

BRANDON VACCARO

Local Group
vs.
The Virgo Supercluster

It appears probable that the Local Group will finally fall and merge into, or be "eaten" by the Virgo Cluster.

Students for the Exploration and Development of Space Website
<http://www.seds.org/messier/More/vir_loc.html>

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Program Notes

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster was composed from February 2nd -15th 2005 and was premiered on April 26th 2005 by Lawrence Golan and the Lamont Symphony Orchestra at the University of Denver.

In recent years, I have settled into a routine: I compose from a little before sunrise until about noon; then, I eat lunch and retire to my couch for a short nap, often leaving the television on. On one such occasion, I was watching a program on astronomy and cosmology while I fell asleep. As I awoke, I heard a scientist on the program discussing the grouping of galaxies into larger structures or clusters. He mentioned that the galactic cluster called the Local Group, which includes the Milky Way, would eventually collide with a larger galactic group, the Virgo Supercluster. In the hypnagogic, half-asleep state at the end of my nap, this provided fertile material for my aural imagination. The soundscapes of *Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster* are an attempt to recreate this experience.

Biography

Brandon Vaccaro (b. 1976) is a composer and performer based in Denver, CO. He studied composition with Carter Pann, Donald Keats, Malcolm Lynn Baker, William Hill, and Chris Malloy. His principal guitar teachers were Masakazu Ito and David DiMichaelis.

He has worked with a number of ensembles including the Experimental Playground Ensemble, Kallisti, Free Love Ensemble, Coefficient of Friction, Ground, Shutter Trio, the Vinca Quartet, and the Tosca Quartet. His works have been performed in the United States and Greece.

Also, active as a teacher, he has taught at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music and the Community College of Denver. He is the recipient of the 2005-2006 Cecil Effinger Fellowship in Composition at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Instrumentation

2 Flutes [Flute II = Piccolo]
2 Oboes [Oboe II = Eng. Horn (F)]
2 Clarinets (Bb) [Clarinet II = Bass Clarinet (Bb)]
Bassoon
Contrabassoon

4 Horns (F)
2 Trumpets (C)
2 Trombones
Tuba

Timpani (4)

Percussion 1

Glockenspiel (GLOCK) (15ma)
Cymbals (CYM. CRASH)

Percussion 2

Tubular Bells (TUB. BELLS)
Tam-tam (w/bow) (TAM)
Bass Drum
Vibraphone (shares instrument with Perc. 3)

Percussion 3

Vibraphone (w/bow) (VIBES)
Suspended Cymbal (SUS. CYM.)
3 Tom-toms (TOMS)
Snare drum

Harp

Violins I
Violins II
Violas
Cellos
Basses (8vb)

Notes to the Conductor:

Measures 84-90 (p. 14-15) are marked "Senza Tempo." I suggest that the conductor should indicate the beginning of each "measure" with a downbeat. This section should last about thirty to forty seconds. Accordingly, each "measure" should average about five seconds, with some being slightly longer or shorter as indicated by proportion in the score. As the marking indicates, there should not be a unified sense of pulse in this section. While the conductor will presumably be counting time in seconds during this section, this should not be indicated to the players as to avoid falling into a sense of 60 b.p.m.

Duration: ca. 4½ minutes

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

Transposed Score

Brandon Vaccaro
(2005)

2 3 4 5 6 7 8

Energetic, Violent ♩ ≈ 120

1 2 Horn in F

3 4 Horn in F

Trumpet in C 1

Trumpet in C 2

Trombone 1

Trombone 2

Tuba

Timpani

Percussion 1

Percussion 2

Percussion 3

CRASH CYM.

BASS DRUM

TOMS

SNARE DRUM

fp *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp* *fp*

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

p *f* *f* *p* *f*

f *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f* *f*

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20

The musical score is arranged in a system of staves. The top section includes woodwinds: Flute 1 (Piccolo), Flute 2, Oboe 1, Oboe 2, Bassoon, and Contrabassoon. The middle section includes brass: Horns 1-4, Trumpets 1-2, Trombones 1-2, and Tuba. The bottom section includes percussion: Timpani, Glockenspiel, and Tom-toms. The score features various dynamics such as *pp*, *p*, *mf*, *f*, *ff*, *mp*, *fp*, and *non cresc.*. It also includes performance instructions like "stopped" and "open" for the horns, and "p sub." for the timpani. Musical notations include slurs, accents, and articulation marks.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

Half tempo ♩ ≈ 60

The musical score is divided into two systems. The first system includes woodwinds, brass, percussion, and strings. The second system includes violins, viola, and cello. The score features complex rhythmic patterns, dynamic markings, and tempo changes. Key elements include:

