

Birdstone

For Quartet

Anton Lindström

Program note:

Birdstone (noun)

- An object or item that accomplishes or fulfills more than one task. Abbreviation of the famous cliché “kill two birds with one stone”.

Performance notes:

The Swedish folk song ‘Trilo’ will be performed a total of 10* times by the harmonica player with slight different ornamentation each time. (in their part, the A section would be one “time”. 16 bars + the repeat, 24 bars in total)

(The harmonica is absent on the 7th time, but this one still counts as one of the 10)

Total duration should be about 7:30-9 minutes depending on harmonica players speed.

If in a very quiet space, the harmonica player may be amplified, but ideally they should not be.

The synthesizer should at its loudest be the same volume as the harmonica or barely louder. The harmonica melody must always be audible.

About trilo:

Trilo (Sometimes ‘tre lå’) is a folk song from western Sweden that the wives of the fishermen would sing from atop the hills when their husbands were returning from sea. It is almost always performed vocally with choir in multiple parts.

Lyrics:

Trilo, trilo. Trilo, trilo. Här är han. Här är han. Nära land.

Translation:

Trilo, trilo. Trilo, trilo. Here he is. Here is is. Close to land.

The performers are suggested to listen to as many different recordings and arrangements of the song as possible.

Here are a few links to some different recordings and arrangements:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BtjMdaYt0Y8>

Performed by Bygdekören Ängelholm. From the folkmusic-mass "I välsignan och fröjd" (In blessing and peace). Arranged by Hans Kennemark

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1-aTbJu_9fl

Performed by Piteå College of Music Chamber Choir. Arranged by Ale Möller

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKBd_V4LeA4

Performed by Sofia Vokalensemble. Arranged by Bengt Ollén (more 'modern' arrangement)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIPZ3sDFnFw>

Performed by Olga Prokunina and Ryan Koons. Arrangement unknown.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xaHIPyBeYK4>

