



a leaf falls
erik griswold

a leaf falls (2011)

For cello and percussion quartet

Dedication

a leaf falls was commissioned by Soundstream Collective with generous funding from the Australia Council for the Arts. The composer wishes to thank cellist John Addison for his invaluable creative input.

A leaf falls was premiered by John Addison and Soundstream Collective on 30 September 2011 in Elder Hall, University of Adelaide.

Program note

The title “a leaf falls” is taken from the e.e. cummings poem with the first line “l(a.” I once set that poem to music in a piece for men’s choir. It reads “l (a leaf falls) oneliness.” Though I’ve never really lived in a place with an autumn, I nevertheless feel a sense of nostalgia for the coming of autumn, the leaves turning bright oranges and reds, and is it a sense of emptiness when the leaves fall? Eugene Carchesio captured something like this sense beautifully in his “Dead leaves of Tokyo” series. I enjoy raking the leaves in my backyard, it’s a kind of meditation. And who doesn’t love jumping into a pile of leaves? Erik Griswold 31 August 2011

Staging

	Player 2	Player 3
Player 1	Cello	Player 4
	(audience)	

Instrumentation

Player 1 – Vibraphone, 3 suspended cymbals (high, medium and low), snare drum.

Player 2 – Glockenspiel, snare drum, med tom tom, small bass drum, medium and large triangles, medium wood block.

Player 3 – Glockenspiel, tenor drum, low tom tom, medium bass drum, ½ cup of rice, low wood block.

Player 4 – 5-Octave Marimba, talking drum, 3 suspended cymbals (high, medium and low), tenor drum.

Cover image

© 2000 Eugene Carchesio, from the work “from nothing (series I).” Used with generous permission from the artist.

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Part I

$\text{♩} = 52$ *Wistful*
espressivo

Vc *p*

P1

P2

P3

P4

Vc *mp* *p*

P1 Glockenspiel w/ very hard plastic
p Ped throughout *mp* *p*
Bowed Vibraphone *mp* shadowing the cello

P2 *p* *mf* *p* *pp* *mf* *p* *mp*
Delicate, but very animated. Always let ring.

P3 Glockenspiel w/ very hard plastic
p *mf* *pp* *p* *mp*
Delicate, but very animated. Always let ring.

P4 Talking drum *quizzical* *p* *pp*

Vc *mp* *p*

P1

P2 *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *pp*

P3 *mp* *pp* *mp* *p* *mp*

P4 *p*

A

Vc *mp* *p*

P1 *p* *mp* *p*

P2 *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

P3 *p* *mp* *p*

P4 *p* *mp* *p* (one-handed finger roll)

B

Vc *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *p*

P1 *mp* *p*

P2 *pp* *mp* *mp*

P3 *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

P4 *p* *mp* *pp*

Vc *mp* *p* *mp* *N*

P1 *mp*

P2 *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

P3 *mp* *mp* *p* *mp*

P4 *p*

28

Vc *p* *p*

P1 *p*

P2 *p* *mp* *p*

P3 *mp* *pp* *mp* *p*

P4 *p* *pp* *p* *mp* *p*

33 [C]

Vc *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

P1 *mp* *p*

P2 *mp* *p*

P3 *mp* *mf*

P4 *p* *mp* *p* *p* *mp* *p*

38

Vc *mp* *p* *pp* *p* *mp*

P1 *p* *mp* *pp*

P2 *p* *mf* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

P3 *p* *mp* *p* *pp* *p*

P4 *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p*

Gliss

43

Vc

P1

P2

P3

P4

p

p

mp *pp*

p

mp

p

p *mp* *p*

mp

p

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains five staves. The first staff, labeled 'Vc', begins with a measure number '43' and features a melodic line with a long slur and a dynamic marking of *p*. The second staff, 'P1', has a dynamic marking of *p* and a slur that extends across the first two measures, with *mp* and *pp* markings below it. The third staff, 'P2', includes a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' and a dynamic marking of *p*. The fourth staff, 'P3', contains a complex rhythmic pattern with dynamic markings of *p*, *mp*, and *p*. The fifth staff, 'P4', features a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' and a dynamic marking of *mp*, followed by a dynamic marking of *p* in the final measure. Various articulation marks, such as accents and slurs, are used throughout the score.

Part 2

$\text{♩} = 66$ Bristling with energy

Vc ♩ V V *sim.*
p *f*

Vc ♩ *p* *mf* *N*

Vc ♩ *p* *f* *p*

Vc ♩ *mf* *p*

Vc ♩ *N* *p* *f* *A*

Snare drum (snares off)
Med tom and small B.D. w/ snare sticks

P2 ♩ *p* *f* *3* *p* *f*

Vc ♩ *p* *f* *p* *mf*

P2 ♩ *p* *f* *p*

Vc ♩ *N* *p* *f* *5* *5* *B*

Tenor drum (snares off)
Low tom and med B.D. w/ felt

P2 ♩ *pp* *3* *f* *3*

P3 ♩ *pp* *3*

28

Vc *p* *f* *p* *mf* *N*

P2 *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *N*

P3 *f* *p* *mf* *p*

32

Vc *p* *f*

P3 *mf* *N*

[C]

35

Vc *p* *f* *p* *mf*

P1 3 Suspended Cymbals w/ rattan *p*

P2 *p* *f* *p*

P3 *p* *f*

38

Vc *pp*

P1 *f* *p* *mf* *p*

P2 *mf* *p* *mf* *N*

P3 *p* *mf* *p* *mf*