- Woodwinds:** Flutes 1 & 2, Oboes 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet 1, and Contrabass. Dynamics range from *pp* to *mp*.
- Brass:** Cornets 1 & 2, Trumpets 1 & 2, Trombones 1 & 2, and Tuba. Mutes are used for most brass parts.
- Percussion:** Timpani (Timp.) with notes on a dead spot at the center of the head. Percussion 1 (Perc. 1) includes a Glockenspiel. Percussion 2 (Perc. 2) includes a Tam-tam and a metal rod scrape.
- Strings:** Violins I & II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass. Dynamics range from *p* to *f*.
- Tempo and Meter:** The tempo is marked "Half tempo ♩ ≈ 60". The meter changes from 4/4 to 3/4 between measures 24 and 25.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system includes Flute 1 & 2, Oboe 1 & 2, B♭ Clarinet 1 & 2, and C Trumpet 1 & 2. The second system includes Trombone 1 & 2, and Tuba. The third system includes Percussion 1 & 3, and Violin 1 & 2. A large **2/4** time signature is placed above the Flute and Oboe staves at measure 33. A smaller **2/4** time signature is placed above the C Trumpet staves at measure 33. A box containing the number **32** is placed above the Percussion 3 staff at measure 32. A box containing the number **32** is placed above the Violin 1 staff at measure 32. Dynamics include *p*, *mp*, *pp*, and *ppp*. Performance instructions include *non cresc.*, *ENG. HORN solo, espres.*, *GLOCK.*, *SUS. CYM. (yarn mallet)*, and *shimmering*. A **B♭ CLARINET** label is placed above the B♭ Clarinet 2 staff at measure 35. A **(D♭)** key signature change is indicated above the Violin 1 staff at measure 38.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

FL 1

FL 2

Ob. 1

Eng. hm.

B♭ Cl. 1

B♭ Cl. 2

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

TAM
scrape with metal rod

VIBES (across instrument from perc. 3)
bowed

VIBES (motor off)
bowed

Hp.

39

47

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

49

50

51

52

53

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Eng. hm.
B. Cl. 1
B. Cl. 2

Musical score for woodwinds and strings. Measures 49-53. Flutes 1 and 2, Oboe 1, English Horn, Bass Clarinet 1, and Bass Clarinet 2. Dynamics include *f* and *furioso*. Measure 53 ends with a 4/4 time signature.

Hr. 1
Hr. 2
Hr. 3
Hr. 4
C Tpt. 1
C Tpt. 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tba.

Musical score for brass instruments. Measures 49-53. Horns 1-4, Trumpets 1-2, Trombones 1-2, and Tuba. Dynamics include *p*, *fp*, *violent*, and *f*. Measure 53 ends with a 4/4 time signature.

Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3

Musical score for percussion instruments. Measures 49-53. Timpani, Percussion 1 (GLOCK.), Percussion 2 (TUBULAR BELLS), and Percussion 3. Dynamics include *p*, *f*, *fp*, and *mf*. Measure 53 ends with a 4/4 time signature.

Vln. solo

Musical score for Violin solo. Measures 49-53. Dynamics include *mf*, *f*, and *fp*. Measure 53 ends with a 4/4 time signature.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

54

55

56

57

58

59

1 Fl. 2

4/4

mp mp pp

Ob. 1

mp mp pp

Eng. hm.

mp mp pp

B. Cl. 1

mp mp pp

B. Cl. BASS CLARINET

mp mp pp

Bsn.

mp mp pp

C. Bn.

mp mp pp

1 Hn. 2

4/4

a 2

mp mp pp

3 Hn. 4

a 2

mp mp pp

Tbn. 1

mp mp pp

Tbn. 2

mp mp pp

Perc. 2 TUBULAR BELLS

mp mp pp

55

Vin. solo

4/4

ff

Vin. I

pp ... non cresc. ...

Vin. II

pp ... non cresc. ...

Vla. non. div. II. pp ... non cresc. ...

Vc.

pp ... non cresc. ...

Cb.

mp mp pp

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

60

61

62

63

64

FL 1

FL 2

Ob. 1

B♭ Cl. 1

B. Cl.

Perc. 1

Perc. 3

Hp.

GLOCK.

mp sempre

VIBES (motor off)

mp sempre

G[♯] (+++++)

mp

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

p

f

mf

p

f

mf

p

f

mf

60

Vin. I div.

Vin. II div.

Vla. div.

Vc. div.

