

tableau musical

ensemble

originally: soprano, countertenor, flutes, bass clarinet,
violin, viola, double bass, percussion, piano

eva-maria houben

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calm – silence – solitude...

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2025

twin composition: chœur d'ombres (schattenchor / choir of shadows), played by the
InfraSound Ensemble.

listening to Hector Berlioz.

For the InfraSound Ensemble: Amber Evans, soprano; Luke Paulin, countertenor; Stefanie Proulx, flutes; Yoshi Weinberg, flutes; Kathryn Vetter, bass clarinet; Giancarlo Latta, violin; Dudley Raine IV, viola; Sam Zagnit, double bass; J. Clancy, percussion; Daniel Schreiner, piano; with David Bloom, conductor

people say:

silence follows the storm.

what follows the silence?

La Mort d'Orphée is Berlioz's first cantata composed for the Prix de Rome (July 1827).

Berlioz writes in the score, regarding the movement *Tableau musical (Orphée, 59)*:

« Pour l'intelligence des exécutants il est nécessaire d'expliquer ma pensée. Je me suis représenté et j'ai tâché de rendre dans ce tableau musical plusieurs effets différents et contrastant entre eux.

Après la mort d'Orphée les Bacchantes se sont éloignées du lieu de la catastrophe ; on ne distingue déjà plus le bruit de leurs pas ; le vent gémit tristement et fait vibrer par intervalles la harpe d'Orphée à demi brisée. Dans le lointain un pâtre des montagnes de la Thrace qui a retenu le premier chant d'Orphée, cherche à le reproduire sur la flûte. Le vent s'apaise peu à peu, les sons qu'il apportait expirent, la harpe ne fait plus entendre que quelques vibrations incohérentes.

Calme... silence... solitude. »

“Contributing to the understanding, it is necessary to explain my thoughts [...].

After Orpheus's death, the Bacchae moved away from the scene of the catastrophe; we cannot recognize the sound of their footsteps any longer; the wind moans sadly and makes Orpheus's harp vibrate with several intervals, half broken. In the distance, a shepherd from the mountains of Thrace, who remembers the first of Orpheus's chants, seeks to reproduce it on the flute. The wind gradually subsides, the sounds, which the wind brought, decay, the harp exhales only a few incoherent vibrations.

Calm... silence... solitude.”

the piece includes the whole range of a piano – and even more.

the score does not distribute certain sounds (pitched or unpitched) to the instruments but invites the players to find sounds within their margins.

a vertical column indicates a space to dwell: specific constellations of sounds will be arising.

the next vertical column does not open until all sounds of the vertical column before have disappeared.

sounds with a high amount of air or noise (very high partials) and a fuzzy intonation are welcome.

voices: vocalises.

electronic devices, objects, toy instruments and so on ad libitum.

restraint, soft.

one single sound (○) or a gesture (two, three or five ●) within a specific range: occurring (each one on a calm breath or bow) at least once, but seldom more often.

listening more than playing.

a very silent situation, full of inner listening.

The image shows a musical score for voice and piano. It consists of seven vocal staves and one piano staff. The vocal staves are labeled on the left as follows: *C7 and higher*, *C6 - H6*, *C5 - H5*, *C4 - H4*, *C3 - H3*, *C2 - H2*, and *H1 and lower*. The piano staff is labeled *unpitched*. The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first measure contains a whole note chord in the piano staff, consisting of a B-flat note and a D note, with a fermata over it. The vocal staves have various notes and rests. The *C7 and higher* staff has notes on the first and third lines. The *C6 - H6* staff has a note on the second line. The *C5 - H5* staff has notes on the second and third lines. The *C4 - H4* staff has notes on the first and second lines, with a slur over the first two notes. The *C3 - H3* staff has notes on the first and second lines, with a slur over the first two notes. The *C2 - H2* staff has notes on the first and second lines. The *H1 and lower* staff has notes on the first and second lines. The piano staff has a whole note chord in the first measure, consisting of a B-flat note and a D note, with a fermata over it.

6

C 7 and higher

C6 - H6

C5 - H5

C4 - H4

C3 - H3

C2 - H2

H1 and lower

unpitched

The musical score consists of eight staves. The top staff, labeled 'C 7 and higher', contains a single note on the top line. The second staff, 'C6 - H6', has a note on the top line with a slur over it, and a second note below it. The third staff, 'C5 - H5', has a slur over two notes on the top line and a note below. The fourth staff, 'C4 - H4', has a slur over four notes on the top line and a note below. The fifth staff, 'C3 - H3', has notes on the top and bottom lines. The sixth staff, 'C2 - H2', has a note on the top line with a slur over it and a note below. The seventh staff, 'H1 and lower', has notes on the top and bottom lines. The eighth staff, 'unpitched', has a note on the bottom line with a slur over it and a note below. A vertical brace on the left side of the staves is labeled with the number '6' at the top.

