

# The Transit Of Venus

by

**Nancy Bloomer Deussen**

( Duration: 9:45 )

*World Premiere: Mission Chamber Orchestra of San Jose  
Emily Ray, conductor Sept. 21, 2013*

*First Prize Winner (2014) of the biennial award in Music Composition  
of the National League of American Pen Women*

**Instrumentation:** 2 Flutes, 2 Oboes 2 Clarinets, 2 Bassoons,  
2 Horns, 2 Trumpets, Timpani, Glockenspiel, Chimes,  
Tenor Drum, Triangle, Cymbals, Harp, and Strings.

## **Program Notes**

In 2012 I was invited to attend an unusual astronomical event called “The Transit of Venus”. This gathering occurred at NASA in Sunnyvale, CA. Earlier in life I had an interest in astronomy so I was intrigued.

What happened will not happen again for over 100 years. The planet Venus makes a transit across in front of the sun in pairs 8 years apart and then does not do it again for over a century. This was the last of the pair and I witnessed it. It was telecast with filters from atop a mountain observatory in Hawaii and scores of scientists and ordinary people like me watched amazed from all over the world.

The absolute accuracy of the prediction was what really struck me. We all watched as the countdown began and then miraculously at the precise second Venus suddenly appeared in front of the sun. People applauded and some cried realizing that we were watching an amazing, rare and unusual event. I was completely caught up in

the moment and became quite emotional as I became immersed in the mystery, miracle and planned order of the universe. The transit was slow (5 hrs) and deliberate as Venus slowly traveled in front of the sun. I knew right there and then that I had to write a composition about the event. Here it is.

- Nancy Bloomer Deussen

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# The Transit of Venus

### Score

Nancy Bloomer Deussen

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Tim.

Perc.

Tub. B.

Glock.

Harp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vcl.

D. b.

This page of musical notation shows a sequence of measures for various instruments. The instrumentation includes Flutes 1 and 2, Oboes 1 and 2, Clarinets 1 and 2, Bassoons 1 and 2, Horns 1 and 2, Trombones 1 and 2, Timpani, Percussion, Tubas, Glockenspiel, Harp, Violins 1 and 2, Violas, Cellos, and Double Bass. The music begins with woodwind entries, followed by brass entries, and concludes with a dynamic section involving the brass and percussion. Measure numbers 7 and 10 are indicated at the start of some staves.

Fl. 1

13

p

Fl. 2

13

p

Ob. 1

13

Ob. 2

13

p

Cl. 1

13

p

Cl. 2

13

p

Bsn 1

13

p

Bsn 2

13

p

Horn 1

13

p

Horn 2

13

Tpt 1

13

Tpt 2

13

Tim.

13

Perc.

Triangle

mp

13

Sub. B.

13

Glock.

13

Harp

13

p

Vln I

13

p

Vln II

13

p

Vla

13

p

Vcl.

13

p

Db.

13

p

20

Fl. 1      18

Fl. 2      18

Ob. 1      18

Ob. 2      18

Cl. 1      18

Cl. 2      18

Bsn 1      18

Bsn 2      18

Horn 1      18

Horn 2      18

Tpt 1      18

Tpt 2      18

Tim.      18

Perc.      18

Tub. B.      18

Glock.      18

Harp      18

Vln I      18

Vln II      18

Vla      18

Vcl.      18

D. b.      18

20

8va

20

Fl. 1

23

Fl. 2

23

Ob. 1

23

*p*

Ob. 2

23

*p*

Cl. 1

23

*p*

*mp*

*mf*

Cl. 2

23

*p*

*mp*

*mf*

Bsn 1

23

*mp*

*mf*

Bsn 2

23

*mp*

Horn 1

23

Horn 2

23

Tpt 1

23

Tpt 2

23

Tim.

23

Perc.

23

Tub. B.

23

Glock.

23

Harp

23

Vln I

23

*mp*

*mf*

Vln II

23

*mp*

*mf*

Vla

23

*mp*

*mf*

Vcl.

23

*mp*

*f*

Db.

23

*mp*

*f*

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Timp.

Perc.

Tub. B.

Glock.

Harp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vcl.

Db.

