

GAGAKU
IMPRESSIONS

for band

DENNIS KAM (1971)

Gagaku Impressions is one of a series of pieces composed for the Hawaii Music Project to introduce band students to principles of music in non-Western cultures. This work, in particular, is an attempt to capture the spirit and essence of Japanese Gagaku, the oldest surviving music of Japan dating back to as early as 703 A.D..

Gagaku Impressions is original but melodic, harmonic, and rhythmic elements are somewhat influenced by respective elements in Gagaku and the form (Intro. - A A B C A B - Closing section) is closely patterned after the form of Etenraku, a well-known Gagaku piece (Intro. - AA BB CCAA BB - Closing section). In addition, three special qualities essential to Gagaku and perhaps to Eastern aesthetics in general are explored: 1) slow, "timeless" and non-goal directed movement - achieved through minimized contrast of melodic or thematic material as well as a very slow tempo. 2) "elastic" or breath rhythm, resembling "natural" breathing - achieved through retardation of tempo every four measures (see instructions). 3) simplicity through economy of musical materials. Despite the presence of these Eastern influences, however, qualities of Western music still remain, one of the more obvious ones being the use of the massive Western band, a definite contrast to the smaller more intimate Gagaku ensemble. Another quality is harmonic movement, a contrast to the relatively more static harmony in Gagaku. Gagaku Impressions, then, should be viewed as an interaction between Eastern and Western music if not at least an attempt to explore Eastern aesthetics in a Western setting.

O.K.

about the composer

DENNIS KAM was born in Honolulu, Hawaii. He has attended the Oberlin Conservatory of Music (B.M.), the University of Hawaii as an East-West Center Grantee (M.F.A.), the Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria, Toho School of Music in Tokyo, Japan and is a doctoral candidate at the University of Illinois. During 1970-1972, he was Composer-in-Residence for the State of Hawaii under the Contemporary Music Project supported by the Ford Foundation and the Music Educators National Conference. Other honors include two Broadcast Music Inc. Awards (1963, 1967). He has studied with Joseph Wood, Cesar Bresgen, Armand Russell, Yoshiro Irino, Ernst Krenek, and Salvatore Martirano.

Notation and Special Instructions

- 1) — = note with duration subject to the length of the line; used in situations where "proportional" notation (space = time) applies.
- 2)  = gradual acceleration of notes (percussion); number of notes approximate (more or less permitted).
- 3) ← → = gradual retardation within the span of the arrows (ca. 2 beats) resembling "breath" rhythm and stretching of beat.
- 4) Because of the simplicity and slow tempo in this work, there may be a tendency to "move things along" or speed up the tempo. This should be guarded against in order to maintain the feeling of elasticity and naturalness. In other words, one should "savor" individual moments as they occur rather than be overly concerned about goals, high points, etc. in the work.
- 5) In melodic roles, oboes should be heard clearly to simulate a nasal sound quality so characteristic of the hichiriki, a Japanese wind instrument in the Gagaku orchestra.
- 6) Drums should also be heard clearly - not "merely an accompaniment". Drum patterns are very important in Gagaku.

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Instrumentation (parts)

Piccolo solo (1)
Flutes (6)
Oboes (2)
E^b Clarinet (1)
1st B^b Clarinet (4)
2nd B^b Clarinet (4)
3rd B^b Clarinet (4)
E^b Alto Clarinet (2)
B^b Bass Clarinet (2)
Bassoons (2)
1st & 2nd E^b Alto Saxophones (2)
B^b Tenor Saxophone (1)
E^b Baritone Saxophone (1)
1st B^b Trumpet (2)
2nd B^b Trumpet (2)
3rd B^b Trumpet (2)
1st & 2nd F Horns (2)
3rd & 4th F Horns (2)
Baritones B.C. (2)
Baritones T.C. (2)
1st & 2nd Trombones (4)
3rd Trombone (2)
Basses (5)
Percussion I (1) : : :
Percussion II & III (2)

GAGAKU IMPRESSIONS

A

10 - 15 sec.

I. ca. 51-60

KAM

Piccolo (solo) f pia

Flutes

Oboes

E♭ Clarinet

B♭ Clarinets 1, 2, 3

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoons

Saxophones Alto 1, 2

Tenor

Baritone

B♭ Trumpets (Cornets) 1, 2, 3, 1+2, 3+4

Horns

Baritones

Trombones 1, 2, 3

Basses

h Timbale (sticks)

Tenor Drum (sticks)

Bass Drum f.

