

“A Day in the Life of a Garden”
for percussion,
pre-recorded sounds and
piano, right hand

Duration: 7'45”

Instrumentation:

- one percussionist on bass drum, set of crotales, small suspended cymbal, glockenspiel, maracas, marimba, tam, low and high triangle, vibraphone;
- one pianist on three-pedal grand piano and guiro;
- pre-recorded tape with string, percussion and nature sounds.

Foreword

“*A Day in the Life of a Garden*” is commissioned by the Garden City Fund Committee for its launch dinner on 02-12-2003 in the Ballroom of the Istana, with Guest-of-Honour Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

The composer recorded life sounds from gardens and parks in Singapore. Sounds of rain, thunder, birds, frogs and walking nature lovers are intertwined with the music played by the instrumentalists. At first the music describes the misty sunrise in a park. The music livens as park lovers enjoy their brisk morning walk. Rain starts to fall. Lush strings accompany a chorus of baritone and bass bull frogs in e flat until nature unleashes thunder and lighting. After the storm, the walk resumes. The pace increases when joggers pass by. As they catch their breath, a second passage of warm strings leads to a joyous assembly of birds arguing. Crickets enshrine the falling night as sun sets.

“*A Day in the Life of a Garden*” is dedicated to all nature and park lovers.

Robert Casteels

From a fine academic career in his native Belgium, at the Guildhall, London, and finally at the Juilliard where he was awarded the Bruno Walter Memorial Scholarship for conducting two years consecutively, Robert Casteels leads a distinguished professional career as conductor and composer in his adopted home Singapore.

Internationally in the region, he has recently conducted the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, the West Australian Symphony Orchestra, the Tasmania Symphony Orchestra, the Elision Ensemble in the Konzerthaus of Berlin, and has just returned from a successful series at the Queensland Conservatory of Music, Griffith University, Brisbane and at the School of Music, Australia National University, Canberra. Robert Casteels serves as Chief External Examiner of the Faculty of Music of The University of Melbourne.

His compositions range from miniature to large-scale works in the European tradition, as well as multi-disciplinary works which combine European, Chinese and Indian instruments with gamelan. In 2001, in recognition of his work in promoting cross-cultural composition and research on non-European tuning systems, Robert Casteels was awarded the Christoffel Plantin Prize, the highest Cultural Medallion in Belgium.

In the midst of this full schedule, he nevertheless devotes time and energy to music education for youth, and is currently Artistic Director of The Philharmonic Winds and Music Director of the Singapore National Youth Orchestra, under the Ministry of Education.

Recent compositions include:

- 🎵 “Qie Yu” for Chinese and gamelan orchestras, western brass, percussion ensemble and speaking choir on the poem ‘Bicara Dalam Sepi’ by Norulashikin Jamain (2001);
- 🎵 “Hui Rao” Celebratory spatial fanfare WASBE (Singapore) for sixteen horns and Chinese percussion instruments (2001, commissioned by the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles);
- 🎵 “L’ (autre) fille aux cheveux de Bali” for Chinese string trio, vibraphone and an ensemble of Solonese, Balinese and Burmese metallophones (2002, commissioned by the Contemporary Asian Arts Centre, Singapore);
- 🎵 “Sui Yuen” for unaccompanied piano (2002);
- 🎵 “Sonata Profana” for triple orchestra and Balinese gangsa with 3 simultaneous conductors (2002, commissioned by the Centre for The Arts, National University of Singapore);
- 🎵 “Elegy to the men you don’t meet ev’ryday” for Chinese symphonic orchestra, Balinese gangsa, trombone chorus and Quinton (2002, dedicated to Jo McNally and Kuo Pao Kun);
- 🎵 “Shadow catcher” for double chorus a cappella and rapper on text by Elangovan (2003);
- 🎵 “Whisper in the night” for solo percussion, strings and tape (2003, commissioned by the Australian National University);
- 🎵 “Spirit of Wood” for percussion quartet and tape (2003, commissioned by the Asian Civilisations Museum at Empress Place).

