Falcon 9

Organ Solo

Christopher LaRosa

Perusal

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Rehearsal Notes

1. Accidentals carry through measures.

2. Courtesy accidentals have been provided for longer "measures" that take up an entire line, as in mm. 29-42.

3. Indicated tempos are approximate; the organist should decide on the appropriate tempos for the given organ and performance space.

4. This piece was conceived with a French manual order. Should the organ have a different manual order, the organist is free to change manuals to suit the instrument.

5. Throughout, the organist is encouraged to use mutations to create bright and unusual timbres. For example, in the passage beginning at m. 29, the organist might consider using 8' and 1 $^{3}/_{5}$'. The selection and placement of mutations is left to the organist's discretion.

Program Note

Falcon 9 is a two-stage rocket designed to transport satellites and spacecraft into orbit. Named for its use of nine first-stage engines, the rocket was designed by SpaceX, a privately funded aerospace manufacturer founded and led by the business magnate and engineer Elon Musk. On December 21, 2015, SpaceX successfully returned the first stage of the Falcon 9 rocket back to its launch site via a vertical propulsive landing, historically marking the world's first successful landing of a rocket used for orbital launch. Tim Urban from *Wait but Why* compared the feat to "firing a pencil over the top of a skyscraper and trying to land it on a shoebox on the ground—on a windy day."[1] On Friday, April 8, 2016, SpaceX landed the *Falcon 9* on a robotic barge for the first time. The monumental undertaking will have profound ramifications for the future of space travel. Prior to Falcon 9, rockets could launch only once, and then burned upon reentering the Earth's atmosphere or plunged into the ocean as scrap metal. By creating a reusable first-stage rocket, SpaceX has considerably reduced the cost of space travel, bringing the company one step closer to their primary mission, enabling the colonization of Mars.

Falcon 9 captures the grandeur of this technological marvel through thick, bright harmonies played with *fortissimo* registration. Fanfare sections alternate and interact with break-neck toccata passages, meant to elicit the rocket's speed and precision. The pitch organization utilizes inversional symmetries within its harmonic and melodic design, referencing the upward and downward trajectory of the rocket. The organ perfectly suits a piece about Falcon 9—like the rocket, the instrument is a pinnacle of mechanical ingenuity and overwhelming power.

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[1] Urban, Tim. "How (and Why) SpaceX Will Colonize Mars." waitbutwhy.com. http://waitbutwhy.com/2015/08/how-and-why-spacex-will-colonize-mars.html/4#phase2 (accessed July 6, 2016).

Perusal

Perusal

Falcon 9

for Lucas Fletcher

Christopher LaRosa

with great force ♩ = 69

full organ, strident

Manual

Pedal

Gt.

fff *bright!*

ff *staccato*

deliberate (ca. ♩ = 56**)**

3

Ch.

darker, espress.

mf

darker

8'

mf

Tempo I (♩ = 69**)**

(bright)

Gt.

mf

mf

7

mf

mp

3

mp

Sw.

p

p

10

3

pp

3

pp

ppp

ppp

16' flute only

pppp

Perusal

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13

Gt.

fff *bright!*

staccato

slightly slower, more deliberate

15

accel.

(ca. ♩ = 84)

Largo ♩ = 56

17

Ch. *darker, espress.*

mp

darker

mp

(bright)

Sw.