Slow gliss. (▣ ▣ ▣ ▣ ▣ ...)

p

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

mp

f

mf

p

f

mf

p

f

mf

p

f

mf

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

65

66

67

68

69

The musical score is arranged in systems. The first system includes Flute 1, Flute 2, Oboe, Bassoon, and Horns. The second system includes Percussion (Glock, Vibes, Tam, Bass Drum) and Harp. The third system includes Violin solo, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello. Measure 68 is highlighted with a box. A 3/4 time signature appears in measure 69. Dynamics include *p*, *mf*, *pp*, *mp*, *f*, and *poco*. Performance instructions include "stopped" for horns and "scrape in circle with metal rod" for the tam. A "VIBES" section is marked with a treble clef and a "GLOCK" section with a soprano clef. The score includes various musical notations such as slurs, accents, and dynamic markings.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

70

71

72

Slower ♩ ≈ 50

Fl. 1

Fl. 2

Ob. 1

Ob. 2

B. Cl. 1

B. Cl. 2

Bsn.

C. Bn.

Hr. 1

Hr. 2

Hr. 3

Hr. 4

C Tpt. 1

C Tpt. 2

Tbn. 1

Tbn. 2

Tbn.

Timp.

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Slower ♩ ≈ 50

Vln. solo

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

73

74
rit.

75
a tempo

76

Woodwind section score for measures 73-76. The section includes Flute 1 & 2, Oboe 1 & 2, Bass Clarinet 1 & 2, Bassoon, and Contrabassoon. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 75. Dynamics range from *mp* to *mf* and *p*. The score features various articulations such as slurs and triplets.

Percussion section score for measures 73-76. The section includes Horns 1-4, Trumpets 1 & 2, Trombones 1 & 2, Tuba, Timpani, and Percussion 1 & 2. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 75. Dynamics range from *mp* to *p*. Specific instruments like Glockenspiel, Tam-tam, and Bass Drum are indicated.

rit.

a tempo

String section score for measures 73-76. The section includes Violin I & II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 75. Dynamics range from *p* to *mf* and *pp*. The score includes markings for *unis.* and *div.*

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

FL 1

FL 2

Perc. 1 (GLOCK)

Perc. 2

Perc. 3 VIBES (motor on) soft yarn *mp*

Hp.

Vln. I div. *p*

Vln. II div. *p*

Vla. div. *p*

Vc. div. *p*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score contains staves for Flute 1, Flute 2, Percussion 1 (Glockenspiel), Percussion 2, Percussion 3 (Vibes), Harp, Violin I division, Violin II division, Viola division, and Violoncello division. The score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of one flat. The percussion parts feature melodic lines with slurs and accents. The string parts are primarily sustained notes with slurs, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Vibes part includes a specific instruction: 'VIBES (motor on) soft yarn' with a mezzo-piano (*mp*) dynamic marking.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

80

81

82

83

FL. 1

FL. 2

Perc. 1

Perc. 2

Perc. 3

Hp.

Vin. I

Vin. II

Vla.

Vc.

TAM bowed

p

f

p

G# A# (1+1+1+1+)

B#

Glissando

8va - gliss. ad lib.

→

Detailed description: This page of a musical score covers measures 80-83. It features staves for Flute 1 and 2 (both silent), Percussion 1 (repeating rhythmic patterns), Percussion 2 (TAM bowed, *p* to *f*), Percussion 3 (sparse notes), Harp (glissando from G# A# to B#), Violin I (long notes with *p*), Violin II (melodic line), Viola (melodic line), and Violoncello (melodic line). The Harp part includes a glissando and a final glissando ad libitum with an arrow pointing right.

Senza Tempo (Cue each group)

15 - 20 sec.

Senza Tempo (Cue each group)

Each player gliss. ad lib. between any two pitches in this range.

*1st cb. plays E, 2nd plays F, etc. If six players are not available, omit notes from top of cluster.

Local Group vs. The Virgo Supercluster

91

92

93

94

95

Tempo I ♩ ≈ 120

(long)

Fl. 1
Fl. 2
Ob. 1
Ob. 2
B. Cl. 1
B. Cl.
Bsn.
C. Bn.

(long)

1
2
3
4
Hr.
C Tpt. 1
C Tpt. 2
Tbn. 1
Tbn. 2
Tbn.

(long)

Timp.
Perc. 1
Perc. 2
Perc. 3
Hp.

Tempo I ♩ ≈ 120

(long)

Vln. I
Vln. II
Vla.
Vcl.
Cb.

Stop gliss. on any note in range