

Steven Webb

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Webb', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

# Telephonic

For Chamber Orchestra & Electronics  
(2020)

## Program Notes:

I began my work on what would become Telephonic after reading a news article on recently discovered early audio recordings from the 1860s. Through the use of modern computer and laser-scanning systems, we are now able to playback some of these early recordings that would otherwise be inaccessible due to the fragility of the playback cylinders. I was overwhelmed by the idea of hearing human voices from over 150 years ago, and the beauty and imperfect nature of these early recordings strongly resonated with me.

Since many of these early recordings were captured by the inventor of the telephone, Alexander Graham Bell, I began to think more about how his invention began the transformative process of the development of the information age in the 20th century, ultimately leading to the invention of the internet and other instant telecommunication devices we take for granted in the 21st century. Telephonic thus ultimately turned into a tribute to this invention, and its massive impact upon all aspects of human society.

The electronics are made up entirely from two early recordings – an 1860 recording of the French folk-song *Au claire de la lune* and an 1880 recording of G.F. Handel's *Israel in Egypt*.

**Duration: 9 min. 30 sec.**

### Instrumentation:

Flute/Piccolo  
Oboe  
Clarinet in Bb  
Bassoon  
  
Horn in F  
  
Violin 1  
Violin 2  
Viola  
Violincello  
Contrabass  
  
Tape Track

### Electronics Setup:

Required materials:

- Stereo Speakers
- 8 channel Mixer
- External Audio Interface
- MIDI Controller for Sample Triggering
- Laptop running Ableton Live
- 4 XLR or 1/4 inch Cables

### About the Composer:

Originally from South Africa, Steven Webb (b.1989) is a Toronto based performer, composer, and audio engineer. Steven has written music for a wide variety of ensembles, and his repertoire includes choral, chamber, and orchestral music. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by: The Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Thin Edge New Music Collective, The University of Guelph Symphonic Choir, Exultate Chamber Singers, and Prairie Voices, among many others.

As a film composer, Steven has worked on a number of noteworthy projects including 'Chopin's Heart' for The National Screen Institute, and 'Period Piece', winner of the best Canadian Short Film at the Toronto After Dark Film Festival. Steven is a member of SOCAN, an Associate Composer at the Canadian Music Centre, and a member of the Screen Composers Guild of Canada.



Steven Webb Music  
www.stevenwebbmusic.com  
stevenwbb@gmail.com

# Telephonic

Steven Webb (b. 1989)

**Textural** ♩=60

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bassoon

Horn in F

Samples

Violin

Violin

Viola

Violoncello

Contrabass

Blow air through mouthpiece

Simile

pp

p < mp > Sample 1

p < mf >

Bow the tailpiece of the instrument (non-pitched)

Light bowing across bridge strings (non-pitched)

f

Bow the tailpiece of the instrument (non-pitched)

pp

Light bowing across bridge strings (non-pitched)

pp

Bow the tailpiece of the instrument (non-pitched)

pp

Harmonic Glissando (continuous gliding)

pizz.

arco

mp

pizz.

f

p

**9**

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Sam.

Vln.

Vln.

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Random Key Clicks

Aeolian Winds (Breathy)

mf

p

Random Key Clicks

mf

p

pp

port.

(Chromatic) gliss.

p

p

p < mf > p < mf > p

pp

mp

pp

mp

pp

pp

mp

pp

gliss.

pizz.

arco

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

gliss.

pizz.

p

arco

port.

pp

**A** Più mosso ♩=68

17

Fl. *port.* *mp* *f* *p* *pp* *port.*

Ob. *port.* *mp* *f* *p* *pp* *port.*

Cl. *port.* *mp* *f* *p* *pp* *port.*

Bsn. *(tr)* *mp* *f* *p* *pp* *port.*

Hn. *p* *mp* *f* *p* *pp*

Sam. Sample 2

**A** Più mosso ♩=68

ord.

Vln. *p* *gliss.* *mp* *f* *p* *pp* *tr*

Vln. *gliss.* *gliss.* *mp* *f* *p* *pp* *port.*

Vla. *gliss.* *mp* *f* *p* *pp* *port.*

Vc. *gliss.* *mp* *f* *p* *pp* *port.*

Cb. *arco* *gliss.* *pp* *f* *p* *pp* *port.*

27

Fl. *mp* *pp*

Ob. *port.* *mp* *mf* *p* *7* *7*

Cl. *port.* *mp* *pp* *mp* *pp* *3* *3* *3* *3*

Bsn. *pp* *pp* *mp* *3* *3* *3*

Hn. *pp* *pp*

Sam.

Vln. *pizz.* *arco con sordino sul tasto* *ppp* *con sordino sul tasto*

Vln. *port.* *mp* *pp* *ppp* *con sordino sul tasto*

Vla. *mp* *pp* *ppp* *p* *con sordino sul tasto*

Vc. *mp* *pp*

Cb. *mp* *pp*

32

Fl. *port.*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp*

Bsn. *pp*

Hn. *mp*

Sam. Sample 3

Vln. *mp* *pp* *pp* *sul tasto*

Vln. *pp* *sul tasto*

Vla. *pp*

Vc. *p* *mp* *mp*

Cb. *p*

*mute off*

*sul tasto*

36

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

Cl. *pp*

Bsn. *pp* *mf*

Hn. *mf*

Sam.

