

The Aardvarks' Parade

for microtonal keyboard and soundfile (MIDI score)



by Kyle Gann
2009

The Aardvarks' Parade (2009)

I have always been fascinated by aardvarks. As a junior high kid I wrote a comic strip about a superhero called Super-Aardvark. His sidekick was a komodo dragon.

The idea I had for this piece was to write a simple, memorable melody conventional in every way except for its tuning, which would weave back and forth between familiar intervals and quarter- and sixth-tones. As in Ravel's *Bolero*, the melody repeats (four times) without alteration, with changes of only tone color and intensity. The plodding march time seemed appropriate for a procession of aardvarks. It is one of those comic pieces I write from time to time. The realization is electronic except for the chorus at the end, which I made by overdubbing my voice singing the melody, and the bass drum and tambourine, which I played in a studio.

Another impetus was to reuse the wonderfully elegant tuning I had arrived at in my virtual piano piece *Triskaidekaphonia*, one whose possibilities I had only begun to explore. The tuning is superlatively simple: it consists of merely all the ratios formed by the whole numbers from 1 to 13, of which there are 29:

13/12, 13/11, 13/10, 13/9, 13/8, 13/7 (13/6, 13/5, and so on, are octaves of those already mentioned)

12/11, 12/7 (12/10 is the same as 6/5, 12/9 = 4/3, and so on)

11/10, 11/9, 11/8, 11/7, 11/6

10/9, 10/7 (10/8 = 5/4, 10/6 = 5/3)

$9/8, 9/7, 9/5$

$8/7, 8/5$

$7/6, 7/5, 7/4$

$6/5$

$5/4, 5/3$

$4/3$

$3/2$

$1/1$

The Aardvark's Parade

Kyle Gann
2009

Stately

Tempo: ♩ = 100

Performance instruction: Celesta sounds an octave higher

Instrumentation:

- Celesta
- Ocarina
- Bass Drum
- Electric Organ
- Contrabassoon
- Cel.
- Oc.
- Pno.
- B. Dr.
- E. Org.
- Cbsn.

Key and Time Signature: D Major, 4/4

Score Details:

- Celesta:** Melodic line with triplets and slurs. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.
- Ocarina:** Sustained chords with triplets. Dynamics: *f*.
- Bass Drum:** Rhythmic pattern with accents. Dynamics: *mf*, *f*.
- Electric Organ:** Sustained chords. Dynamics: *f*.
- Contrabassoon:** Sustained chords. Dynamics: *f*.
- Cel. (Celesta):** Rapid melodic runs with triplets. Dynamics: *f*.
- Oc. (Ocarina):** Sustained chords with triplets. Dynamics: *f*.
- Pno. (Piano):** Sustained chords. Dynamics: *f*.
- B. Dr. (Bass Drum):** Rhythmic pattern with accents. Dynamics: *f*.
- E. Org. (Electric Organ):** Sustained chords. Dynamics: *f*.
- Cbsn. (Contrabassoon):** Sustained chords. Dynamics: *f*.

The Aardvarks' Parade

7

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 7 through 11. The Cello (Cel.) part begins in measure 7 with a whole rest, followed by a half rest in measure 8, and then a quarter note G4 with a slur over measures 9 and 10, ending with a half note G4 in measure 11. The Piano (Pno.) part features a complex bass line with many triplets and slurs. The Bass Drum (B. Dr.) part consists of a steady quarter-note pulse. The Electric Organ (E. Org.) and Contrabassoon (Cbsn.) parts play a sustained low note (G2) throughout the measures.

12

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

This block contains the musical notation for measures 12 through 16. The Cello (Cel.) part has a whole rest in measure 12, followed by a half rest in measure 13, and then a quarter note G4 with a slur over measures 14 and 15, ending with a half note G4 in measure 16. The Piano (Pno.) part continues with a complex bass line. The Bass Drum (B. Dr.) part continues with a steady quarter-note pulse. The Electric Organ (E. Org.) and Contrabassoon (Cbsn.) parts continue to play the sustained low note (G2).

