

NUCLEAR WINTER

Clarinet
Violin
Cello

Bryan W. Christian

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Nuclear Winter is comprised primarily of natural harmonics in the viola and cello lines. When sustained, natural harmonics, especially double-stops, will typically have a very unstable quality. This instability of harmonics is used as a compositional device to represent the bitterness of a nuclear winter. Additionally, the clarinet line predominately represents the relationship of this bitterness to mankind.

Natural Harmonic Notation

Regarding harmonics, only natural harmonics are used in *Nuclear Winter*. The 4/16 meter was chosen to create a simplified notation that would not be metrically confusing. Refer to the comparisons to the right. The use of beams eliminates metric ambiguity that might have come about in a meter that uses half notes, such as 4/8 or 4/4. The string to be played is always indicated by a roman numeral above or below the diamond shaped note head. The desired pitch is indicated on an additional staff.



NUCLEAR WINTER

Cl. *p*

Vln. *(8va)*

Vc.

Cl. *mf* *mp*

Vln. *(8va)*

Vc. *sim.*

A

* Bowings have been omitted and may be freely determined as to best accommodate the F# harmonic on the D string. It is acceptable for the F# harmonic to be rearticulated, yet it should still function as a 'drone.'

Sounding Pitch of Violin Harmonics *8va*

III. Free Bowing*

IV. *mp*

III. II. *sim.*

IV. *mp*

III. -----

Cl. *p*

Vln. *molto sul pont.*

Vc.

B

It will be difficult to sustain the touch F# harmonic during this melodic passage. If/when the finger position becomes awkward, switch to the touch B natural on the D string, which produces the same sounding F# harmonic. The harmonic should function as a 'drone,' even if it must drop out for a short moment.

REMAINDER OF SCORE UNAVAILABLE TO PREVIEW

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