Vln. *pp*

Vln. *pp*

Vla. *pp* *sul tasto*

Vc. *mf* *p* *pp*

Cb.

*mute out*

*sul tasto*

41

Fl. *p* *mf* *f*

Ob. *p* *mf* *f*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mf* *f*

Hn. *mf* *p* *mf*

Sam.

Vln. *ord.* *mp* *mf*

Vln. *ord.* *mp* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mp* *mf*

Vc. *p pizz.* *mp arco* *mf*

Cb. *p* *mp* *mf*

Blow air through horn

45

To Picc. *p* *mp* *p*

Fl. *p* *mp* *p*

Ob. *p* *mp* *p*

Cl. *p* *mf* *p*

Bsn. *p* *mf* *p*

Hn. *mf* *mf* *p*

Sam. Sample 4 Sample 5

Vln. *p* *mf* *p*

Vln. *p* *mf* *p*

Vla. *p* *p* *mf* *p*

Vc. *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

Cb. *p* *pp* *mf* *p*

To Fl.

**B**

Flute

Blow air through instrument 6

52

Picc. *p* *mf*

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn. Blow air through mouthpiece

Hn. *p*

Sam.

Vln. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *pp*

Vln. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *pp*

Vla. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *pp*

Vc. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.* *pp*

Cb. *pp*

**B**

57

Fl. Blow air through instrument *p* *mf* Random Key Clicks *f*

Ob. Blow air through instrument Random Key Clicks *f*

Cl. Blow air through instrument *p* *mf* Random Key Clicks *f*

Bsn. *mp* Random Key Clicks *f*

Hn. *mf* Sample 6

Vln. Light bowing across bridge strings (non-pitched) *pp* Overpressure *ff* Scratch Tone

Vln. Light bowing across bridge strings (non-pitched) *pp* Overpressure *ff* Scratch Tone

Vla. Light bowing across bridge strings (non-pitched) *pp* Overpressure *ff* Scratch Tone

Vc. Light bowing across bridge strings (non-pitched) *pp* Overpressure *ff* Scratch Tone

Cb. Light bowing across bridge strings (non-pitched) *pp* Overpressure *ff* Scratch Tone

*pp* *pp* *ff*

C Playful ♩=140

Fl. *f*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

Sam. ||

C Playful ♩=140

Vln. *f*

Vln. *f*

Vla. *f*

Vc. *f*

Cb. *f*

Fl. *mf* *f*

Ob. *mf* *f*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mf* *f*

Hn. *mf* *f*

Sam. ||

Vln. *ff*

Vln. *ff*

Vla. *mf* *ff*

Vc. *mf*

Cb. *mf*



73

Fl. *mf* *f*

Ob. *mf* *f* *mf*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

Sam.

Vln. *f* *mf* *f* *mp*

Vln. *f* *mf* *f* *mp*

Vla. *f* *mf* *f* *mp*

Vc. *f* *mf* *f* *mp*

Cb. *f* *mp*

79

Fl. *mf* *f* *mp* *pp*

Ob. *f* *pp*

Cl. *mf* *f* *pp*

Bsn. *f*

Hn. *f*

Sam.

Vln. *f* *mf pizz.* *mf arco*

Vln. *f* *mf pizz.* *mf arco*

Vla. *f* *mf* *mf*

Vc. *f* *mp*

Cb. *f*

85

poco accel.

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *pp*

Cl. *pp* *mp*

Bsn. *p* *pp* *mp*

Hn. *p* *p* Slowly cover bell (muted)

Sam. Sample 7

Vln. *pp* *p* *pp* *pizz.*

Vln. *pp* *p* *pp* *pizz.*

Vla. *p* *pizz.*

Vc. *p* *pizz.* *pp* *p*

Cb. *p*

90

*p*  
♩=144

*pizz.*

Fl. *mp* *mf*

Ob. *mp*

Cl. *mp* *p*

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. *p* Blow air through mouthpiece

Sam.

Vln. *pp* *mp* arco

Vln. *pp* *mp* arco

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Fl. *p* *mf* *pp* Random Key Clicks Sample Fadeout

Ob. *p* *mf* *pp* Random Key Clicks Sample Fadeout

Cl. *p* *mf* *pp* Random Key Clicks Sample Fadeout

Bsn. *p* *mf* *pp* Random Key Clicks Sample Fadeout

Hn. *mf* *p* *mf* Simile Sample Fadeout

Sam. *mf* *p* *mf* Sample Fadeout

Vln. *p* *mf* *pp* Random Tapping on body of instrument w/ nails Sample Fadeout

Vln. *p* *mf* *pp* Random Tapping on body of instrument w/ nails Sample Fadeout

Vla. *p* *mf* *pp* Random Tapping on body of instrument w/ nails Sample Fadeout

Vc. *f* *pp* Overpressure arco Sample Fadeout

Cb. *f* *pp* Overpressure arco Sample Fadeout

**D** With Expression ♩=76

102

Fl. *mp* *mp* Molto espressivo Solo

Ob. *mp* *ppp* *p*

Bsn. *ppp* *p*

Sam. Sample 8

**D** With Expression ♩=76

Vln. *ppp* *mp* arco sul tasto ord.

Vln. *ppp* *mp* arco sul tasto ord.

Vla. *ppp* *mp*

Vc. *ppp* *mp*

Cb. *ppp* *mp*