11

C7 and higher

C6 - H6

C5 - H5

C4 - H4

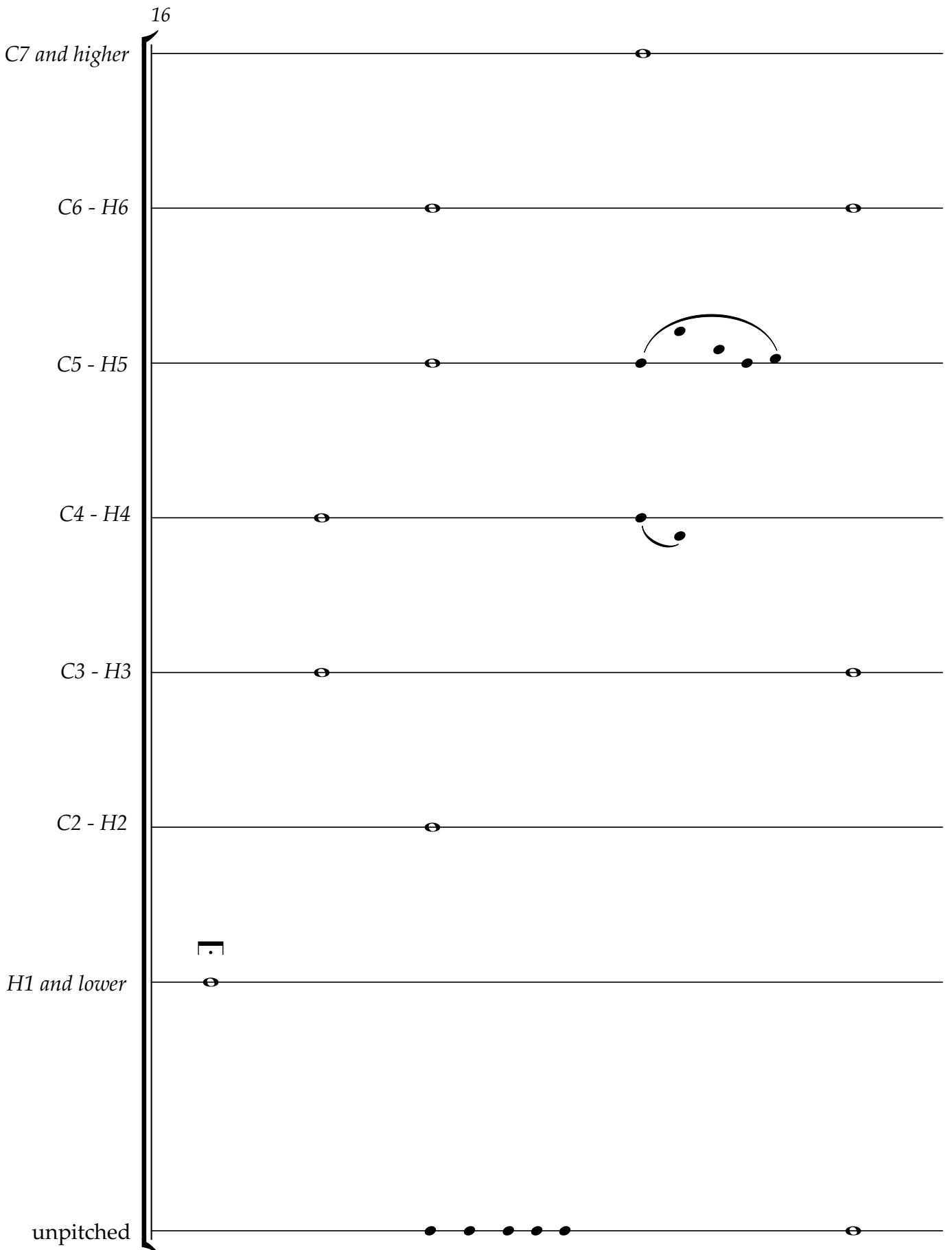
C3 - H3

C2 - H2

H1 and lower

unpitched

Detailed description of the musical score: The score consists of 11 horizontal staves. The top staff, labeled 'C7 and higher', begins with a note on the first line (C7) marked with a fermata. The second staff, 'C6 - H6', is empty. The third staff, 'C5 - H5', contains a note on the second line (C5) with a fermata, followed by a slur over two notes on the second and third lines (E5 and F5). The fourth staff, 'C4 - H4', contains a slur over two notes on the second and third lines (E4 and F4). The fifth staff, 'C3 - H3', contains a note on the second line (C3) with a fermata, followed by a slur over two notes on the second and third lines (E3 and F3). The sixth staff, 'C2 - H2', contains a note on the second line (C2) with a fermata, followed by a slur over three notes on the second, third, and fourth lines (E2, F2, and G2). The seventh staff, 'H1 and lower', begins with a note on the first line (H1) marked with a fermata. The eighth staff, 'unpitched', contains a note on the first line (unpitched) with a fermata. The number '11' is written at the top left of the first staff. The labels for the staves are positioned to the left of the staves.