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 1

1" 13" ♩ = 69 Slow

Percussion

pluck string

Piano
right hand

pp #0

(follow tempo of tape)

Nature
sounds

(left hand of pianist
or assistant)

Light rain and birds

Sost. pedal until bar 13 and
u.c. pedal until bar 14

track 1

Tape

Percussion

Harp

Violin 1

Violin 2

Violin 3

Violin 4

Violin 5

Viola 1

Viola 2

Viola 3

Viola 4

Viola 5

Violoncello 1

Violoncello 2

Violoncello 3

Violoncello 4

Violoncello 5

Bass 1

Bass 2

Bass 3

Bass 4

Bass 5

pp

pp

arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

ppp arco non vibrato

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 2

P r c. **P i a n o** **S n d s** **T a p e**

Vibraphone **Marimba** **medium hard sticks**

p *mp* *pp* *fff* *l.v.*

Red. *Red.* *Red.*

motor on medium speed/
medium hard sticks/
pedal with weight until bar 14

vibraphone **crotales** (crotales sound one 8va higher than notated)

5:4

Glockenspiel (sounds 2 octaves higher)

3:2 3:2 l.v.

Rit. 3"

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

T
a
p
e

The musical score is divided into three main sections: Percussion (Prc.), Piano (Piano), and Tape. The Percussion part (top staff) features a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *p* and includes triplet markings (3:2) and a first ending (l.v.). The Piano part (middle staff) features chords and triplet markings (3:2). The Tape part (bottom staff) includes parts for marimba and glockenspiel, with a dynamic marking of *ppp* and a first ending (l.v.). The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines. The Percussion part ends with a *Rit. 3"* marking. The Piano part ends with a first ending (l.v.). The Tape part ends with a first ending (l.v.).

Libero

Low triangle

High triangle

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

14

p

Vivo, con rubato

String tape tacet until letter B

Bird call 1
Copsychus malabaricus

Bird call 2
*Copsychus saularis
musicus*

l.v.

l.v.

8va

5"

(light rain and birds)

15

pluck string

red.

16

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

A Solo marimba
medium hard sticks

p *mf* *mf* Small suspended cymbal
pp U.c. and sostenuto pedals until end bar 43

18

pp *p* *mf*

22

mp *p*

25

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 6

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

28

31

34

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 7

P r c.
P i a n o
S n d s

mf

3:2

3

3

3

Percussion wooden frog track 2

37

p *mf* *p* *mp*

3:2

(! non crescendo)

3

4/4

41

mf

3:2

Red. poco sostenuto

3

4/4

44

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 8

B ♩ = 76

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

Rain, birds and chorus of
Rana catesbeiana

marimba

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of a Garden,
page 9

Vibraphone

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

T
a
p
e

f *ped.* fast speed/
medium hard sticks/
pedal for 9 bars

3 3 3

V

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 10

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

3 3 3 3

pizz.

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 11

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

C *Grand*

Tam scratch with with metal, i.v.

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

Bass drum *ff*

ff

Storm and thunder 1
(track 2)

mp *i.v.*

arco *mp*

A Day in the Life of a Garden, page 13

small values on glockenspiel/ main notes with square noteheads on crotales

The score is divided into four main sections:

- Percussion:** Features a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It starts with a rest, followed by a series of square noteheads (crotales) with a dynamic marking of *ff*. A slur covers a sequence of notes, with a fermata above it.
- Piano:** Features a bass clef and a 4/4 time signature. It begins with a rest and a dynamic marking of *ff*. The main melody consists of square noteheads (crotales) with a dynamic marking of *ff*. There are two melodic phrases: the first is marked *15ma* (15th measure) and the second is marked *8va* (8th octave).
- Snare:** Features a 4/4 time signature. It contains a square box icon and the text "Storm and thunder 1 (track 2)".
- Tape:** Features a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. It starts with a dynamic marking of *p* and the text "glockenspiel armonioso l.v.". The notation includes various dynamics such as *pp*, *p*, and *pp*, along with a fermata.

A Day in the Life of a Garden,
page 14

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

The musical score consists of four main parts: Percussion (Pr.), Piano (Piano), Sounds (Sounds), and Tape (Tape). The score is written in 2/4 time. The Percussion part features a treble clef and includes a triplet of eighth notes and a quarter note with a flat. The Piano part features a treble clef, a dynamic marking of $8va$, and includes a triplet of eighth notes and a quarter note with a flat. The Sounds part features a treble clef and includes a dynamic marking of pp . The Tape part features a treble clef and includes a dynamic marking of pp . The score is divided into measures, with a double bar line at the end of the first measure. The page number 60 is located at the bottom left.

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of a Garden,
page 15

l.v.

