

Nina Danon

Mésanges

for Choir (a cappella)

suitable for any combination of voices,
requires a minimum of 3 singers

Programme Notes

An early morning, in the early spring. Blue and great tits, robins and goldfinches enjoy the first cherry blossoms, playfully answering each other and flying from tree to chimney. A surround experience in my back garden, enveloping me, their unintended audience, with sounds and happiness.

Nina Danon, April 2021

Performance Notes

The notes below are merely guidelines, not absolute rules. Please feel free to adapt or ignore any of them according to your group's skills and preferences. Make the piece your own, and have fun!

For the entire piece:

Each fragment can either be sung in its entirety or shortened.

Each fragment can be sung as written, or can be modified or expanded through improvisation.

Each fragment or portion of fragment can be sung once or repeated as many times as you wish.

Each fragment can be sung on any vowel you wish, hummed, whistled or performed using any technique you deem appropriate, unless notated otherwise on the score.

Fragments (or sections of fragment, including individual notes) can be transposed to a different octave to suit the vocal range of the performers.

For Section I:

Start:

One singer starts on the bottom fragment (n.1). The other singers progressively join in, answering each other and starting on any of the lower branches, then moving their way up and down branches. Fragment n.9 should be the last one to be introduced, and should be sung at least once by all singers (simultaneously, in groups, or individually), either in its entirety or simply a few notes from it.

Singers do not need to be constantly singing at all times, they can choose to pause between fragments and re-enter in response to someone else's line.

Notated rhythm can be flexible, and all fragments do not need to be performed at the same tempo.

End:

After all fragments have been performed, the conductor (or a designated group leader) can decide when to end the piece. On their signal, all singers should finish their current fragment and stop. After a short silence, the conductor or group leader can start on fragment n.1 from Section II, followed by the rest of the group.

Mésanges

Section I

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9

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1

t - k - t - k t

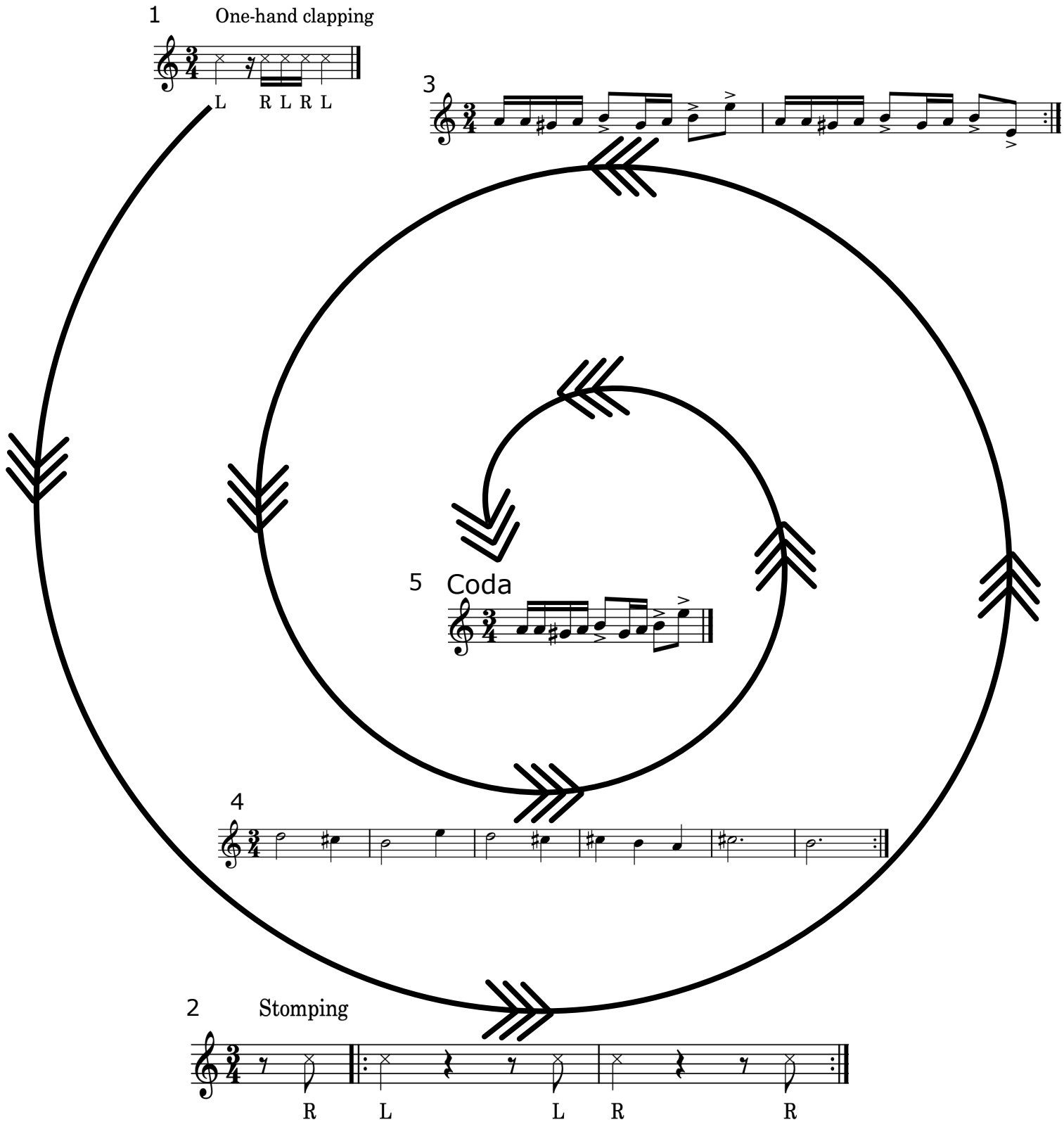
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Section II



Notes:

'L' and 'R' indicate left and right hand or foot.

'One-hand clapping': extend the palm of your hand then quickly close your hand to create an audible noise.

Start on the first fragment, and progressively add fragments 2 to 4 (in order). Once a fragment starts, it should carry on until the end of the piece, although the number of singers performing that part can vary.

To end the piece, everyone moves to Fragment 5 on a signal from the conductor. This is to be sung only once.