Against a Ternary Analysis of Syllable Strength: Positional Variation in the Vowel Inventory of English

Joseph Lorber
William & Mary

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Harmony of the Spheres: a Suite for Orchestra

A thesis presented in Candidacy for Departmental Honors in
Music
from
The College of William and Mary in Virginia

By
Evan Maly
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HARMONY OF THE SPHERES
for ORCHESTRA

Op. 1
- ORCHESTRATION -

Piccolo
2 Flutes
2 Oboes
English Horn
2 Clarinets in B♭
Bass Clarinet
Soprano Saxophone
2 Bassoons
Contrabassoon

3 Horns in F
2 Trumpets in B♭
3 Trombones
Tuba

Timpani
Glockenspiel
Chimes
Bass Drum
Snare Drum
Cymbals
Triangle
Sleigh Bells
Tambourine

Piano
Harp

Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Violoncello
Contrabass

- DURATION -

62 minutes
1. Overture  
Jupiter is in a meeting with his vassals, the Jovian moons. He introduces an idea to revive the tradition of an annual jubilant festival. He suggests having Pluto help design the event. The moons, already skeptical, are baffled by his foolishness.

2. The Jovian Moons  
After the meeting, his largest moons, Ganymede, Callisto, Europa, and Io, regroup. Joining them are several of Jupiter’s smaller, insignificant moons that bumble about, annoying those around them. In the presence of these smaller moons, the larger moons openly discuss Jupiter’s plan for the festival. With their distrust of Pluto, they state the festival is doomed if she is involved.

3. Pluto  
The scene changes to Pluto alone, tinged with nostalgia. She loses herself in thoughts about her past. She was the revered leader of a group of bodies known as trans-Neptunian objects, or TNOs. As a leader, she slowly grew hatred for the inner solar system and launched a failed attack against it. Now a prisoner and allowed to live alongside them, her hatred is gone, but her reputation as a ruthless aggressor precedes her.

4. Jupiter Proposes the Festival to Pluto  
Jupiter summons Pluto to a meeting and presents her with a proposal. He asks Pluto to help plan the festival’s resumption. Pluto is surprised and hesitant, as her failed attack occurred during the last festival. She worries the festival will attract similar danger and rejects his offer. Jupiter assures Pluto that her foreboding is unwarranted and that a similar attack like hers would not take place. No one in the inner solar system would willingly jeopardize the safety and security of the event, and the only others he had revealed the vision to were his moons. Pluto is comforted and decides to help.

5. Arrangements for the Festival  
Reluctantly accepting the offer to assist, Pluto and Jupiter begin dreaming about the grandeur and spectacle of the festival. As they plan, Pluto relaxes and starts to indulge in the fantasy and excitement of what the festival could be. She suggests that the climax of the evening could be a waltz for the festival they’ve overheard, echoing the larger moons’ sentiments regarding Jupiter and Pluto devoting all their attention to the thing. Some passersby catch wind and press for details. The moons obliquely blab, and word of the festival starts to spread among the smaller objects in the solar system. It’s not long before the information goes so far as to reach the ears of a comet (Shoemaker-Levy 9) who happens to be passing through on his circuitous journey between the inner and outer solar system.

6. Gossip  
Outside Jupiter’s palace, the small, insignificant moons (from The Jovian Moons) meander around the streets. They ramble on about the plans for the festival they’ve overheard, echoing the larger moons’ sentiments regarding Jupiter and Pluto devoting all their attention to the thing. Some passersby catch wind and press for details. The moons obliquely blab, and word of the festival starts to spread among the smaller objects in the solar system. It’s not long before the information goes so far as to reach the ears of a comet (Shoemaker-Levy 9) who happens to be passing through on his circuitous journey between the inner and outer solar system.

7. Delivering the Invitations  

a. Invitations  
Pluto moves to his desk and meticulously drafts up several invitations. He calls for a messenger with a little bell.

b. Jupiter Summons the Messenger  
In a flash, Mercury appears. He banters with Jupiter, commenting on how long it’s been since he was last personally summoned.