Tam

scratch with with metal, *l.v.*

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

The musical score is written for a multi-media performance. It includes:

- Percussion (Pr c.):** A single staff with a treble clef, 2/4 and 3/4 time signatures, and a *ff* dynamic marking.
- Piano (Piano):** A single staff with a treble clef, 2/4 and 3/4 time signatures, and a *(8va)* marking.
- Sounds:** A single staff with a treble clef, 2/4 and 3/4 time signatures.
- Tape:** A series of 15 staves, each with a treble clef and 2/4 time signature. The first staff has an *mp* dynamic marking and an *l.v.* instruction. The remaining staves have *sp* dynamic markings.

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of a Garden,
page 16

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

4/4 2/4

8va

f

Thunder 2

4/4 2/4

p pp gliss. pp

v

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 17

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

The musical score is divided into four main sections: Percussion (P r c.), Piano (P i a n o), Sounds (S n d s), and Tape. The Percussion part is in 2/4 time and features a triplet of eighth notes and a quarter note. The Piano part is in 2/4 time and features a triplet of eighth notes and a quarter note. The Sounds part is in 2/4 time and features a quarter note. The Tape part consists of multiple staves with various musical notations, including dynamics like p, pp, and sf, and articulation marks like v.

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 18

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

The musical score is arranged in a vertical layout. At the top is the Percussion (Prc.) staff, which contains a single measure with a square symbol. Below it is the Piano (Piano) staff, which contains a complex melodic line in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The piano part includes a triplet of eighth notes, a fermata, and an 8va marking. The bottom section of the score is the Tape section, consisting of 15 staves. The top two staves of the Tape section contain some musical notation, including a piano (p) dynamic marking and a fermata. The remaining staves in the Tape section are mostly empty, with some fermatas and dynamic markings (sp) scattered throughout.

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of a Garden,
page 19

P
r
c.

mf *mf*

Bass drum

P
i
a
n
o

mf

Thunder 3

S
n
d
s

Tape

mp *p* *pp* *p* *pp*

gliss.

67

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 20

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

2/4

8va

2/4

2/4

p

sp

sp

sp

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 21

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

p *pp*

p *pp* *gliss.* *p* *pp*

sp *sp* *sp* *sp* *sp*

P
r
c.
P
i
a
n
o
S
n
d
s

pp Trgl beater on cymbal pluck string

molto espr. mp Red.

Rain, and chorus of
Rana catesbeiana

String tape tacet until letter F

74

D Andantino "jogging"
♩ = 92 Solo vibraphone

Red. p Suspended cymbal pp

normal
(no pedal) dynamic: sempre accompagnando leggero

79

p mp Red. mf Red.

tremolando accelerando e l.v. middle pedal

track 3

Mu yu (rhythm of bar 14)

84

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 23

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
t
r
i
n
g
s

Musical score for Percussion and Piano, measures 88-91. The Percussion part (top staff) features a melodic line with triplets and a fermata at the end. The Piano part (middle staff) provides harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The String section (bottom staff) is marked "String tape tacet until letter E".

mp *Red.*

88

Musical score for Percussion and Piano, measures 92-95. The Percussion part (top staff) continues with triplets and includes a crescendo leading to a fortissimo section. The Piano part (middle staff) features triplets and a first-violin part labeled "I.v.". The String section (bottom staff) remains tacet.

p *Red.* *mf* *Red.* *I.v.*

92

Musical score for Percussion and Piano, measures 96-98. The Percussion part (top staff) features a crescendo leading to a fortissimo section. The Piano part (middle staff) includes triplets and a first-violin part labeled "I.v.". The String section (bottom staff) is marked "loco" and "finger pedal".

p *Red.* *f* *Red.* *loco* *finger pedal*

97

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of a Garden,
page 24

P
r
c.
P
i
a
n
o
S
n
d
s

p *mf* *p* *Ped.*

middle pedal l.v.

101

p *mf* *p* *Ped.*

105

mf *p* *mf* *Ped.*

109

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 25

P
r
c.
P
i
a
n
o
S
t
r
i
c
t
u
r
e

113

117

121

3 *Poco ritardando*



$\text{♩} = 76$

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

Chorus 2 of *Rana catesbeiana*
and *Maglicade septendecula*

track 4

pizz.

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page 27

Marimba

P
r
c.

Three measures of Marimba music in bass clef. Each measure contains a triplet of eighth notes. The notes are G2, F2, and E2. Above each triplet is a bracket with the number '3'.

medium hard sticks

P
i
a
n
o

Three measures of Piano music in treble clef. The first two measures are empty. The third measure contains a triplet of eighth notes: G4, F4, and E4. Above the triplet is a bracket with the number '3'.

Guiro

3

S
n
d
s

Three measures of Snds music. Each measure contains a single note on a staff line, with a horizontal line extending across the measure, suggesting a sustained or continuous sound.

