

COMPOSER'S NOTE

LICZBA PI (Number Pi) is inspired by a poem by Nobel-winning Polish poet Wistawa Szymborska. Defined millennia ago as the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter, Pi was important for very practical reasons. First and foremost, to compute the circumference and area of a circle from its diameter - task that, if one tries without knowing the value of Pi, is not easy. Pi turned out to be an irrational number; its value stretches to infinity, in a never-ending and never-repeating sequence of digits that starts with 3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375105820974944 and then on, and on, and on. Szymborska writes an ode to Pi's infinity. Everything is limited: our shirt size, the length of a serpent, a ray of light from a star, a phone number. But not Pi; it stretches on, tickling eternity.

Three point!

one four one five nine two six five three five eight nine

seven nine three two

Pi wonderous Pi

three eight four six two six four three

All the digits a start

three eight three two two six four three

it never ends

Pi Pi Pi

It can't be held

seven nine five (zero)

with a glance

two eight eight four

calculation

imagination

nothing here compares

nothing absolutely nothing

anything in the world.

The longest snake maybe is thirty feet

and then it stops

Same for the snakes that are in fairy tales

although they last a little longer.

But instead Pi the mighty number

it does not stop at the edge of the page

it runs off the table in the air

the wall, the leaf, the nest, the clouds, into the

sky: Oh mighty mighty Pi

It's like the tail of a mouse, the comet tail.

The ray of the star it bends, so weak.

Yes here, my phone number (five six three one four two)

your shirt size, and the year (mille nove cento sei)

floor six, people on earth (billions), hip size.

A charade, a codex

dove vola e canta l'usignol*

a charade

please remain calm

a codex

i cieli, la terra passeran**

But not!

one nine seven one six nine three nine

Liczba Pi

nine three seven five one (zero) five eight

two (zero) nine seven

Does not!

There it is with its passable *four*,

pretty good *nine*,

and we love another *four*,

stimolando, oh, eternitá ***

Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi Pi ...

* where the nightingale flies and sings; ** heaven and earth will disappear; *** tickling, oh, eternity

Text by Davide Verotta, adapted from the English/Italian translations of the original. Liczba Pi, from the collection Wielka Liczba, Copyright Wistawa Szymborska 1976, used with permission by the Wistawa Szymborska foundation (<http://www.szymborska.org.pl>, copyright@szymborska.org.pl)

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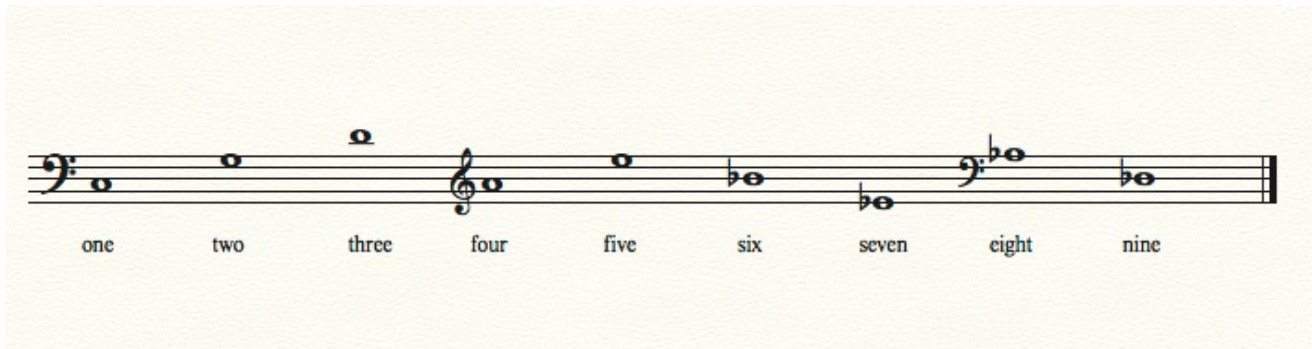
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INSTRUCTIONS TO THE PLAYERS

Where the word **Pi** is sustained over multiple pitches, I have written out the diphthong as **pa-ee** to specify where the two syllables are sung on different pitches. I also use **pa** and **ee** as separate syllables throughout the piece.

The main text is in English with the exception of the Polish word **liczba** (pronounced **lidch-bah**) and the occasional use of Italian.

Because short sections of the Pi sequence are sung throughout the piece, it might help the singers to know that the individual digits are assigned fixed pitches, as follows:



The digit *zero* is assigned a rest. The sequence shown above, sung in order, also makes up the Pi motive. The motive recurs in the piece and also ends it.

