Acacia Variations

for toy piano and whistling

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Performance notes:

The toy piano part sounds best when played as written, but may be read an octave lower if your instrument does not have the higher sounds. In any case, the choice of instrument, dynamics, venue, amplification (if any), etc. must be made with the unity of sound in mind: the whistling must not be overwhelmed by the piano. The two sounds form an organic whole.

Actual whistling must either be done by the pianist, or not at all. Do not ask another performer to stand and perform the whistling part. If you can't whistle, the part may be performed by a violinist, playing gently, never above mezzo piano, or on an electronic instrument capable of producing a saw wave, perhaps with a small amount of resonant filtering. Experiment with speaker placement and/or amplification to create a united sound picture from the two sounds.

There are three variations indicated in the score. They must be separated by sizeable pauses. The second variation features whistling sounds akin to birdsong; the required little slides are indicated by fall (downwards) and doit (upwards) notation. The third variation features whistling notes that may be slightly too long to perform adequately. Try your best, but if you run out of breath, let it go; the fading whistle sounds are part of the variation.

Acacia Variations is a satellite piece for Many Worlds Game – Spoon, but is best heard alone, independent of the main piece or the other satellites.

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