The Aardvarks' Parade

3

17

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

22

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

X/5

The Aardvarks' Parade

27

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

X/9

31

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "The Aardvarks' Parade". It consists of two systems of staves, each containing five parts: Cello (Cel.), Piano (Pno.), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Electric Organ (E. Org.), and Contrabassoon (Cbsn.). The first system begins at measure 27. The Cello part has a whole rest in measure 27, followed by a quarter rest and a beamed eighth-note triplet (G4, A4, B4) in measure 28, then a half note (C5) in measure 29, and another whole rest in measure 30. The Piano part plays a descending eighth-note line in measure 27, a half note (B3) in measure 28, and a descending eighth-note line in measure 29, followed by a half note (A3) in measure 30. The Bass Drum part has a whole note (C4) in measure 27, a half note (C4) in measure 28, and a half note (C4) in measure 29, followed by a whole note (C4) in measure 30. The Electric Organ and Contrabassoon parts both play a whole note (B3) in measure 27, a whole note (A3) in measure 28, a whole note (G3) in measure 29, and a whole note (F3) in measure 30. The second system begins at measure 31. The Cello part has a whole rest in measure 31, followed by a quarter rest and a beamed eighth-note quintuplet (B3, A3, G3, F3, E3) in measure 32, then a whole rest in measure 33 and measure 34. The Piano part plays a descending eighth-note line in measure 31, a half note (B3) in measure 32, and a descending eighth-note line in measure 33, followed by a half note (A3) in measure 34. The Bass Drum part has a whole note (C4) in measure 31, a half note (C4) in measure 32, and a half note (C4) in measure 33, followed by a whole note (C4) in measure 34. The Electric Organ and Contrabassoon parts both play a whole note (B3) in measure 31, a whole note (A3) in measure 32, a whole note (G3) in measure 33, and a whole note (F3) in measure 34. The score is written in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Cello part includes a "7" under the triplet in measure 28 and an "X/9" above the half note in measure 29. The Piano part includes a "13" under the half note in measure 28 and a "13" under the half note in measure 32. The Cello part includes a "5" under the quintuplet in measure 32. The Electric Organ and Contrabassoon parts both include a "13" under the half note in measure 32.

The Aardvarks' Parade

5

36

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

41

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system covers measures 36 to 40, and the second system covers measures 41 to 45. The instruments are arranged vertically: Celeste (Cel.), Piano (Pno.), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Electric Organ (E. Org.), and Contrabass Saxophone (Cbsn.).

- Measure 36:** The Celeste part features a complex melodic line with triplets and slurs, while the Piano part has a simple bass line. The Bass Drum, Electric Organ, and Contrabass Saxophone parts are relatively static, with the organ and saxophone playing sustained notes.
- Measure 41:** The Piano part becomes more active with a series of eighth and sixteenth notes. The Bass Drum part continues with a steady rhythm. The Electric Organ and Contrabass Saxophone parts remain largely unchanged from the previous measures.

The Aardvarks' Parade

46

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

Measures 46-50: Pno. (bass clef) plays a complex melodic line with many accidentals. B. Dr. (bass clef) plays a simple pattern of half and quarter notes. E. Org. (bass clef) and Cbsn. (bass clef) play a sustained low note with a sharp sign.

51

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

Measures 51-56: Cel. (treble clef) plays a complex melodic line with many accidentals and fingerings. Pno. (bass clef) plays a complex melodic line with many accidentals. B. Dr. (bass clef) plays a simple pattern of half and quarter notes. E. Org. (bass clef) and Cbsn. (bass clef) play a sustained low note with a sharp sign.

The Aardvarks' Parade

7

57

Cel.

Mar.

Oc.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

62

Cel.

Mar.

Oc.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

65 A

Cel.

Mar.

Oc.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

70

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

The Aardvarks' Parade

9

75

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

80

11/X

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

The Aardvarks' Parade

85

Cel.

5

7/X

5

X/5

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

90

Cel.

7

X/9

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

95 X/7

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

100 X/2

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a piece titled 'The Aardvarks' Parade' on page 11. It consists of two systems of music. The first system begins at measure 95 and is labeled 'X/7'. The Cello (Cel.) part has a 5-measure phrase starting with a 13-measure rest. The Piano (Pno.) part has a 13-measure phrase. The Bass Drum (B. Dr.) part has a steady quarter-note pulse. The Electric Organ (E. Org.) and Contrabassoon (Cbsn.) parts have sustained notes. The second system begins at measure 100 and is labeled 'X/2'. The Cello (Cel.) part has a 5-measure phrase starting with a 13-measure rest. The Piano (Pno.) part has a 13-measure phrase. The Bass Drum (B. Dr.) part has a steady quarter-note pulse. The Electric Organ (E. Org.) and Contrabassoon (Cbsn.) parts have sustained notes. The key signature has one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

105

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

110

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

The Aardvarks' Parade

13

115

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

121

Cel.

Mar.

Oc.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

125

Cel.

Mar.

Oc.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

129

B

Cel.

Mar.

Oc.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

13/X

f

f

f

The Aardvarks' Parade

15

134

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

139

Cel.

10/X

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

144

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

148

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

The Aardvarks' Parade

17

153

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

X/9

157

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

X/7

166

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

171

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

176

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

pppp

Ahh...

181

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn.

Voices

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

p

The musical score for 'The Aardvarks' Parade' begins at measure 181. The instrumentation includes Cello (Cel.), Maracas (Mar.), English Horn (Eng. Hn.), Voices, Piano (Pno.), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Electric Organ (E. Org.), and Contrabass (Cbsn.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Cello, Maracas, and English Horn parts feature a melodic line with eighth and sixteenth notes. The Piano part has a complex, rhythmic accompaniment. The Bass Drum part has a simple, steady beat. The Electric Organ and Contrabass parts play sustained chords. The Voices part has a melodic line with a crescendo leading to a piano dynamic.