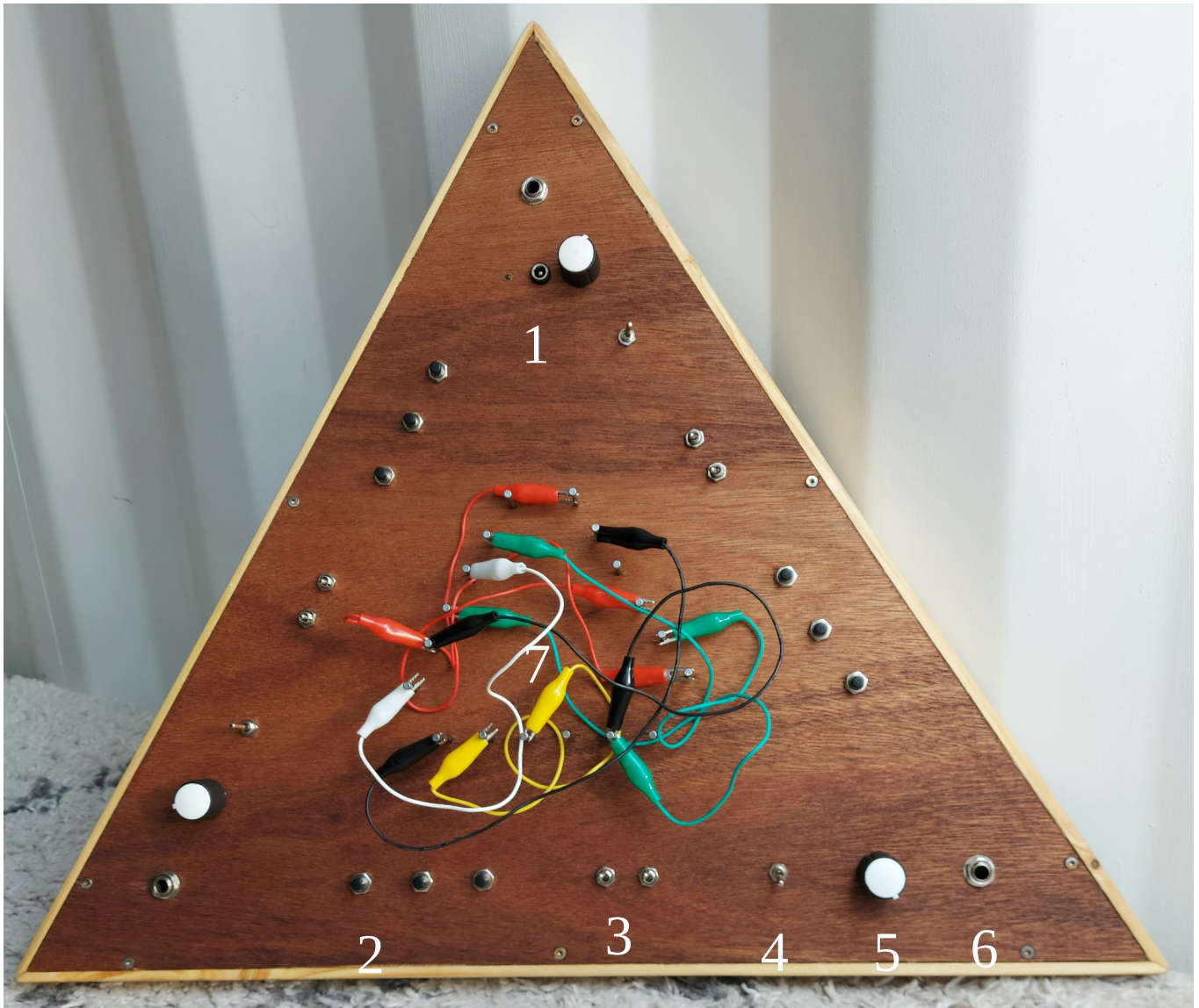
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<https://open.spotify.com/track/3HciTHju8d4J4JtusMhJjk?si=a813c285ee2e4e36>

Performed by Lena Willemark and Ale Möller. Arrangement (probably) by Lena Willemark. (Sorry about the spotify link, I could not find this recording anywhere else. It is featured on Lena Willemark & Ale Möllers album 'Nordan')

<https://open.spotify.com/track/7Kg7YC1hnXcrj5O5wwFKzX?si=57a962d0f7e64d2f>

Performed by Songlaget I Bul I Oslo. Arrangement unknown (though bears much resemblance to Ale Möllers)



1: Power jack. USE 9V **CENTER NEGATIVE** POWER PLUG ONLY! (same as guitar pedal standard) (led to the left should light up green when powered)

2: 'Note buttons' Low, middle, high from left to right

3: Momentary sound changing switches (very 'patch' dependent)