*rit.*      **36** A tempo  $\text{♩} = 65$

Fl. 1      *pp*  
Fl. 2      *pp*  
Ob. 1      *mp*  
Ob. 2      *34*  
Cl. 1      *p*  
Cl. 2      *pp*  
Bsn 1      *pp*  
Bsn 2      *34*  
  
*rit.*      **36** A tempo  $\text{♩} = 65$

Horn 1  
Horn 2  
Tpt 1  
Tpt 2  
  
 Timp.  
Perc.  
Tub. B.  
Glock.  
  
*rit.*      **36** A tempo  $\text{♩} = 65$

Harp      *mp*  
  
 Vln I      *p*  
Vln II      *p*  
Vla      *p*  
Vcl.      *p*  
Db.      *p*  
  
*mp*  
  
*p*  
  
*pp*  
  
*p*  
  
*p*

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Timp.

Perc.

Tub. B.

Glock.

Harp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vcl.

Db.

Fl. 1

48 *p*

Fl. 2

48 *p*

pp

Ob. 1

48

pp

Ob. 2

48

Cl. 1

48

pp

Cl. 2

48

Bsn 1

48

Bsn 2

48

*p*

Horn 1

48

Horn 2

48

Tpt 1

48

Tpt 2

48

Timp.

48

Perc.

48

Tub. B.

48

Glock.

48

*p*

Harp

48

Vln I

48

Vln II

48

*p*

Vla

48

*p*

Vcl.

48

*p*

Db.

48

*p*

58

Fl. 1      56

Fl. 2      56

Ob. 1      56

Ob. 2      56

Cl. 1      56

Cl. 2      56

Bsn 1      56

Bsn 2      56

58

Horn 1      56

Horn 2      56

Tpt 1      56

Tpt 2      56

Tim.      56

Perc.      56

Tub. B.      56

Glock.      56

58

Harp      56

Vln I      56

Vln II      56

Vla      56

Vcl.      56

Db.      56

pizz.

pp

pizz.

pp

pizz.

pp

pp

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Timp.

Perc.

Tub. B.

Glock.

Harp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vcl.

Db.

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Tim.

Perc.

Tub. B.

Glock.

Harp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vcl.

Db.

Fl. 1  
72

Fl. 2  
72

Ob. 1  
72

Ob. 2  
72

Cl. 1  
72

Cl. 2  
72

Bsn 1  
72

Bsn 2  
72

Horn 1  
72

Horn 2  
72

Tpt 1  
72

Tpt 2  
72

Tim. 72

Perc. 72

Tub. B. 72

Glock. 72

Harp 72

Vln I 72

Vln II 72

Vla 72

Vcl. 72

D. b. 72

77

Fl. 1  
77 ff p

Fl. 2  
77 ff p

Ob. 1  
77 ff p

Ob. 2  
77 ff p

Cl. 1  
77 ff

Cl. 2  
77

Bsn 1  
77 ff p

Bsn 2  
77 p

Horn 1  
77 ff

Horn 2  
77

Tpt 1  
77

Tpt 2  
77

Tim. 77 ff crash

Perc. 77 ff

Tub. B.  
77

Glock.

Harp  
77 f

Vln I  
77

Vln II  
77

Vla  
77

Vcl.  
77

Db.  
77

Musical score for The Transit of Venus, page 16, featuring 18 staves of music for various instruments. The score includes:

- Fl. 1 (Flute 1) and Fl. 2 (Flute 2) in treble clef, both marked 82.
- Ob. 1 (Oboe 1) and Ob. 2 (Oboe 2) in treble clef, both marked 82.
- Cl. 1 (Clarinet 1) and Cl. 2 (Clarinet 2) in treble clef, both marked 82. Cl. 1 has dynamics *p* and *mp*.
- Bsn 1 (Bassoon 1) and Bsn 2 (Bassoon 2) in bass clef, both marked 82.
- Horn 1 and Horn 2 in treble clef, both marked 82.
- Tpt 1 (Trumpet 1) and Tpt 2 (Trumpet 2) in treble clef, both marked 82.
- Tim. (Timpani) in bass clef, marked 82.
- Perc. (Percussion) marked 82.
- Tub. B. (Trombone) in bass clef, marked 82.
- Glock. (Glockenspiel) marked 82.
- Harp (Harp) marked 82. The harp part consists of two staves: treble and bass.
- Vln I (Violin I) and Vln II (Violin II) in treble clef, both marked *pp*. Vln I has dynamics *p* and *p*.
- Vla (Viola) in bass clef, marked *pp*. Vla has dynamics *p* and *p*.
- Vcl (Cello) in bass clef, marked *pp*. Vcl has dynamics *p* and *p*.
- Db. (Double Bass) in bass clef, marked *pp*. Db. has dynamics *p* and *p*.