186

Cel.

Mar.

Oc.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

This musical score page contains measures 186 through 189. The instruments are arranged in a standard orchestral layout. The woodwinds (Celesta, Maracas, Ocarina, English Horn) and strings (Voices) are mostly silent, indicated by whole rests. The Piano part features a complex melodic line with many accidentals and fingering numbers (1, 13, 12). The Percussion (Bass Drum) has a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes. The Organ and Contrabass Saxophone parts consist of sustained low notes, with the Cbsn. part including a double flat for the second and fourth notes.

190

Cel.

Oc.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

This musical score page contains measures 190 through 193. The instruments are arranged in a grand staff with six parts: Celesta (Cel.), Ocarina (Oc.), Piano (Pno.), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Electric Organ (E. Org.), and Contrabassoon (Cbsn.). The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Celesta and Ocarina parts play a melodic line with slurs and ties, featuring a trill in measure 190 and a triplet in measure 193. The Piano part provides a harmonic accompaniment with chords and moving lines. The Bass Drum part has a simple rhythmic pattern of quarter notes. The Electric Organ and Contrabassoon parts play sustained chords, with the Contrabassoon part including a low octave symbol (8va) in the first measure.

194 C

Cel. 13/X

Mar. *f*

Eng. Hn *f*

Voices *mp*

Pno. *f*

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

The Aardvarks' Parade

199

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn.

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

10/X

The musical score for 'The Aardvarks' Parade' begins at measure 199. The Cello (Cel.) part features a melodic line with numerous triplets, indicated by '13' above the notes. The Maracas (Mar.) part has a rhythmic pattern. The English Horn (Eng. Hn.) part has a melodic line. The Voices part has a vocal line. The Piano (Pno.) part has a melodic line. The Tambourine (Tamb.) part has a rhythmic pattern. The Bass Drum (B. Dr.) part has a simple drum pattern. The Electric Organ (E. Org.) and Contrabass (Cbsn.) parts have sustained notes. A '10/X' marking is present in the Cello part.

204

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

11/X

208

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

7/X

mf

The musical score for 'The Aardvarks' Parade' begins at measure 208. The instrumentation includes Cello, Maracas, English Horn, Voices, Piano, Tambourine, Bass Drum, Electric Organ, and Contrabassoon. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The Cello part has a melodic line with slurs and ties. The Maracas part has a rhythmic pattern. The English Horn part has a melodic line. The Voices part has a melodic line with a crescendo leading to a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The Piano part has a harmonic accompaniment. The Tambourine and Bass Drum parts have rhythmic patterns. The Electric Organ and Contrabassoon parts have sustained notes.

213

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

X/5

5

X/5

The Aardvarks' Parade

218

Cel.

X/9

X/7

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

The musical score for 'The Aardvarks' Parade' begins at measure 218. The Celesta (Cel.) part features a melodic line with a key signature change from G major to E major, indicated by 'X/9' and 'X/7'. The Maracas (Mar.) and English Horn (Eng. Hn) parts provide rhythmic accompaniment. The Piano (Pno.) part plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The Tambourine (Tamb.) and Bass Drum (B. Dr.) parts provide a simple rhythmic pattern. The Electric Organ (E. Org.) and Cello (Cbsn.) parts play sustained notes in the low register.

223

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn.

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

Detailed description: This musical score page contains nine staves. The Cello staff (Cel.) is in treble clef and plays a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The Maracas (Mar.) and English Horn (Eng. Hn.) staves are in treble clef and play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Voices and Piano (Pno.) staves are in bass clef and play a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes. The Tambourine (Tamb.) and Bass Drum (B. Dr.) staves are in bass clef and play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Electric Organ (E. Org.) and Cbsn. staves are in bass clef and play a sustained note (F#) throughout the measures.

227

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

X/2

The musical score for 'The Aardvarks' Parade' begins at measure 227. The instrumentation includes Celesta (Cel.), Maracas (Mar.), English Horn (Eng. Hn), Voices, Piano (Pno.), Tambourine (Tamb.), Bass Drum (B. Dr.), Electric Organ (E. Org.), and Cello/Double Bass (Cbsn.). The Celesta and Maracas parts are marked 'X/2'. The Piano part features complex chords and arpeggios. The Tambourine and Bass Drum parts have specific rhythmic patterns. The Electric Organ and Cello/Double Bass parts play sustained notes.

232

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

237

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn.

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

242

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn

Voices

Pno.

Tamb.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

13 12 11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

247

Cel.

Mar.

Eng. Hn.

Voices

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

pp

251

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

254

Cel.

Pno.

B. Dr.

E. Org.

Cbsn.

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