Upon learning the contents of his delivery, he merrily zips out of Jupiter’s office.

c. Saturn  
Mercury visits Saturn’s chateau first and finds her exhausted from a long night of harvesting. He hands her an invitation that she dismisses. She sees the festival as another of Jupiter’s far-fetched plans to rekindle the sense of community between the planets lost after the last festival’s attack. It is uncertain if she will attend.

d. Uranus and Venus  
Mercury finds Uranus and Venus together having a picnic in a flower garden. Mercury presents the invitations to them, and they both respond favorably, as they cherish the memories of previous festivals and bear no hurt feelings towards Pluto. Uranus, an entertainer, revels in astonishing and amusing the other partygoers. Venus found solace in jovial coexistence at past festivals. They confirm their attendance.

e. Mars  
Mercury makes his way to Mars’s manor. Mars welcomes him from a window, annoyed and questioning his intentions. When Mercury mentions an invitation to the festival, Mars rushes to the door. He grabs the invitation from Mercury’s hands and throws it to the ground. Outraged, Mars expounds on Jupiter’s apparent lack of good judgment and instructs Mercury to relay to Jupiter that he wants nothing to do with this event. Mars says it, like Pluto did, as something more than a moment when everyone’s guard will be down, and disaster might strike.

f. Neptune  
Finally, Mercury approaches Neptune, deep in a trance. She serenely tells Mercury she will attend the festival before he even hands her the invitation. Mercury flies away to continue delivering invitations, confounded by Neptune’s clairvoyance. Neptune resumes her trance, and her expression turns from composure to concern. She experiences a prescient warning that something negative is going to happen.

ACT II

8. Festival Preparations  
Jupiter’s palace bustles with activity as the final festival preparations are completed. Jupiter is a seasoned host, having once organized parties like this annually. Pluto and Jupiter walk to the foyer, brimming with excitement.

9. The Guests Arrive  
A Jovian moon announces that the guests are welcome to enter the palace. 

Despite his earlier protests, Mars is the first of the planets to show. As he enters the palace, he dispatches a company of guards to provide security but does so covertly to avoid inducing alarm. Neptune sinks behind Mars and places her hand on his shoulder. They exchange a knowing glance of concern and make their way into the foyer together, trailed by their moons. 

Venus enters and pauses to admire the elegant ambiance. She curtsies toward the hosts and makes her way into the main hall. 

Uranus gleefully bursts through the door with a menagerie of his moons behind him. He flamboyantly bows at Jupiter and Pluto before scampering after his now free-roaming moons. Mercury fits through Uranus’s posse and cockily kisses Pluto’s hand.

Jupiter enters the main hall and, in his booming voice, declares that the festivities are to commence at once.

10. Minuet  
A bit into the festival, some guests dance to a dainty minuet as the others gather around them in the ballroom to watch.

11. Saturn Arrives Late  
Venus, Uranus, and Neptune discuss Saturn’s absence over dinner. Neptune and Uranus exchange their theories for the cause. Neptune’s are grounded but subtly imply catastrophe, while Uranus’s are more lighthearted and witty. Venus occasionally chimes in with her own, suggesting she’s merely on her way. Saturn pulls back the curtains to the dining room and trudges directly to their table. Some of her moons follow. Shocked and concerned by Saturn’s weariness, the others ask where she’s been.

Saturn relays to the group that on her way to the festival, she happened upon a group of inner solar system soldiers near the palace’s perimeter who appeared to have recently met their demise. Being that one of Saturn’s responsibilities is to harvest and collect dying or lost souls, the unexpected run-in with so many fallen soldiers has left her overworked and weary. Mars, walking past, overhears Saturn’s description of the fallen soldiers and begins to panic. He begs for a more detailed explanation, but Saturn is just as ignorant of the ultimate cause as he is. In his panic, Mars rushes to Jupiter and begs him to call off the rest of the festival.
12. Moonlets
Before Jupiter can respond, some of his and Saturn's small moons interrupt. The moonlets begin running amok in the ballroom, playing little games. They are oblivious to the serious conversation between Jupiter and Mars. Their antics amuse most guests, and Jupiter, seeing this, figures that some real entertainment is in order. He calls for Uranus to host a spontaneous performance. Uranus gladly summons his moons, and they prepare to perform.

13. The Magician
Uranus pulls out all the stops for his magic show. While the setting is modest, the quality of the tricks leaves the audience transfixed each time, and Uranus's enthusiasm is infectious. For his final trick, he astounds the audience by producing Jupiter and Pluto, as if by magic, to the center of the ballroom.

