

Scott Perkins

INVISIBLE CITIES

55 minatures after Italo Calvino
for organ solo

BOOK 8

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*Excerpts from Le città invisibili by Italo Calvino,
translated to English by William Weaver*

Irene (Cities & Names 5)

Irene is the city visible when you lean out from the edge of the plateau at the hour when the lights come on, and in the limpid air, the pink of the settlement can be discerned spread out in the distance below . . . ; and if the evening is misty, a hazy glow swells like a milky sponge at the foot of the gulleys.

Argia (Cities & The Dead 4)

What makes Argia different from other cities is that it has earth instead of air. The streets are completely filled with dirt, clay packs the rooms to the ceiling, on every stair another stairway is set in negative The place is deserted.

Thekla (Cities & The Sky 3)

If you ask, "Why is Thekla's construction taking such a long time?" the inhabitants continue hoisting sacks, lowering leaded strings, moving long brushes up and down, as they answer, "So that its destruction cannot begin."

Trude (Continuous Cities 2)

Why come to Trude? I asked myself. And I already wanted to leave. "You can resume your flight whenever you like," they said to me, "but you will arrive at another Trude, absolutely the same, detail by detail. The world is covered by a sole Trude which does not begin and does not end. Only the name of the airport changes."

Olinda (Hidden Cities 1)

In Olinda, . . . you may find somewhere a point no bigger than the head of a pin That point does not remain there: a year later you will find it the size of half a lemon, then as large as a mushroom, then a soup plate. And then it becomes a full-size city, enclosed within the earlier city: a new city that forces its way ahead in the earlier city and presses it toward the outside.

*Composed between July 8 and August 11, 2017,
in celebration of David Higgs's 25 years of teaching
at the Eastman School of Music*

II: str, str cel 8
Ped: fl 16, 8

Irene

Cities & Names 5

Ethereally. ♩ = 60
II: str, str cel 8

Musical score for measures 1-3. The score is in 5/4 time and consists of three systems. The first system (measures 1-2) features a treble clef with a melodic line of eighth notes, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. The second system (measure 3) is a whole rest for all parts. The third system (measures 4-5) repeats the first system. Dynamics include *mp*, *ppp*, and *p*. A repeat sign is present at the beginning of the piano part.

Musical score for measures 4-7. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of four systems. The first system (measures 4-5) features a treble clef with a melodic line, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. The second system (measures 6-7) features a treble clef with a melodic line, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. The third system (measures 8-9) features a treble clef with a melodic line, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. The fourth system (measures 10-11) features a treble clef with a melodic line, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. Dynamics include *p*, *ppp*, *p*, *mp*, and *pp*. Pedal markings include *Ped: fl 16, 8* and *Ped: soft reed 16 only*.

Musical score for measures 8-11. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of four systems. The first system (measures 8-9) features a treble clef with a melodic line, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. The second system (measures 10-11) features a treble clef with a melodic line, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. The third system (measures 12-13) features a treble clef with a melodic line, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. The fourth system (measures 14-15) features a treble clef with a melodic line, a piano part with a triplet of eighth notes, and a bass clef with a whole note. Dynamics include *p*. Pedal marking includes *Ped: fl 16, 8*.