

Notes:

### **Adagietto-ed**

I composed *Adagietto-ed* for the Flexible Orchestra in 2011, which is the 100<sup>th</sup> year after the death of Gustav Mahler, whose “Adagietto” from the 5<sup>th</sup> Symphony forms the basis of my piece. But any year would be a good one to express a continuing interest in his music and ideas. For one thing, he used unusual instruments from non-classical sources: cow bells, sleigh bells, mandolin, huge hammer. So accordions as the basis for the Flexible Orchestra in 2010 and 2011, simply extends an idea of unusual instruments for a “classical orchestra.” The rest of the orchestra contains, this year, three strings, flute, and vibraphone.

Toy (“paper”) accordions further extend the range of the orchestra. These small items play only two sounds (made by the *in* and *out* of the bellows). Whether the notes are given rhythms or tremolos they are executed with the usual in/out motions. The “natural imprecision” of these toy instruments may modify the player’s rhythm. This is intentional, even encouraged. If the part has two different pitches notated this still means an *in* and an *out* of the bellows.

At bar 54 the accordionists are to add mouth-filtered breath sounds in the time of their tremolos on their toy accordions. We could call this a kind of ‘nervous crying.’ The accordionists have this instruction in the score:

*add unvoiced breath sounds at the tremolo rate;  
consonants < f, h, s, sh, t-k >.*

Starting from bar 28, there are groupings of eight thirty-second notes in the toy accordion parts. The final tie in each grouping can be omitted to give a clearer downbeat.

Between bar 39 and 53 there are quarter and half notes in the toy accordion parts. If the instruments cannot sustain, it is perfectly alright to treat these note values as very short, like an eighth note.

Paper accordions can be bought at [Christina@playworks.net](mailto:Christina@playworks.net)

Pitches should be assigned in relation to the harmony at the beginning of their entrance.

—Daniel Goode