mp

21

staccato

p

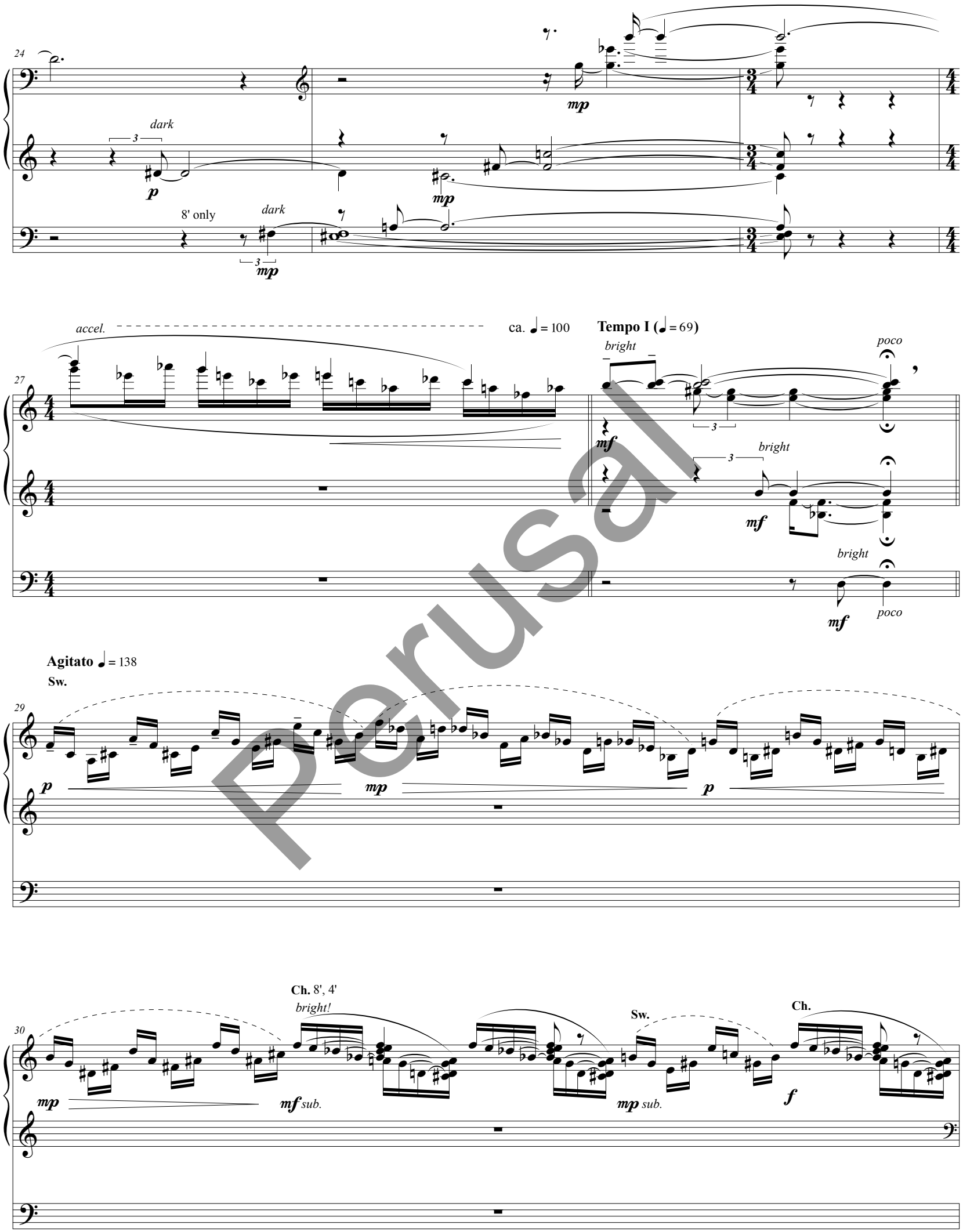
pp

dark

p

pp

Perusal


24
dark
p
mp
8' only
dark
mp
accel.
ca. ♩ = 100
Tempo I (♩ = 69)
bright
poco
27
mf
bright
mf
bright
mf
poco
Agitato ♩ = 138
Sw.
29
p
mp
p
Ch. 8', 4'
bright!
Sw.
Ch.
30
mp
mf sub.
mp sub.
f

Perusal

31 Sw. Ch. -4' p mp Sw.

32 Ch. +4' mf Sw. p Ch. mf Sw. mp

33 Ch. f Sw. Ch. f Sw. mf Ch. f

34 Sw. mf Ch. f Sw. mf Ch. f

Perusal

35

Sw.

mp

mf sub.

36

Ch.

mp

Sw.

mf

37

Ch.

p

Sw.

p

38

(Ch.)

mf

Perusal

39

Ch. Gt. Ch. Gt.

Tempo giusto, molto agitato

40

Gt. *f*

+16'

f

41

42

ff

ff

Perusal

43

rit.

Tempo I (♩ = 69)

fff *bright!*

fff

46

♪ = ♪ **sempre**

Gt.

ff

Ch.

f

Ch.

ff

49

Ch.

f

Gt.

ff

Ch.

Ch.

f *staccato*

52

staccato

staccato

Gt.

Perusal

54

Ch.

f

Gt.

Ch.

f

57

f

Gt.

Gt.

♩ = 69

Sw.

p

60

mp

p

4', 2'

espress.

mp

63

Ch.

8', 4'

mf sub.

Sw.

p

Perusal

66

Ch. Sw. Ch.

mf *p* *mf*

3 3

69

Sw. Ch. Sw.

p *mf* *p*

72

75

rit.

mp

Sw.

Perusal

Gt. (coupled to Ch. and Sw.)

♩ = 40 *accel.* ♩ = 69

78

f

with force 16', 8'

ff

80

82

84

accel. poco a poco

ff

Perusal

rit.

86

Largo ♩ = 56

Tempo I (♩ = 69)

full organ *bright!*

88

deliberate

ff *staccato*

slightly slower,
more deliberate

poco a poco accel.

(ca. ♩ = 84)

90

Tempo I (♩ = 69)

92

fff

32', 16', 8'

fff

Perusal