Tape

A large section of musical notation for the Tape part, consisting of 14 staves. The notation includes various rhythmic patterns, rests, and dynamic markings (such as 'v' for accents) across the three measures.

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of a Garden,
page 28

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

3 3 3 3

3 3 3

3 3 3

ord
mp

ord
pizz.
pizz.

A Day in the Life of a Garden,
page 29

P r c
P i a n o
S n d s
T a p e

4/4

3 3 3 3 3 3

3 3 3

4/4

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

arco ord v

ord

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

cresc.

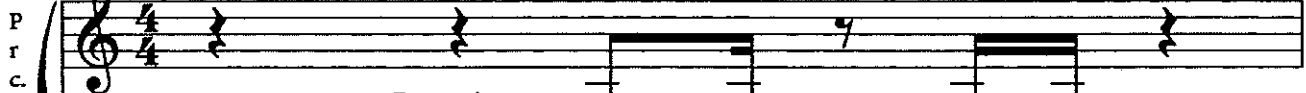
cresc.

cresc.

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 30

F *Grand*

P
r
c.
4/4



Bass drum

mf

P
i
a
n
o
4/4



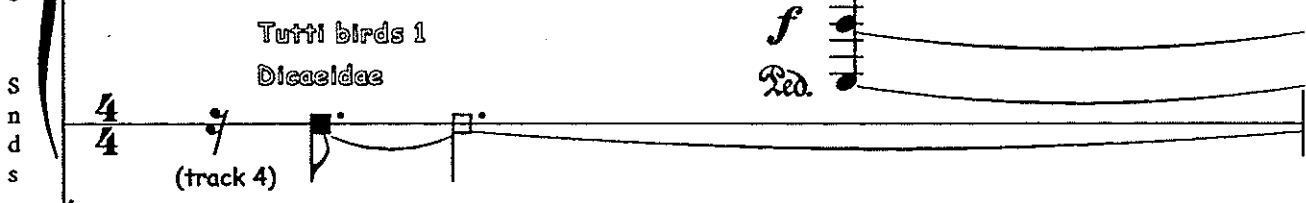
mf

S
n
d
s
4/4

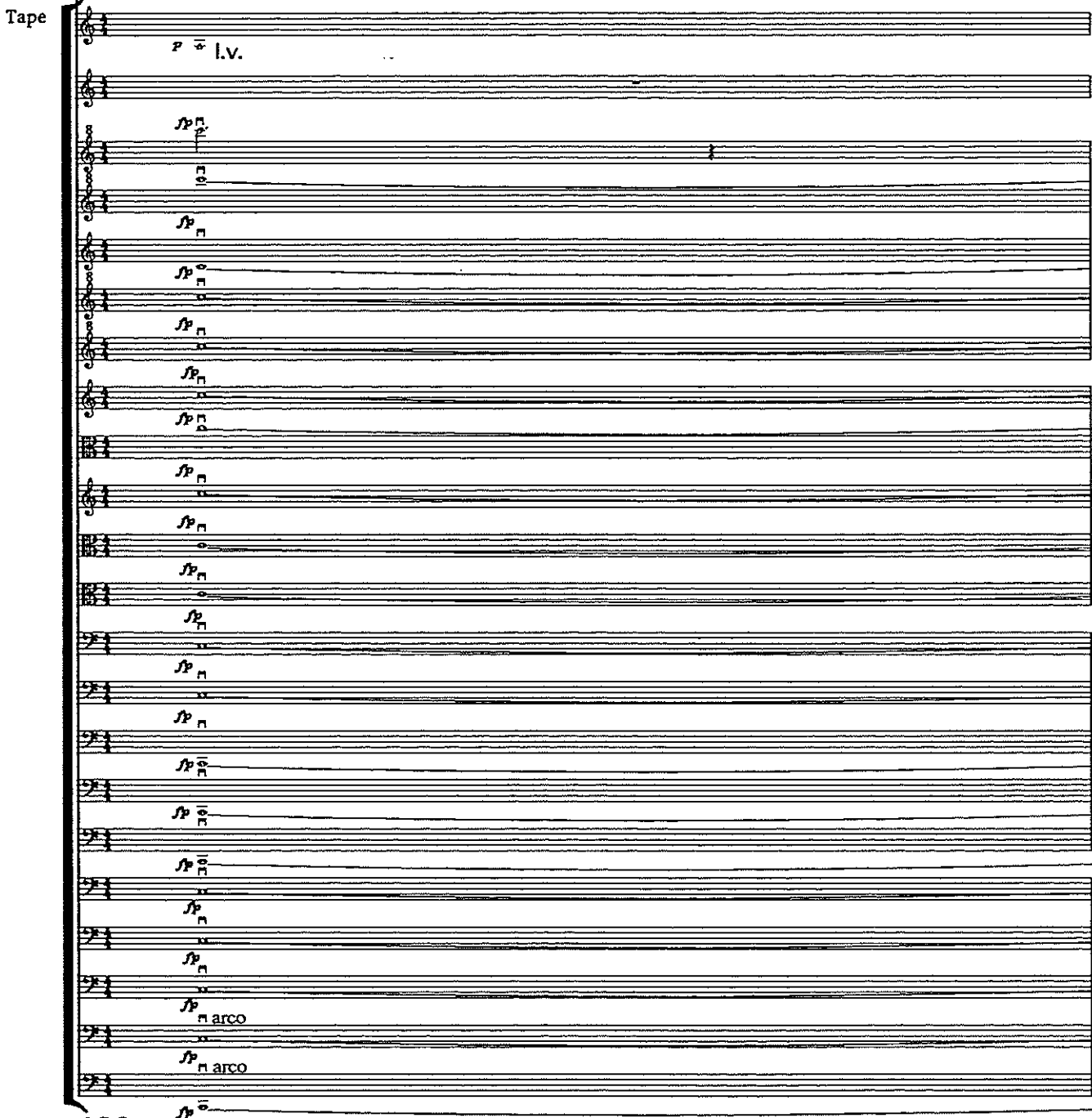
Tutti birds 1
Diccaidae

f
Red.

(track 4)



Tape



p * i.v.

mf

f

arco

small values on glockenspiel, long values on crotales

The musical score is divided into three main sections: Percussion, Piano, and Tape.

- Percussion:** The first staff features a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. It begins with a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4 marked *f*. A slur covers a series of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. This is followed by a dotted half note G4.
