6 times before the final measure is played. The cello begins the piece, playing its part alone. In each successive repeat, an instrument is added, in the following order:

Cello	begins
Percussion	enters top of repeat 1
Piccolo	enters top of repeat 2
Violin	enters top of repeat 3
Piano	enters top of repeat 4
Clarinet	enters top of repeat 5

A very pronounced *ritardando* begins in the final repetition (repeat 6). The music should gradually slow to almost a standstill by measure 8, after which the final measure is cued.

The work may be performed with the instrumentalists coming on stage one at a time, their entrances timed so that they can begin playing at the appropriate moment in the piece (the top of the repeat). The cellist begins on stage alone or, if a conductor is involved, the conductor may begin the piece, directing an 'invisible' ensemble before the cellist enters. Alternatively, if a conductor is not needed to coordinate the initial instrumental entrances, he or she may enter last, in time to begin the *ritardando*.

The piece is also given in a version with harp substituting for piano.

 April 2004

Premiere performance: *Music Box Prelude* was written as a concert opener for the contemporary music group *Musiqá*. The work was premiered on May 1, 2004 with Alison Jewett, piccolo; Michael Webster, clarinet; Andrej Grabiec, violin; Norman Fischer, cello; Jean Kierman Fischer, piano; Andrea Moore, percussion; Kevin Noe, conductor.

## DURATION:

ca. 3'



Cello  
Percussion  
Flute  
Violin  
Piano  
Clarinet

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Moderately; like a delicate wind-up toy ♩ = ca. 84

Musical score for the first four measures of the piece. The score is in 3/4 time and features five staves: Piccolo, B♭ Clarinet, Violin, Cello, and Percussion. The Piccolo part begins with a melodic line marked *pp* and includes the instruction "etc." above the staff. The B♭ Clarinet part has a melodic line marked *pp*. The Violin part has a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *pp*, and includes the instructions "pizz.", "arco", and "pizz.". The Cello part has a melodic line with dynamics *pp*, *mf*, and *pp*, and includes the instructions "pizz.", "arco", and "pizz.". The Percussion part features a xylophone line marked *pp* and includes the instruction "Xyl". The Piano part has a harmonic accompaniment marked *pp* and includes the instruction "tr<sup>i</sup>".

Musical score for measures 5-8 of the piece. The score continues with five staves: Piccolo, B♭ Clarinet, Violin, Cello, and Piano. The Piccolo part continues with a melodic line. The B♭ Clarinet part continues with a melodic line. The Violin part has a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *pp*, and includes the instructions "arco" and "pizz.". The Cello part has a melodic line with dynamics *mf* and *pp*, and includes the instructions "arco" and "pizz.". The Percussion part continues with a xylophone line. The Piano part has a harmonic accompaniment marked *pp* and includes the instruction "tr<sup>i</sup>".



Cello  
Percussion  
Flute  
Violin  
Harp  
Clarinete

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Score for measures 1-4. The score is in 3/4 time and consists of six staves: Piccolo, B♭ Clarinet, Violin, Cello, Percussion\*, and Harp. The Piccolo part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a '7' and 'etc.' above it. The B♭ Clarinet part has a melodic line with a 'pp' dynamic. The Violin part includes 'pizz.' and 'arco' markings with dynamics 'pp', 'mf', and 'pp'. The Cello part has a similar melodic line with 'pp' and 'mf' dynamics. The Percussion\* part uses a xylophone (Xyl) and high/piccolo sounds with a 'pp' dynamic. The Harp part features a 'secco' marking and a 'pp' dynamic.

\* may be played with high metal sounds: pipes + glockenspiel  
or high wood sounds: woodblocks + xylophone

Score for measures 5-8. This section continues the six-staff arrangement. Measure 5 is marked with a circled '5'. The Piccolo part continues its rhythmic pattern. The B♭ Clarinet part has a melodic line with a 'pp' dynamic. The Violin part includes 'arco' and 'pizz.' markings with dynamics 'pp', 'mf', and 'pp'. The Cello part has a similar melodic line with 'pp' and 'mf' dynamics. The Percussion\* part uses a xylophone (Xyl) and high/piccolo sounds with a 'pp' dynamic. The Harp part features a 'secco' marking and a 'pp' dynamic. The score concludes with a double bar line and a circled '5' at the end of the Harp staff, with 'C#' and 'C#' markings below the staff.