B

J: ca. 66 - 72

Piccolo
Flutes
Oboes
E♭ Clarinet
E♭ Clarinets 1-3
A♭ Alto Clarinet
B♭ Bass Clarinet
Bassoons
Alto 1
Tenor
Baritone
B♭ Trumpets (Cornets) 1-3
F Horns 1+2
F Horns 3+4
Baritones
Trombones 1-3
Basses
High Timbale
Tenor Drum
Bass Drum

This is a handwritten musical score for orchestra and percussion. The score consists of 12 staves of music. The instruments listed on the left are: Piccolo, Flutes, Oboes, E♭ Clarinet, E♭ Clarinets 1-3, A♭ Alto Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, Bassoons, Alto 1, Tenor, Baritone, B♭ Trumpets (Cornets) 1-3, F Horns 1+2, F Horns 3+4, Baritones, Trombones 1-3, Basses, High Timbale, Tenor Drum, and Bass Drum. The tempo is indicated as J: ca. 66 - 72. The score includes various dynamics such as mf, pp, and fp, and performance instructions like 'sempre' and 'mf (sempre)'.

C

Piccolo

Flutes

Oboes

E♭ Clarinet

B♭ Clarinets
1
2
3

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoons

Alto 1

Tenor

Baritone

B♭ Trumpets (Cornets)
1
2
3

F Horns
1+2
3+4

Baritones

Trombones
1
2
3

Basses

Tight Timbale

Tenor Drum

Bass Drum

Musical score for orchestra, page 4.

The score consists of 18 staves, each with a key signature of one sharp (F#). Measures 1 through 4 are shown.

- Piccolo:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Flutes:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Oboes:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- E♭ Clarinet:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- B♭ Clarinets (1, 2, 3):** Playing sustained notes.
- E♭ Alto Clarinet:** Playing sustained notes.
- B♭ Bass Clarinet:** Playing sustained notes.
- Bassoons:** Playing sustained notes.
- Alto Saxophones (1, 2):** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Tenor Saxophone:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Baritone Saxophone:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- B♭ Trumpets (Cornets) (1, 2, 3):** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- F Horns (1+2, 3+4):** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Baritones:** Playing sustained notes.
- Trombones (1, 2, 3):** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Basses:** Playing sustained notes.
- High Timbale:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Tenor Drum:** Playing eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings *mf* and *fp*.
- Bass Drum:** Playing eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings *mf* and *fp*.

A double bar line with repeat dots is positioned between measures 2 and 3. Measure 4 begins with a repeat of the first measure's material.

0

Hand-drawn musical score for orchestra, page 5, measure 0.

The score consists of 18 staves, each with a dynamic marking above it. Measures 1 through 5 are shown. Measures 1 and 5 have double-headed arrows above them, indicating a repeating section.

Measure 0:

- Piccolo:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- Flutes:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- Oboes:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- E♭ Clarinet:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- B♭ Clarinets 1, 2, 3:** Dynamic f , eighth-note patterns.
- E♭ Alto Clarinet:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- B♭ Bass Clarinet:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- Bassoons:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- Alto Saxophones 1, 2:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- Tenor Saxophone:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- Baritone Saxophone:** Dynamic f , eighth-note pattern.
- B♭ Trumpets (Cornets) 1, 2, 3:** Dynamic p , eighth-note patterns.
- F Horns 1+2, 3+4:** Dynamic p , eighth-note patterns.
- Baritones:** Dynamic p , eighth-note pattern.
- Trombones 1, 2, 3:** Dynamic mf , eighth-note patterns.
- Basses:** Dynamic mf , eighth-note pattern.
- High Timbale:** Dynamic p , eighth-note pattern.
- Tenor Drum:** Dynamic p , eighth-note pattern.
- Bass Drum:** Dynamic mf , eighth-note pattern.

