

RICERCARE UNA MELODIA

for trombone and electronics

Jonathan Harvey
adaptation by Benny Sluchin

1 $\text{♩} = 60$

Trombone

mf

Speaker I

Speaker II

Speaker III

Speaker IV

very rapid

molto

p

molto

p

f

f

I

II

III

IV

ritmico

p *mp* *f* *ten.* *ten.*

ten. *ten.* *ten.* *ten.* *ten.* *f* *p*

Harmon mute

p *f*

p sub. *f*

10 3

ORIGINAL PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS

Two four-track tape-recorders and a reverberation unit are needed. The tape-recorders should be set up to a tape-delay of three seconds. The trumpet has a microphone which records onto Track 1 of tape-recorder (TR) 1. When the signal has travelled to TR 2 (3 seconds later) the signal should be split: sent to Loudspeaker 1, and folded back to TR 1 to be recorded on Track 2. Track 2's signal now travels to TR 2 (3 seconds later) and is again split: to Loudspeaker 2 and to TR 1 to be recorded on Track 3. Track 3's signal is treated likewise: split to Loudspeaker 3 and TR 1's Track 4. Track 4 is simply sent from TR 2 to Loudspeaker 4. Consecutive tracks should not be connected to consecutive speakers, but arranged in one of the following patterns:

I III or I III II IV, etc. Or, in stereo, I + III / II + IV
II IV

The two tape-recorders should be placed beside each other, with the 3-second loop hanging into a bin (a 1/3-inch-wide glass-faced box). The 3-second mark can be made on the glass, enabling the tape to be maintained precisely at it, with a varispeed on TR 2.

The work has been performed without a bin, though there is a slight risk of tape-tangling.

The sound projectionist should adjust the various levels to keep an equal balance between the sound sources. Where the live trumpet is silent, the playback levels may be momentarily increased.

0.9 seconds of reverberation should be added to the recording of Track 1 only. This will, of course, automatically be lengthened with the delay system for the remaining tracks.

Another way to perform the piece (the most often used) is to make a four-track tape-recording of the delayed lines in a studio, and to perform live against the play-back of this quadraphonic tape.

Cue points corresponding to this system can be found in the original version for trumpet (ISBN: 0-571-51185-6).