4: Kill switch. Up = off/NO SOUND, Down = on/SOUND

5: Volume knob

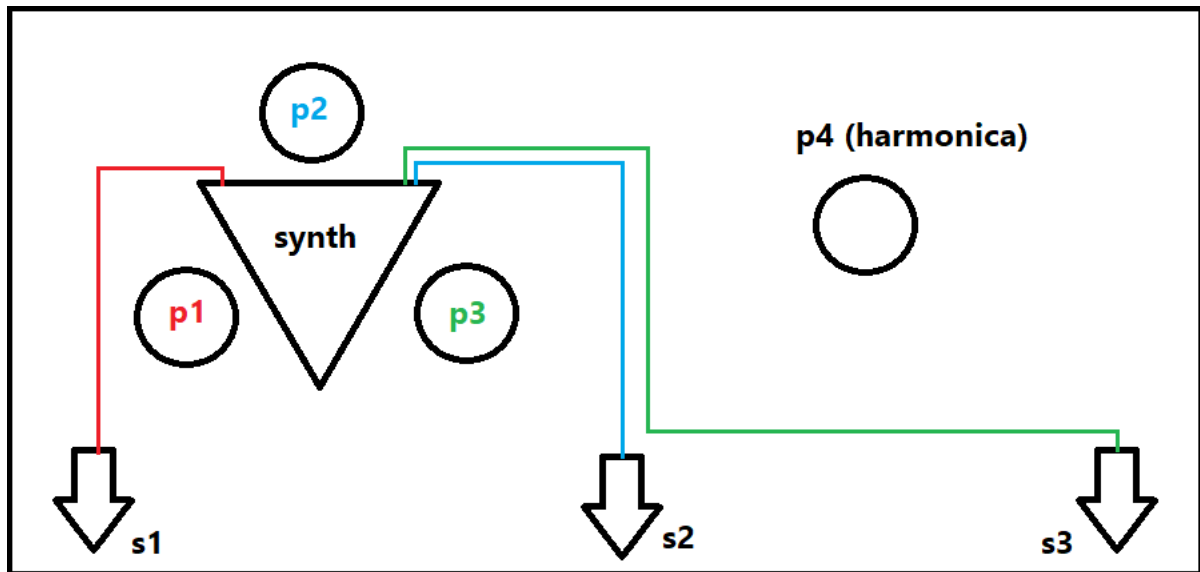
6: 6.3mm mono jack outburst

7: Nodes/spikes. Touchable with hands/fingers or connectable with alligator clips. Shown here with alligator clips attached.

LINK TO EXPLANATION <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UsLVxWXbzVw>

Birdstone

stage plot & tech requirements



- 1 small table (approx. 50X50cm (for having the synthesizer on))
- 3 chairs
- the 'birdstone synthesizer' (brought/made by the composer)
- 3 small active studio monitors (s1, s2, s3) with 6.3mm jacks for inputs (or adapters 6.3 → XLR if they only have XLR in. (with appropriate power cables) (if no small monitors are available, regular 'PA' monitors will also work)
- 3 long 6.3mm mono audio cables
- power source for speakers & synthesizer

Between each repeat of the song, each player adds/removes/moves **one clip** of an alligator clip. In general though, there should be more cables attached at the end than the start. Start with about 8 cables attached randomly to the spikes.

1 Harmonica SOLO, no synthesizer. Have your kill switches set to silent.

2 Choppy playing. Mainly the “high” note. ‘Morse code’ like rhythms. Turn on the kill switch only when you play your first note. Only play when harmonica is playing.

3 More long notes, use all buttons and switches. Only play when harmonica is playing.

4 Much more gestural. Long notes but plenty of “ornamentation”, short other notes, gestures etc. but very little silence. Feel free to use hands on nails. Only play when harmonica is playing.

5 Same as 4 but play even when harmonica doesn’t play. Plenty of hands on nails.

6 One long held note/sound throughout almost the whole song. Every now and then add a short other note or outburst but come back to the same held note. Play even when the harmonica doesn’t play.

7 Synthesizer SOLO (all 3 people still playing). Longer notes but gestural and with occasional rhythms. Follow the rhythm/form of the harmonica song, so leave rests when there would be if the harmonica was playing!

8 Same but with harmonica.

9 Try to imitate the harmonicas gestures, melody and ornamentation as closely as possible.

10 Same but gradually become more and more sparse. And the end, play similar to 2, but with the lowest note instead of the highest. Turn off all three kill switches together at the end.

Birdstone

(DIATONIC Harmonica score)

Anton Lindström
(Traditional Swedish folk song - Trilo (Tre Lå))

Notated transposed, key of harmonica doesn't matter
Most simple version

A ♩ = ca 120, rubato

9

Versions with added ornamentation and rhythmic variation.
Don't play every ornament every time, but pick and choose from them each time.
Feel free to mix versions. And make up/add your own ornamentations (in the style)

B

18

26

C

43