Sang Plato’s Ghost
for flute, oboe, percussion, harp, accordion, viola, and double-bass

by Kyle Gann
2013
Sang Plato’s Ghost (2013)

*Sang Plato’s Ghost* – for flute, oboe, percussion (trap set + glockenspiel), harp, accordion, viola, and double bass – was written at the request of Ben Richter for his group, the Ghost Ensemble. Given the chance to write for accordion, I first imagined a tango, then put that tango in 5/4, and then started to write clouds of tango allusions on either side of it. The title is taken from W.B. Yeats’s poem *What Then?* –

The work is done,’ grown old he thought,
'According to my boyish plan;
Let the fools rage, I swerved in naught,
Something to perfection brought’;
But louder sang that ghost, 'What then?'

which may have more to do with the mood in which I wrote the piece than the piece itself.

- Kyle Gann
In general the percussion should be a gentle, jazz-style background, all soft mallets except for the snare drum and glockenspiel, and brushes for the cymbals.
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for Ben Richter and the Ghost Ensemble

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with metal brushes

\begin{align*}
\text{Fl.} & \quad 141 \\
\text{Ob.} & \quad \text{B-Bo} \quad \text{mp} \\
\text{Dr.} & \quad \\
\text{Hp.} & \quad \text{CDEF} \quad \text{GAB} \\
\text{Accord.} & \quad \text{mp} \\
\text{Vla.} & \quad \text{mf} \\
\text{Cb.} & \quad \text{mp}
\end{align*}

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somewhat soft at first, but building to joyous abandon

this section in 5/4 might allow for some improvised departure from the notation

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October 21, 2012 - September 30, 2013
Germantown, NY

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