Duration: 6' (but could stretch to infinity depending on the ad lib. choice at the end).

LICZBA PI

3.141592653589793238462643383279502884197169399375105820974944 ...

Davide Verotta

Feb 2018

$\text{♩} = 112$

Soprano
p < *f* > *p*
three point five five six six five five five

Alto
p < *f* > *p*
three point four four

Tenor
p < *f* > *p*
three point two three three eight eight

Bass
p < *f* > *p*
three point one one one one nine nine nine

S
pa - ee won-de-rous pi six six

A
se-ven pa - ee pa-ee pa-ee won-de-rous pi three three four four

T
three three two pa-ee ee ee ee ee ee pa - ee eight eight

B
nine pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa - ee

S
subito mf
six all the di - gits all the dig - its a sta - art

A
mf
four four three all the di - gits all the di - gits all the dig - its a sta - art

T
subito mf
two pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee a sta - art

B
subito mf
pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee a sta - art

LICZBA PI

2

15

S
 six it ne-ver ends it ne-ver it ne-ver

A
 three three three three four four three it it it ne-ver it ne-ver it ne-ver ne-

T
 8 eight eight two pa-ee pa-ee pa-ee it ne-ver it ne-ver it

B
 two pa-ee pa-ee pa-ee it ne-ver it ne-ver it

20

S
 it ne-ver it ne-ver no ne-ver ends **f** **A** *subito p* pa-ee pa-ee pa pa pa

A
 ver it ne-ver it ne-ver no ne-ver ends **f** *subito p* pa-ee pa-ee pa pa

T
 8 ne-ver it ne-ver no ne-ver ends **f** *subito p* pa-ee pa-ee

B
 ne-ver it ne-ver no ne-ver ends **f** *subito p* pa-ee pa-ee pa pa-ee pa-ee

25

S
 pa-ee pa pa pa pa-ee **f** can-not be he-eld **f** 30 five five

A
 pa-ee pa-ee pa pa-ee pa **f** be he-eld se-ven

T
 8 pa-ee pa-ee pa-ee **f** be he-eld

B
 pa-ee pa pa pa-ee pa **f** be he-eld nine

B

S *p* with a gla - ance *f* ah _____ ee *p*

A *p* a gla - *f*ance two four *p* cal - cu - la - tion i - ma - gi - na - tion

T *p* gla - *f*ance eight eight ee _____ i - ma - gi - na - tion

B *p* with a gla - *f*ance ah - - - ee *p*

S ³⁵ no - thing he - ere can com - pa - re no - thing ab - so - lute - ly no - thing ab - so - lute - ly

A oh no no oh oh no no oh oh no no - thing no no no - thing

T no no no no no - thing no - thing

B oh no no no oh no no no oh no no - thing oh no no - thing

S ³⁹ no - thing can com ⁴⁰ pa - re no - thing a - ny - thing in the world! *f*

A no - thing no no no no no not a - ny thing in the world! *f*

T no - thing no - no not a - ny thing in the world! *f*

B oh no no oh no oh no not a - ny thing in the world! *f*

LICZBA PI

Più lento ♩ = 100

44 *p* 45

S solo
the long - est snake may be is thir - ty feet and then it stops it stops

S
pp
they

A
pp
it _____ it stops stops

T
pp
they they

B

49 50

S solo
same for the snakes that are in fai - ry tales al - though they last they last a lit - tle lon - ger

S
stay _____ they _____ they _____ sta - y

A
stay _____ they sta - y

T
stay _____ they sta - y

B
pp
stay _____ sta - - - - - y

Tempo primo (♩ = 112)

54 55

S solo

S *p* but in - stead _____ the migh - ty num - ber it do - es not stop

A pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee

T *p* ee pa pa ee ee pa pa ee ee pa pa ee ee pa pa ee ee pa pa ee

B *p* pa - ee pa pa - ee ee pa - ee pa pa - ee ee pa - ee pa pa - ee ee pa - ee pa pa - ee ee pa - ee pa pa - ee ee

59 60

S solo

S does not stop at the edge of the page it runs off the

A pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee _____ pa - ee _____ pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa -

T ee pa pa ee ee pa pa ee ee pa - ee pa pa pa - ee pa pa pa - ee pa

B *mf* pa - ee pa pa - ee ee pa - ee pa pa - ee ee pa - ee pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa pa - ee pa pa - ee pa pa -

64 *f*

S solo ta - ble in the air the wall the leaf the nest the clouds in - to the sky

65 *f*

S ee ee ee ee pa ee pa pa ee pa pa ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee

