



The Tale  
of the  
Great  
Computing  
Machine

Orchestral  
Score

∴

Music:

Carl Unander-Scharin

Libretto:

Carl Unander-Scharin

Åsa Unander-Scharin

Nils Spangenberg

after Hannes Alfvén

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# The Tale of the Great Computing Machine

Opera in one act

Commissioned by  
KTH Royal Institute of Technology, 2021

Music: Carl Unander-Scharin

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Carl Unander-Scharin  
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Nils Spangenberg

after  
Hannes Alfvén

## CAST

Computa: Alto (prerecorded)  
Argon: Dancer  
Hydrogenii: Soprano  
Oxygeni: Mezzo  
Nitritio: Baritone  
Carbon: Bass

## ORCHESTRA

Violin  
Recorders: (*soprano/ alto/ tenor*)  
Lirone & Viola da Gamba  
Percussion: *Bass Marimba/ Vibra (no rotor)/ Glockenspiel/  
Reactorhall/ Bass Drum/ Tenor Drum/ Tam-Tam (in Water)*  
Bass Trombone & Contra Bass Trombone

## OPERA MECATRONICA INSTRUMENTS

The Vocal Chorder  
Observers  
Virtual Obbligato

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# The Tale of the Great Computing Machine

## Overture

Music: Carl Unander-Scharin  
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Score

1

Alto Recorder

Violin

Viola da Gamba

Snare Drum & Bass Marimba

Bass Mar.

Bass Trombone

Organ

5

A. Rec.

Vln.

V. Gam.

S. Dr.

B. Mar.

B. Tbn.

Org.

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8

A. Rec. *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

Vln. *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

V.Gam. *mp* *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

Mrb. *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

B.Mar. *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

B. Tbn. *f* *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

Org.

**||** *A la Mathématique* **||**

$\text{♩} = 160$

13 Click: One full bar before

A. Rec. *mp*

Vln. *mp*

V.Gam. *mp*

S. Dr. *mp* S. Dr.

B.Mar.

B. Tbn. *mp*

*A la Mathématique*  
 $\text{♩} = 160$

Org. *mp*

20

A. Rec.  
Vln.  
V.Gam.  
S.Dr.  
B.Mar.  
B. Tbn.  
Org.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 20 through 23. The score is for a multi-instrument ensemble. The instruments listed are A. Rec. (Alto Recorder), Vln. (Violin), V.Gam. (Viola/Gam. Bass), S.Dr. (Snare Drum), B.Mar. (Bass Maracas), B. Tbn. (Baritone Trombone), and Org. (Organ). The music is in 6/8 time and features complex rhythmic patterns with many accidentals. The organ part is particularly dense with many notes. The snare drum and maracas provide a steady rhythmic accompaniment. The woodwinds and strings play melodic lines with various articulations.

24

A. Rec.  
Vln.  
V.Gam.  
S.Dr.  
B.Mar.  
B. Tbn.  
Org.

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 24 through 27. The instruments listed are A. Rec. (Alto Recorder), Vln. (Violin), V.Gam. (Viola/Gam. Bass), S.Dr. (Snare Drum), B.Mar. (Bass Maracas), B. Tbn. (Baritone Trombone), and Org. (Organ). The music continues in 6/8 time. The organ part remains a central element with its intricate patterns. The snare drum and maracas continue their rhythmic support. The woodwinds and strings play melodic lines with various articulations. The overall texture is dense and rhythmic.

4

27  $\text{♩} = 52$

A. Rec. *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

Vln. *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

V.Gam. *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

S.Dr. *f* *f* *ff* *ff* *pp*

B.Mar. *f* *ff* *ff* *pp*

B. Tbn. *ff* *f* *ff* *ff* *pp*

Org. *f* *ff* *mf* *f* *ff* *pp*

(Slessa)

B. Mar.

No click bars 30-37

30 *Misterioso Solemis* Solo *Attacca Scene 2a (bar 38)*

A. Rec. *Muta in Tenor* *mf*

Vln. *Eerie-aerial harmonics ad lib* *Solo* *mf*

V.Gam. *Eerie-aerial harmonics ad lib*

S.Dr. *TamTam in Water, ad lib*

B.Mar.

B. Tbn. *Solo* *mf*

Org. *Misterioso Solemis* *Attacca Scene 2a (bar 38)*

# The Tale of the Great Computing Machine

## Scene 2a. Recitativo I: Pre-Computa-Era

CLICK starts again

(This scene starts like a lecture, directed towards the auditorium. Partly rhythmically spoken and partly sung. The humans are at this point not quite in their "roles" - they are rather anonymous voices heard from the dark. The whole scene is accompanied by the orchestra. Only Computa's voice comes from the loudspeaker.)

A

38

$\text{♩} = 50$

HYDROGENII

OXYGENI

COMPUTA

NITRITIO

CARBON

Tenor Recorder

Violin

Viola da Gamba

Bass Marimba

Bass Trombone

Organ

Throughout this scene, Computa's voice is the only prerecorded material. The percussionist in the orchestra hears the click-track and transfers the beat to the singers and musicians)

*ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

*ppp* *pp* *p* *pp* *p*

CO *mf* *Prerecorded*  
Once u-pon a time, a long, long time a-go... Com-pu-ta saw its first light.

T. Rec. *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

Vln. *pp* *pp* *p* *pp*

V.Gam. *mp* *pp* *p* *pp*

B. Mba. *pp* *pp* *pp*

B. Tbn. *mp*

Org. *mp*

Piano *pp* *p*



43

*mf* *Live*

H  
Thus be - gan a new e - ra, the course of which we shall here de - scribe.

O

CO

N

CA

*mf* *Live*

Des -

T. Rec. *p* *pp*

Vln. *p* *pp*

V.Gam. *p* *p*

B. Mba. *p* *pp*

B. Tbn. *pp*

Org.

*p* *pp*



47

Score for rehearsal mark 47, featuring vocal parts and a full orchestra. The vocal parts include Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), and Bass (B). The instrumental parts include Trumpet (T. Rec.), Violin (Vln.), Viola (V. Gam.), Bassoon (B. Mba.), Trombone (B. Tbn.), Organ (Org.), and Piano (P).

**Vocal Parts:**

- Soprano (S):** *mp* *Live* Com-pu-tas could not e-merge di-rec-tly from the bed-rock...
- Alto (A):** end led to the per-fect so-ci-e-ty of our time. ...e-vo

**Instrumental Parts:**

- Trumpet (T. Rec.):** *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *pp*
- Violin (Vln.):** *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *pp*
- Viola (V. Gam.):** *p*, *mp*, *pp*
- Bassoon (B. Mba.):** *pp*, *pp*, *mp*
- Trombone (B. Tbn.):** *p*
- Organ (Org.):** *mp*
- Piano (P):** *mp*

49

H  
O  
CO  
N  
CA

lu - tion had to take a de - tour vi - a bi - o - lo - gi - cal life...

Look

T. Rec.  
Vln.  
V. Gam.  
B. Mba.  
B. Tbn.  
Org.