- Piano:** The second staff uses a bass clef. It starts with a quarter rest, then a quarter note B3. A slur covers a series of notes: A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2. This is followed by a dotted half note G3. A triplet of notes (F3, E3, D3) is marked with a '3' below the bracket.
- Tape:** The third section contains multiple staves. The top staff, labeled 'crotales - armonioso l.v.', shows dynamics *p*, *pp*, *p*, and *pp*. The second staff includes a glissando marked 'gliss. (before the beat)' with dynamics *sp*, *p*, and *sf*. The remaining staves are mostly empty, with some notes in the lower staves and a 'v' marking in the 11th staff.

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 32

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

(8va)

loco

3

3

2/4

2/4

2/4

gliss.

p

pp

p

pp

mf

gliss. *mf*

sp

sp

v

v

v

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 33

P r c.
P i a n o
S n d s
Tape

mf

gliss. *p* *l.v.* *pp*

sp

Tutti birds 2
(track 4)

sp *sp*

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 34

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

2/4

2/4

2/4

p

pp *gliss.*

p

pp

sp

sp

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

v

A Day in the Life
of a Garden,
page 35

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Tape

p

p

p

gliss.

p

l.v.

Tutti birds 3
(track 4)

sp

sp

sp

sp

sp

sp

sp

sp

sp

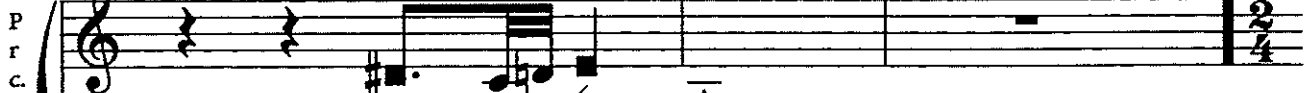
sp

sp

sp

Cymbal

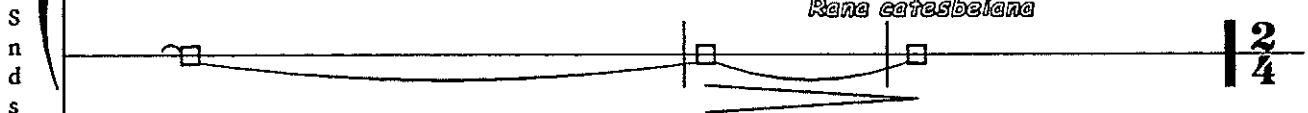
P
r
c.



