

EDGARD VARÈSE

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1967

IONISATION

for

Percussion Ensemble

of

13 Players

Full Score

*Duration: 6½ minutes*

COLFRANC MUSIC PUBLISHING CORPORATION  
NEW YORK

General Agent: **e.c. kerby ltd.** 198 DAVENPORT ROAD TORONTO 5, ONTARIO, CANADA (416) 922 9934

## *Instruments*

1. *A)* Grande Cymbale Chinoise (Crash Cymbal)  
Grosse Caisse, très grave (Bass Drum, very deep)  
Cencerro (muffled) *F)*  
Tam-tam clair (high Tam-tam)
2. *B)* Gong  
Tam-tam clair (high Tam-tam)  
Tam-tam grave (low Tam-tam)  
Cencerro (muffled) *F)*
3. 2 Bongos (high and low)  
Caisse roulante (Side-drum) *C)*  
2 Grosse Caisses à plat, moyenne et grave (2 Bass Drums laid flat, medium and large size)
4. Tambour Militaire *C)*  
Caisse roulante (Side-drum) *C)*
5. Sirène claire (Siren, high) *D)*  
Tambour à corde (String-drum or Lion's Roar)
6. Sirène grave (Siren, low) *D)*  
Fouet (Slapstick)  
Güiro
7. 3 Blocs chinois, clair, moyen et grave (3 Wood Blocks, high, middle and low register)  
Claves  
Triangle
8. Caisse claire, détimbrée (Snare-drum, with snares relaxed) *C)*  
2 Maracas, claire et grave (2 Maracas, high and low)
9. Tarole *C) E)*  
Caisse claire (Snare-drum) *C)*  
Cymbale suspendue (Suspended Cymbal)
10. Cymbales (Cymbals)  
Grelots (Sleigh Bells)  
Cloches (Tubular Chimes)

11. **Güiro**  
Castagnettes (Castanets)  
Glockenspiel à clavier, with resonators
12. **Tambour de Basque** (Tambourine)  
2 Enclumes, la première plus aiguë (2 Anvils, the first higher) —  
Grand Tam-tam (very deep)
13. **Fouet** (Slapstick)  
Triangle  
Grelots (Sleigh Bells)  
Piano *G*

- A) A mallet in each hand.
- B) A mallet in each hand; use very elastic strokes; even in the *ff*, the combined weight of arm and mallet are sufficient; do not kill the tone.
- C) Skin, felt, sponge or wooden sticks are to be used strictly as indicated.

R  
|  
X

The notation | indicates rim shot.

- D) **Sirens**: Sterling Type H (Part No. 73 PU. PB.) hand operated with thumb brake. If unobtainable, substitute with theremin instruments. Mouth sirens are to be strictly avoided.
- E) **Tarole**: A flat military high pitched drum with snares.
- F) **Cencerro**: A cow bell with handle and no clapper: it is struck with drum stick and muffled by inserting a piece of soft material in the bell.

- G) The symbol  indicates all chromatic intervals between the

two notes and must be played simultaneously making use of the forearm. The chord is to be played without stiffness and without brutality.