14. Grand Waltz
A waltz slowly emerges. Pluto and Jupiter, although surprised to be in this position so suddenly, seize the moment to make the previously discussed dream-like vision of their dance a reality. As they try to find their footing and the waltz kicks up, they realize the dramatic size difference makes dancing a little awkward. However, they find their way, and a beautiful waltz slowly takes shape. The guests look on, enjoying the grace they both radiate as the dance becomes more intricate. The waltz finishes in a massive crash, and Jupiter and Pluto, exalted, strike a triumphant dip to rapturous applause.

15. Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9
Shoemaker-Levy 9, the comet that caught wind of the festival (in Gossip) now stands on a cliff overlooking the palace, eager to join the festivities. For context, during his transit of the outer solar system, he frequently and excitedly shared the news of Jupiter's planetary festival revival and his plans to attend. It wasn't long before this knowledge reached Eris. Pluto's former second-in-command, who betrayed her and left her for dead during the failed attack years before. Little Shoemaker, who frequently visits the inner solar system and is welcomed at the palace, begins to head toward the festival when he suddenly feels a hand on his shoulder.

A group of large objects booms over him, and from the crowd emerges Eris. She bends down to Shoemaker's level and, using her preternatural ability to persuade and confuse, causes him to question his relationship with the inner solar system, claiming that he is irrelevant to them and all his connections are shallow. Eris lets Shoemaker in on her plan to liberate objects like him and herself. However, they involve using him as a weapon.

Shoemaker is dismayed but under her spell, and Eris quickly consoles him. She walks him to a field completely lined with TNOs cheering his name. This comforts Shoemaker so much that he doesn't notice Eris ushering him into a cannon. He catches on and tries to back out, but it is too late. Eris looks on with a wicked smirk as she fires Shoemaker into the palace.

ACT III

16. Pluto in the Garden
Riding high from the waltz, Pluto decides to go to the garden for fresh air. She is shocked to discover a trail of downed guards. Pluto follows it to find a break in one of the walls and footprints tracking inside. She realizes the palace is under attack and needs to sound the alarm. As she turns to run to the ballroom, Eris suddenly appears and stops her.

17. Eris
Eris and a group of TNOs gather around Pluto. Pluto tries to escape, but the TNOs surround her at every angle. They beat her down, and one holds a knife to her throat. Now weak, Pluto shakily asks why Eris is here. Eris answers. She heard Pluto was alive through the grapevine but couldn't believe it. Even more shocking was that Pluto was now cordial with and welcomed by the most renowned objects in the inner solar system. Truthfully, Eris wasn't expecting to find Pluto alone, but now that she has, she might as well take advantage. Her target has changed from Pluto to Jupiter. Pluto spits at Eris and says they'll never let her get close to him. Eris says she knows and knocks Pluto out.

18. Pluto's Capture
Eris changes form into Pluto and takes her garb. Eris orders some TNOs to restrain Pluto and keep her away from the ballroom if she comes to. One of the TNOs expresses concern for Pluto and worries they might have seriously hurt her. Eris lets them at show no sympathy for Pluto, reminding them it's with Eris they're now aligned. Her soldiers now mollified, Eris leaves for the ballroom.

19. Eris Attacks
Eris enters the ballroom as Pluto. She grabs Jupiter's drink, takes a big swig from it, and as everyone cheers, she slips the poison meant for Pluto. The scene changes to Pluto waking up in the hall with the TNOs standing guard. Pluto, knowing Eris's abilities, sees through Eris's plan, and knows she needs to act now before it's too late. With Eris gone and unable to mesmerize her soldiers, Pluto attempts to reason with the TNOs, suggesting the reason Eris wants them to stay put with her is to implicate them in Jupiter's murder as well. With their minds free of Eris's fog and now knowing she needs to act now before it's too late, the TNOs flee.

The scene changes back and forth between Jupiter slowly raising his drink to toast Pluto (now Eris) and the real Pluto frantically sprinting toward the ballroom. Pluto bursts into the ballroom to reveal Eris poisoned Jupiter's drink just as he prepares to sip it. Mercury flies across the room and slaps the drink out of Jupiter’s hand. Mars grabs Eris and pins her to the ground with a spear. Eris reassumes her true form.

20. Pluto Begs to Spare Eris
Mars is ready to execute Eris on the spot. As he prepares to thrust his spear into Eris, Pluto jumps in front. Mars immediately stops and demands Pluto move out of the way. Pluto refuses, instead begging for Mars's mercy. Some guards hold Eris down, and Mars and Pluto back away. Pluto explains that Eris's death cannot be the resolution of this incident. If the planets kill Eris, the blind hatred Eris and the TNOs had for the planets would be justified. The hatred would build until another assault, killing more objects and breeding more hatred.