P
i
a
n
o

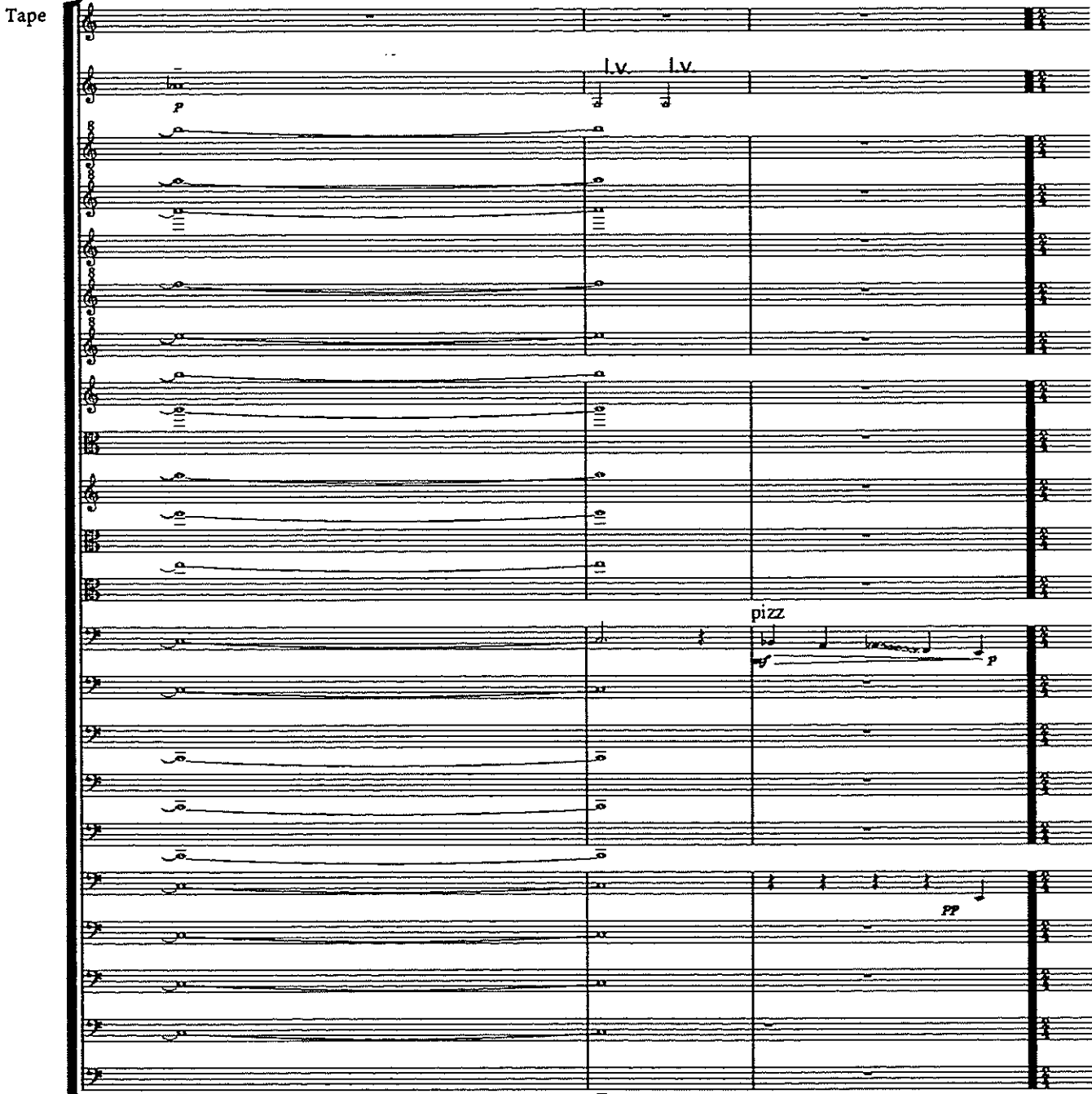


S
n
d
s



Rain, and chorus of
Rana catesbeiana

Tape



G

*Ritenu*to

P
r
c.

pluck string normal simile

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

Chorus of *Magicicada septendecula* with birds

track 5

String tape tacet al fine

149

Vibraphone

Calmo *mf* Maracas

medium hard sticks

Red. One pedal until bar 172 incl.

mf

Red. One pedal until bar 172 incl.

153

(different chorus)

157 (track 5)

P
r
c.

P
i
a
n
o

S
n
d
s

161 (track 5)

Maracas

165 (track 5)

169 (track 5)

25"

Maracas

Perdendosi