The score is set in common time and includes measure numbers 1 through 16. Measure 16 concludes with a repeat sign and a double bar line, indicating a section repeat.

95

Fl. 1      *p*  
91

Fl. 2      91

Ob. 1      *mp*  
91

Ob. 2      91

Cl. 1      *mp*  
91

Cl. 2      91

Bsn 1      91

Bsn 2      91

95

Horn 1      91

Horn 2      91

Tpt 1      91

Tpt 2      91

Tim.      91

Perc.      91

Tub. B.      91

Glock.      91

95

Harp      *mp*  
91

Vln I      *div.*  
91

Vln II      91

Vla      *mp*  
91

Vcl.      *pp*  
91

D. b.      *pp*  
91

Fl. 1  
98

Fl. 2  
98

Ob. 1  
98

Ob. 2  
98

Cl. 1  
98

Cl. 2  
98

Bsn 1  
98

Bsn 2  
98

Horn 1  
98

Horn 2  
98

Tpt 1  
98

Tpt 2  
98

Tim. 98

Perc. 98

Tub. B. 98

Glock. 98

Harp  
98

Vln I  
98

Vln II  
98

Vla  
98

Vcl.  
98

Db.  
98

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

Cl. 1

Cl. 2

Bsn 1

Bsn 2

Horn 1

Horn 2

Tpt 1

Tpt 2

Timp.

Perc.

Tub. B.

Glock.

Harp

Vln I

Vln II

Vla

Vcl.

Db.

Fl. 1 107

Fl. 2 107

Ob. 1 107

Ob. 2 107

Cl. 1 107

Cl. 2 107

Bsn 1 107

Bsn 2 107

Horn 1 107

Horn 2 107

Tpt 1 107

Tpt 2 107

Tim. 107

Perc. 107

Tub. B. 107

Glock. 107

Harp 107

Vln I 107

Vln II 107

Vla 107

Vcl. 107

D. b. 107

114

Fl. 1  
112

Fl. 2  
112

ff

Ob. 1  
112

ff

Ob. 2  
112

ff

Cl. 1  
112

ff

p

Cl. 2  
112

ff

p

Bsn 1  
112

ff

Bsn 2  
112

ff

114

Horn 1  
112

ff

Horn 2  
112

Tpt 1  
112

ff

Tpt 2  
ff

Tim. >  
112 f

Perc. f f

Tub. B.  
112 ff

Glock.  
112 ff

114

Harp  
112

Vln I  
112

Vln II  
112

ff

mf

Vla  
112

ff

mf

Vcl.  
112

ff

mf

Db.  
112

ff

mf



Fl. 1 127

Fl. 2 127

Ob. 1 127

Ob. 2 127

Cl. 1 127

Cl. 2 127

Bsn 1 127

Bsn 2 127

Horn 1 127

Horn 2 127

Tpt 1 127

Tpt 2 127

Tim. 127

Perc. 127

Tub. B. 127

Glock. 127

Harp 127

Vln I 127 div. pp

Vln II 127 p pp

Vla 127 p

Vcl. 127 p

Db. 127 p

140

Fl. 1      137

Fl. 2      137

Ob. 1      137

Ob. 2      137

Cl. 1      137

Cl. 2      137

Bsn 1      137

Bsn 2      137

Horn 1      137

Horn 2      137

Tpt 1      137

Tpt 2      137

Tim.      137

Perc.      137

Tub. B.      137

Glock.      137

140

Harp      137

Vln I      137

Vln II      137

Vla      137

Vcl.      137

D. b.      137

Fl. 1

146

Fl. 2

146

Ob. 1

146

Ob. 2

146

Cl. 1

146 *pp*

Cl. 2

146 *pp*

Bsn 1

146

Bsn 2

146

Horn 1

146

Horn 2

146

Tpt 1

146

Tpt 2

146

Timp.

146

Perc.

146

Tub. B.

146

Glock.

146

Harp

146

Vln I

146

Vln II

146

Vla

146

Vcl.

146

Db.

146

