

The Ice Winds

Variations on *Lofsöngur* for marimba, cimbalom, and harp

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Instructions

The measure score of *The Ice Winds* contains 82 independent measures. The measures are arranged in groups, with related duplicates, from Measure Group 0 through Measure Group 7.

There are eight levels in the Measure Palette, read outside-in: 6—5—1—4—7—2—0—3. The largest number of measures is found at Level 6 and the smallest number of measures is found at Level 3, the number decreasing from outside to inside (31, 30, 24, 22, 14, 10, 6, 3). In order to provide a variation in certainty, there are 140 total entries on the Measure Palette but only 137 entries in the Measure Groups (30, 31, 24, 19, 14, 10, 5, 4).

The performance begins with the first measure in the Measure Group 5 located at the first position on Level 5 of the Measure Palette. The Measure Palette is read clockwise.

All performers play the first measure together, and then each moves to another measure. The move may be on the same or to a different level on the Measure Palette, playing the next available measure from that level's Measure Group. In other words, if a performer moves to Level 4, the next available measure is selected from Measure Group 4. Performers may change levels or stay on one level for as long as they choose; they may also extend a measure or play a rest if only blank space is found on the Measure Palette. Measures should not be shortened, however. At least 80 measures are sounded between the first and last, with Level shifts as determined by the performers; this may be decided at the time or in rehearsal. Measures may be played in any octave.

Choice of tempo is left up to the performers, but should remain relatively consistent; a tempo of eighth note = 176-192 is suggested. Nevertheless, each measure may expand and contract for expressive effect. Dynamics are as follows, by measure number:

$p \textcircled{1} \text{<} mp \textcircled{9} \text{<} mf \textcircled{25} \text{>} p \textcircled{30} \text{>} pp \textcircled{44} \text{ subito } f \textcircled{45} \text{<} ff \textcircled{48} \text{>} mp \textcircled{54}$
 $\text{>} p \textcircled{60} \text{ subito } mp \textcircled{62} \text{<} f \textcircled{69} \text{ subito } ff \textcircled{70} \text{>} mp \textcircled{74} \text{>} p \textcircled{77} \text{>} pp \textcircled{82}$

The performance ends with the last measure from the Measure Group 1 on Level 1 of the Measure Palette. Because the measures are different time signatures (8, 9 and 19 beats) and different tempi as the performers wish, everyone may not reach the last measure at the same time—so performers continue to repeat the last measure until all have arrived to signal the end. The ensemble may choose whether to end suddenly or fade, but the final measure is played together (synchronized); a slight final *rallentando* is suggested.

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