A ee ee ee ee pa ee pa ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee

T 8 ee ee ee ee ee pa pa pa ee pa pa pa pa - ee pa - ee

B ee ee ee ee ee ee pa - ee pa pa - ee pa pa - ee pa pa - ee pa pa - ee

C

70 *p* *pp*

S solo ee oh

p *pp*

S pa oh pa pi

p *pp*

A migh - ty migh - ty migh - ty the

p *pp*

T 8 migh - ty migh - ty migh - ty migh - ty

p *pp*

B the pi the pa -

Più lento ♩ = 100

72 75 *p*

S solo

S

A

T solo

T

B

the star

so

so

so

it's like a tail a tail of a mouse the co - met the co - met tail the ray of the

so

so

so

ce

so

so

78 80 *pp*

S solo

S

A

T solo

T

B

ce - les - tial ray ce - les - tial ray so weak so weak

so

so

so

star it bends so weak so weak

so

so

LICZBA PI

8 **Molto piú veloce** ♩ = 130

83

S *mf* pa!

A in - stead my phone num - ber

T solo *pp*

T *p* *mf* *p* la la ki la la ki pa ki la la ki la la ki la la ki pa! ki la la ki la la ki la la ki pa! ki

B *p* *mf* *p* la la la pa ki la la la la la pa! ki la la la la la pa! ki

89 *mf* 90 *mf*

S five six three one four two pa! mil - le nove cento sei

A your shirt size and the year

T la la ki la la ki la la ki pa! ki la la ki la la ki la la ki pa! ki la la ki la la ki

B la la la la la pa! ki la la la la la pa! ki la la la

94 95 *f*

S floor six peo - ple on earth bil - lions hip si - ize pa!

A floor six peo - ple on earth bil - lions hip si - ize pa!

T *f* la la ki pa! ki la la ki la la ki la la ki pa! ki la la ki la la ki la la ki pa! ki la la ki pa!

B *f* la la pa! ki la la la la la pa! ki la la la la la pa! ki la la pa!

100

S solo

do - ve vo - la

ff

S

a cha - ra - ade a co - dex

ff

A

a cha - ra - ade a co - dex

T solo

do - ve vo - la

ff

T

a cha - ra - ade a co - dex

ff

B

a cha - ra - ade a co - dex

107

S solo

e can - ta l'u - si - gnol please re-main calm

f *p* 110

T solo

e can - ta l'u - si - gnol please

pp

T

a cha - ra - de

pp

B

a cha - ra - ade

113

S solo

e i cie - li la ter - ra pas - se ran

115

T solo

re-main calm e i cie - li la ter - ra pas - se ran

pp

T

a co - dex

pp

B

a co - dex

LICZBA PI

Tempo primo (♩ = 112)

10

119 *p* *f* 120

S but not Li - czba pa - ee

A but not six Li - czba pa - ee

T but not se - ven three three pa - ee

B but not one one nine nine one one nine nine pa - ee

123 *f* [D] 125

S five five five does not

A three se - ven se - ven does not

T eight two two does not pa - ee pa - ee

B nine one one nine does not pa - ee pa - ee

128 *mf* 130

S there it is with a pas - sa - ble four a pret - ty good nine and -

A there it is a pas - sa - ble four a pret - ty good nine and -

T pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pret - ty good nine and -

B pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee pa - ee

133 *f* 135

S — we love a - no - ther four sti - mo lan - do oh e - ter - ni - tá e - ter - ni - tá

A — we love a - no - ther four sti - mo lan - do sti - mo lan - do oh oh oh

T ₈ — we love a - no - ther four *mf* oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

B *mf* *f* *mf* we love a - no - ther four oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh oh

138 *ff* **E** *f*

S e - ter - ni - tá e - ter - ni - tá pa - ee pi

A e - ter - ni - tá e - ter - ni - tá pi pi

T ₈ oh oh e - ter - ni - tá pi pi

B oh oh e - ter - ni - tá pi pi

Più lento (♩ = 100) *Ancora più lento* (♩ = 92)

143 *mf* 145 *p*

S pa - ee pi pa - ee pi

A pi pi pi pi

T ₈ pa pi pi pi

B pi pi pi pi

Ancora più lento (♩ = 86)

149 *pp* 15 *pp*

S pa - ee pi

A pi pi

T pi pi

B pi pi

Repeat at lib. (2x to infinity)

152

S pa - ee pi

A pi pi

T pi pi

B pi pi