Eris interjects, asking why Pluto was kept alive after her attack. Neptune answers. After Pluto’s aggression on the inner solar system, it appeared as if she had come out of a haze. Having been left to die in the rubble of an explosion triggered by Eris, no longer in Eris’s hypnotic presence, Pluto’s contempt began to recede. Neptune perceived that Pluto’s motivation was more to Eris’s influence than any real malice toward the inner solar system. Neptune used the opportunity to rescue Pluto and made the case to protect her. While the decision to spare Pluto created a schism in the planetary community, an attack hadn’t happened since. Pluto resumes her speech, entreats Jupiter to keep Eris alive.

21. Jupiter Presents the Offer
Jupiter considers Pluto’s arguments and presents to her an offer. He will allow Eris to live and leave, but only on the condition that Pluto accompanies her back to the outer solar system. Neptune objects to this apparent unfairness to Pluto who just saved Jupiter, but Pluto assures her that Jupiter is right. Her exile will be for the greater good. Jupiter continues his verdict, stating the planets will stay in contact with her as she is now a member of their family. If they do not hear from her, they will consider Eris no longer worthy of the mercy Pluto has argued for and will retaliate. Pluto willingly accepts her exile.

22. Farewell to Pluto
Mars bursts into tears and clasps Pluto. Being an expert in war, he also solemnly respects sacrifice for peace. He pleads for Pluto's forgiveness for his doubt of her intentions. Venus enters the embrace and releases a bittersweet sigh felt across the ballroom. Jupiter, Neptune, and Uranus join in the catharsis.

Eris breaks down. With Pluto alive and returning to the outer solar system, she knows the lives and efforts she’d taken to ensure her reign are now in vain. While she demonstrates little remorse, she acknowledges the deaths she’s responsible for. Saturn marks Eris as a constant reminder of her influence than any real malice toward the inner solar system. Neptune used the opportunity to rescue Pluto and made the case to protect her. While the decision to spare Pluto created a schism in the planetary community, an attack hadn’t happened since. Pluto resumes her speech, entreats Jupiter to keep Eris alive.

23. Epilogue
Pluto leaves the palace at daybreak with her moons, Eris, and the TNOs that followed her. Pluto reenters the outer solar system and resumes her role as his leader. The TNOs welcome a new era of their existence, free from Eris’s obsession with power and unclouded by Eris’s spells of hatred. Pluto communicates frequently with the planets, and Neptune and Uranus occasionally visit. Eris, while not imprisoned, is kept under heavy watch. Though not idyllic, the future of the solar system looks bright.
ACT I

Overture
The Jovian Moons
Pluto
Jupiter Proposes the Festival to Pluto
Arrangements for the Festival
Gossip
Delivering the Invitations
Invitations
Jupiter Summons the Messenger
Saturn
Uranus and Venus
Mars
Neptune
Harmony of the Spheres

III. Pluto

Andante pesante

=86

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Harmony of the Spheres
V. Arrangements for the Festival

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Harmony of the Spheres
VI. Gossip

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Harmony of the Spheres
VIIa. Invitations

2 Flute
2 Oboe
English Horn
2 Clarinet
Bass Clarinet
2 Bassoon
Horn
Trumpet
Trombone
Tuba
Glockenspiel
Piano
Harp
Violins I
Violins II
Violas
Violoncellos
Contrabasses

 Allegro giocoso
= 130

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Harmony of the Spheres

VIIb. Jupiter Summons the Messenger

Evan Maly
bruscamente
ACT II

Festival Preparations
The Guests Arrive
Minuet
Saturn Arrives Late
Moonlets
The Magician
Grand Waltz
Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9
Harmony of the Spheres

XII. Moonlets

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ACT III

Pluto in the Garden
Eris
Pluto’s Capture
Eris Attacks
Pluto Begs to Spare Eris
Jupiter Presents the Offer
Farewell to Pluto
Epilogue
Harmony of the Spheres

XVIII. Pluto's Capture

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Harmony of the Spheres
XXI. Jupiter Presents the Offer

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Harmony of the Spheres

XXII. Farewell to Pluto

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Andantino dolce

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