E

Piccolo

Flutes

Oboes

E♭ Clarinet

B♭ Clarinets 1, 2, 3

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoons

Alto Saxophones

Tenor Saxophones

Baritone Saxophones

B♭ Trumpets (Cornets) 1, 2, 3

F Horns 1+2

F Horns 3+4

Baritones

Trombones 1, 2, 3

Basses

High Timbale

Tenor Drum

Bass Drum

↔

Piccolo
Flutes
Oboes
E♭ Clarinet
1 B♭ Clarinets
2
3
E♭ Alto Clarinet
B♭ Bass Clarinet
Bassoons
Alto 1
2
Tenor
Baritone
B♭ Trumpets (Cornets)
1+2 F Horns
3+4
Baritones
Trombones
3
Basses
High Timbale
Tenor Drum
Bass Drum

F



accel. poco un

Piccolo

Flutes

Oboes

E♭ Clarinet

B♭ Clarinets
1
2
3

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoons

Alto Saxophones
1

Tenor

Baritone

B♭ Trumpets (Cornets)
1
2
3

F Horns
1+2
3+4

Baritones

Trombones
1
2
3

Basses

High Timbale

Tenor Drum

Bass Drum

Musical score for orchestra, page 8. The score consists of ten staves of music. The first five staves include Piccolo, Flutes, Oboes, E♭ Clarinet, B♭ Clarinets (3 parts), E♭ Alto Clarinet, B♭ Bass Clarinet, Bassoons, Alto Saxophones (1 part), and Tenor. The next five staves include Baritone, B♭ Trumpets (Cornets) (3 parts), F Horns (4 parts), Baritones, Trombones (3 parts), Basses, High Timbale, Tenor Drum, and Bass Drum. The score features various dynamics such as *p*, *f*, *mf*, *mp*, *pp*, *acc.*, *poco*, and *un*. A section labeled "Horn cue" with *mf* dynamic is present. Measure numbers 1 through 5 are indicated above the staves. A large bracket labeled "F" is positioned above the first five staves, with a double-headed arrow below it spanning the width of the first five staves. The bass drum part includes a dynamic marking *mf* with a vertical line extending downwards.

poco

piccolo

Flutes

Oboes

E♭ Clarinet

1 B♭ Clarinets

2 B♭ Clarinets

3 B♭ Clarinets

E♭ Alto Clarinet

B♭ Bass Clarinet

Bassoons

Alto 1

Alto 2

Tenor

Baritone

1 B♭ Trumpets (Cornets)

2 B♭ Trumpets (Cornets)

3 B♭ Trumpets (Cornets)

1+2 F Horns

3+4 F Horns

Baritones

1 Trombones

2 Trombones

3 Trombones

Basses

High Timbale

Tenor Drum

Bass Drum

16

J = ca. 76 - 80

= ca. 76-80				
Piccolo	b4	b4	b4	b4
Flutes	f4	b4	b4	b4
Oboes	b4	b4	b4	b4
E♭ Clarinet	f4	b4	b4	b4
B♭ Clarinets	1 2 3	unis.	p	p
E♭ Alto Clarinet	b4	b4	b4	b4
B♭ Bass Clarinet	b4	b4	b4	b4
Bassoons	b4	b4	b4	b4
Alto Saxophones	1 2	b4	b4	b4
Tenor Saxophone	b4	b4	p	p
Baritone Saxophone	b4	b4	p	p
B♭ Trumpets (Cornets)	1 2 3	b4	p	b4
F Horns	1+2 3+4	b4	p	b4
Baritones	b4	b4	b4	b4
Trombones	1 2 3	b4	b4	b4
Basses	b4	b4	b4	b4
High Timbale	b4	b4	b4	b4
Tenor Drum	b4	p	p	b4
Bass Drum	b4	mf	p	mf

H

Very free $\text{J} = \text{ca. } 52 - 66$

Handwritten musical score for orchestra, page 12.

The score consists of 18 staves, each with a different instrument or section. The instruments listed from top to bottom are:

- Piccolo
- Flutes
- Oboes
- E♭ Clarinet
- B♭ Clarinets (1, 2, 3)
- E♭ Alto Clarinet
- B♭ Bass Clarinet
- Bassoons
- Alto Saxophones (1)
- Tenor
- Baritone
- B♭ Trumpets (Corns) (1, 2, 3)
- F Horns (1+2, 3+4)
- Baritones
- Trombones (1, 2, 3)
- Basses
- High Timbale
- Tenor Drum
- Bass Drum

Each staff contains six measures of music. The instrumentation and dynamics change frequently across the measures. Key markings include B, E♭, A, D, G, C, F, and B♭. Dynamics such as f, ff, p, pp, mf, and solo are indicated throughout the score.