

Steve Reich



Steve Reich Photo: Alice Arnold/Nonesuch

CHORUS AND ORCHESTRA

The Desert Music

(full version)

1983

46 min

for 10 (or 27) amplified voices and orchestra

Text: William Carlos Williams (E)

4(I,II,III,IV=picc).4(II,III,IV=corA).4(II,III,IV=bcl).4(IV=dbn)-4.4
(I=picc.tpt ad lib).3.1-timp(2players=rototoms).perc(7):medium tam-t/
maracas/sticks/2BD/2glsp/2xyl/2vib/2marimba-2pft(4players)-
strings(12.12.9.9.6)
(voices and woodwinds amplified)

World Premiere: 17 Mar 1984

Cologne, Germany

Cologne Chorus and Symphony Orchestra of West German Radio

Conductor: Peter Eötvös

The Desert Music

(version with reduced strings and brass)

1983, arr. 2001

46 min

for 10 amplified voices and reduced orchestra, brass arrangement by Alan Pierson

4(I,II,III,IV=picc).0.0.0-2.2.3.0-timp(2players=rototoms).perc(7):med
tam-t/maracas/sticks/2BD/2glsp/
2xyl/2vib/2marimba-2pft(4players:I,III,IV=synth)-13 solo strings

Flutes, Pianos, Marimbas, Vibraphones,
and Voices should all be amplified

The Desert Music

(version with reduced strings, optional brass)

1983

46 min

for 10 (or 27) amplified voices and reduced orchestra

Text: William Carlos Williams (E)

4(I,II,III,IV=picc).0.0.0-4.4(I=picc.tpt ad lib).3.1(brass optional)-
timp(2players=rototoms).perc(7):med tam-t/maracas/sticks/2BD/2glsp/
2xyl/2vib/2marimba-2pft(4players:I,III,IV=synth)-13 solo strings
(voices and woodwinds amplified)

World premiere of version: 09 Jan 1986

Richmond, Virginia, United States

Steve Reich and Musicians with singers and members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic

Conductor: George Manahan