21

C 7 and higher

C6 - H6

C5 - H5

C4 - H4

C3 - H3

C2 - H2

H1 and lower

unpitched

26

C7 and higher

C6 - H6

C5 - H5

C4 - H4

C3 - H3

C2 - H2

H1 and lower

unpitched

31

C7 and higher

C6 - H6

C5 - H5

C4 - H4

C3 - H3

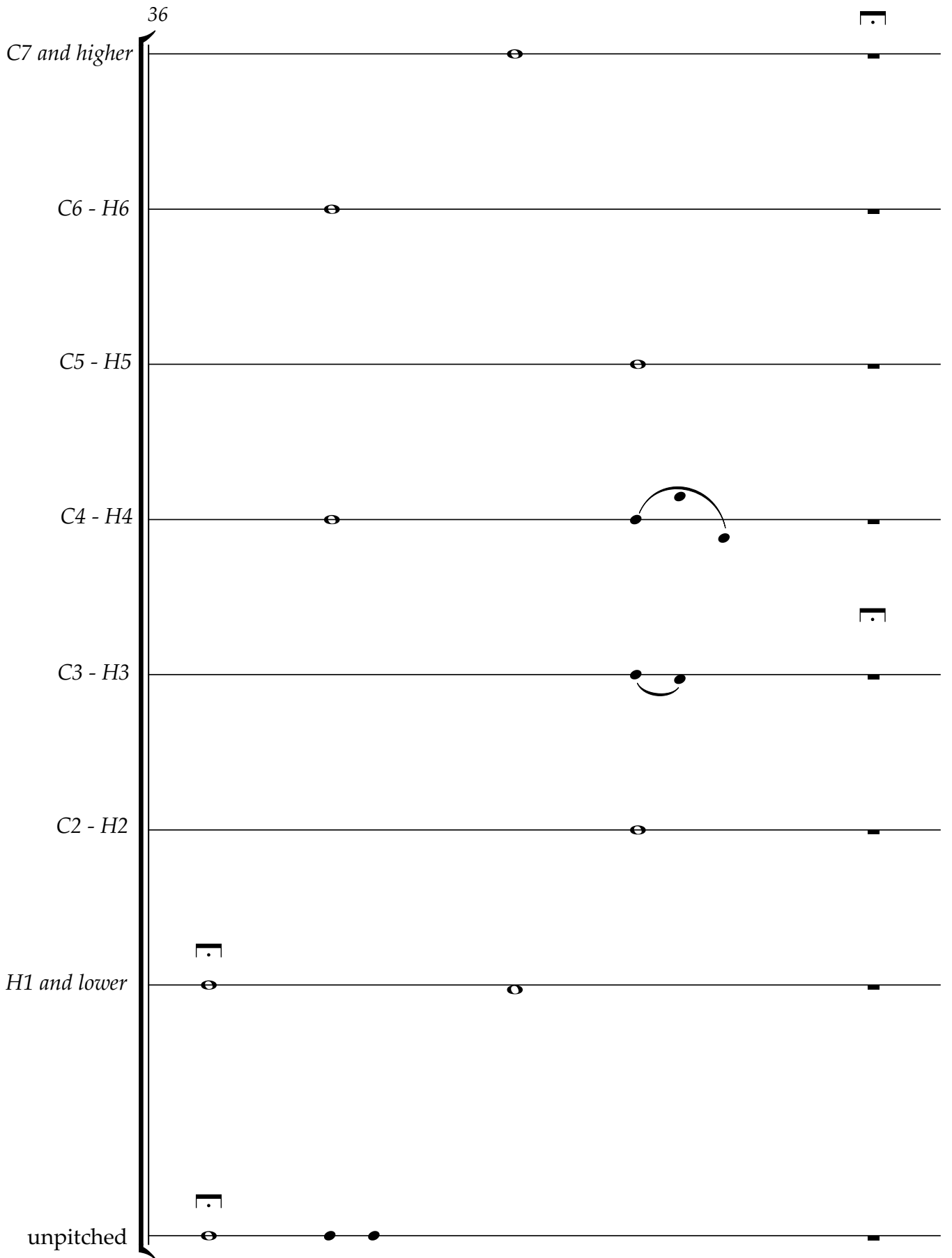
C2 - H2

H1 and lower

unpitched

The diagram shows a vertical staff with seven horizontal lines. From top to bottom, the lines are labeled: *C7 and higher*, *C6 - H6*, *C5 - H5*, *C4 - H4*, *C3 - H3*, *C2 - H2*, and *H1 and lower*. A thick vertical line on the left side of the staff is labeled '31' at the top. The notes and symbols are as follows:

- Line 1 (*C7 and higher*): Two open circles (notes) on the line.
- Line 2 (*C6 - H6*): One open circle (note) on the line, with a small square symbol above it.
- Line 3 (*C5 - H5*): One open circle (note) on the line, and a slur connecting two solid black dots (notes) on the line.
- Line 4 (*C4 - H4*): One open circle (note) on the line.
- Line 5 (*C3 - H3*): One open circle (note) on the line.
- Line 6 (*C2 - H2*): One open circle (note) on the line.
- Line 7 (*H1 and lower*): One open circle (note) on the line, and a slur connecting two solid black dots (notes) on the line.
- Line 8 (unpitched): Two open circles (notes) on the line.



41

C7 and higher

C6 - H6

C5 - H5

C4 - H4

C3 - H3

C2 - H2

H1 and lower

unpitched

