

N° 1115

Eve Beglarian

Machaut in the Age of Motown

for soprano sax, alto sax, violin, bells, vibes, piano, bass, and drums

2005



EVBVD MUSIC
468 Sixth Avenue #4
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program note:

Machaut in the Age of Motown is basically a mashup of two pre-existing works: **The Bells**, written by Marvin Gaye (1970) as sung by The Originals, and **Tels rit** from the **Remede de Fortune** (1340) written by Guillaume de Machaut as sung by the Project Ars Nova Ensemble. It is the fifth in a series of pieces I have made responding to the music of Machaut. The first verse of **Tels rit** goes something like this:

He laughs in the morning who weeps in the evening,
And he believes Love works
For his benefit while she is attacking him
And doing him wrong;
And he thinks Joy is hastening
To help him, while she lags behind.
Fortune does all this harm
As she turns her wheel,
And she doesn't wait for daybreak
To turn it; she doesn't stop,
But turns, turns again, turns it upside down,
Until she brings to the top
He who was lying flat in the gutter,
He who was exalted she brings down low;
And makes the happiest man sad and gloomy
In no time at all.

notes to the players:

The viola and alto sax are the carriers of the Machaut. I have changed your parts a little bit to follow the harmony of **The Bells**, but you should listen and play along repeatedly to the recording of the Machaut to get a feel for how to phrase your parts: please imitate the singer's approach as closely as possible, while also allowing the Motown feel to inflect your playing. I have not put dynamics or articulation in your parts, 'cause you are gonna be WAY better at this than I am(!) Plus then you get to listen repeatedly to the Machaut and the Motown recordings, which is really fun.

All the other players are working off the changes and feeling of **The Bells**. I would like you to play as slowly as you can possibly manage while giving us that excellent sweet spot between straight and swung 16ths. The piano should play absolutely as few notes as s/he can possibly imagine playing: just enough to give us the harmony and a few lovely interactions with the vibes. I have only sketched out the piano and the drum parts: please make them your own. The soprano sax player can also feel free to alter the part while keeping to the pulled-back aesthetic we're looking for.

I can supply you with (or you can make) an (optional) drone on Am7. It should be played back softly enough that we only really hear it at the beginning and ending of the piece. It's longer than you need: the sound person can fade it out slowly at the end of the piece. If you have a harmonium or other drone creating instrument, the bell player could play the chord at the beginning and at the end of the piece, fading it in and out smoothly.

machaut in the age of motown

eve beglarian
with respect to
marvin gaye (1970)
and
guillaume de machaut (1340)

♩ = 120 (or as slow as possible)

The musical score is arranged in a vertical stack of staves. From top to bottom, the instruments are: sop sax, alto sax, viola, bells, vibes, pf (piano), bass, drums, and drone. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked as ♩ = 120 (or as slow as possible). The score includes various musical notations such as rests, notes, slurs, and dynamic markings like *mp* and *p*. The piano part features a four-measure rest followed by a melodic line with a slur and a four-measure rest, and a final chord marked with an asterisk. The drums part shows a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with 'x' marks above them. The drone part consists of sustained chords.

7

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

mp

p

mp

p

13

A

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

mf

p

18

B

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

23

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

28



sop sax

Staff for soprano saxophone, measures 28-32.

alto sax

Staff for alto saxophone, measures 28-32.

viola

Staff for viola, measures 28-32.

bells

Staff for bells, measures 28-32.

vibes

Staff for vibraphone, measures 28-32. Dynamics: *p*, *pp*.

pf

Piano and grand staff for piano, measures 28-32. Dynamics: *mp*, *pp*. Includes *scd* and *scd* markings.

bass

Staff for bass, measures 28-32.

drums

Staff for drums, measures 28-32.

drone

Staff for drone, measures 28-32.

33

sop sax

Staff for soprano saxophone, measures 33-37.

alto sax

Staff for alto saxophone, measures 33-37.

viola

Staff for viola, measures 33-37.

bells

Staff for bells, measures 33-37.

vibes

Staff for vibraphone, measures 33-37. Dynamics: *mf*.

pf

Piano and grand staff for piano, measures 33-37. Dynamics: *mf*. Includes *scd* and *scd* markings.

bass

Staff for bass, measures 33-37.

drums

Staff for drums, measures 33-37.

drone

Staff for drone, measures 33-37.

38

D

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

mp

pf

bass

drums

drone

43

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

47

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

E

52

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

f

mp

f

p

56

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

61

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

65 **F**

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

69 **G**

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

74

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone

79

sop sax

alto sax

viola

bells

vibes

pf

bass

drums

drone