

HONDA CIVIC 'CHOIR'

for large mixed voice choir

Composed and arranged by
STEVE SIDWELL

HONDA CIVIC 'CHOIR': Performance notes

This piece was arranged after a long period of experimentation and improvisation with a small choir of specialist singers. The result was a piece which recreates vocally the various sounds made by, in and around a Honda Civic (as filmed for the advert) by using specific syllables, dynamics and mouth shapes, alongside body percussion ('chest thumps', tapping teeth etc). ALL the sounds for the advert were made with the human body.

The eventual choir used for the advert was a 60-piece ensemble comprising 34 men and 26 women (10 sopranos, 16 mezzo sopranos/altos, 8 tenors, 13 baritones and 9 basses) split into 6 sub-choirs as follows:

Choir 1: 5 sopranos (at least two able to sing down to G# in alto), 4 baritones

Choir 2: 5 sopranos, 4 baritones

Choir 3: 5 mezzo-sopranos, 4 tenors

Choir 4: 5 mezzo-sopranos, 4 tenors

Choir 5: 9 basses (at least two able to sing low B \flat)

Choir 6: 6 mezzo-sopranos, 9 baritones

It is essential that all the choirs agree on how every sound in the score is created by discussing the way in which that sound is made, (the shape of the mouth, position of the lips and tongue, choice of consonant and vowel etc). The descriptions of the various sounds may seem to be very similar, but the minor differences between them (e.g., 'v' sounds rather than 'ffff' sounds) were very specifically chosen to give the desired effect.

To prepare for the recorded performance the individual choirs – and the male and female parts within each group – were rehearsed separately. This helped to ensure consistency of the required sounds between each choir. We then rehearsed the choirs in pairs (choirs 1 and 2, choirs 3 and 4, choirs 5 and 6), before finally rehearsing with all six choirs.

Try to follow the different sounds, vowels and physical effects as closely as possible and observe all dynamics as indicated in the score. This will make the difference between making authentic 'Honda Civic' sounds and random 'brmm brmm' sounds!

The 'Pen Roll' (BIG solo, choir 1, bar 34/35) and the 'Skid Noise' (BIG solo, choir 2, bar 33/ 34) depend upon an individual singer (male or female) being able to make these sounds; experiment to find the best candidate for the part.

This is just a guideline as to the method used, rather than a set of rules; it is worth noting that without bringing enormous energy and commitment to this piece it will be very difficult to make it work. It is a performance piece so any physicality that you can bring to it will definitely enhance the final outcome.

Steve Sidwell

More information on the performance of this piece,
and the process of rehearsal for the original advert
can be found at www.honda.co.uk/civic

HONDA CIVIC 'CHOIR'

Composed and arranged by
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$\text{♩} = 120$

'START AND REV'

'GRAVEL DRIVE'

'PASSING CAR'

GROUP 1

G: 1. BIG solo (whine) *mf* oo - ee - oo - ee - oo - ee - ee. (-3) (low air) phoo phew

G: (air) *mf* tchi oo - ee - oo - ee - oo - ee - ee. (closed throat) *p* cor (low air) phoo phew

B: *f* chu-ca-chu-ca rrr* (*rolled if poss.) *mf* mmm (low air) phoo phew

GROUP 2

G: (air) *mf* tchi oo - ee - oo - ee - oo - ee - ee. (random wet tongue clicks) (low air) phoo phew

B: (forced) *f* tchi V *mf* mmm *ppp* < *mf* mmm

GROUP 3

G: (glottal) (forced) *f* ah-ah-ah-ah V (air) phh (low air) phoo phew

B: (forced) *f* chu-ca-chu-ca V (air) phh *ppp* < *mf* mmm

GROUP 4

G: (asthmatic wheeze) (air) *mf* oo - ee - oo - ee - oo - ee - ee. (random cheek slapping) (low air) phoo phew

B: (asthmatic wheeze) *mf* rrr* (*rolled if poss.) (random nails on teeth) (low air) phoo phew

GROUP 5

B: (glottal) ah-ah-ah-ah phoo phoo phoo phoo *mf* mmm *sppp* < *mf*

GROUP 6

G: (air) *mf* tchi oo - ee - oo - ee - oo - ee - ee. (random wet cheeks) (low air) phoo phew

B: (forced) (asthmatic wheeze) *f* (random tongue clicks) (low air) phoo phew

2 'OUT OF FOG'

'INTO TUNNEL'

'SUNROOF'

'DOGGIES'
(out window)

9

G. *f* (air through teeth) *cover nose and mouth* *pp* *no hand (nasal whine)* *+ chest thump*
 ee _____ yup!

1. G. *f* (air through teeth) *cover nose and mouth* *mp* *no hand (pitch bends directed)* *+ chest thump*
 yup! shh _____

B. *f* (air through teeth) *cover nose and mouth* *p* *no hand (air)* *+ chest thump* *ff* (throaty)
 phor _____ fthup! cor _____

2.

G. *f* *cover nose and mouth* *1/4 tone* *mp* *no hand (pitch bends directed)* *+ chest thump* *ff*
 er _____ yup! shh _____

B. *f* *cover nose and mouth* *1/4 tone* *p* *no hand (air)* *+ chest thump* *ff* (throaty)
 er _____ phor _____ fthup! cor _____

3.

G. *f* (air through teeth) *cover nose and mouth* *p* *no hand (high whistly air)* *+ chest thump* *ff*
 fthup! shh _____

B. *f* *cover nose and mouth* *1/4 tone* *p* *no hand (air)* *+ chest thump* *ff* (throaty)
 ew/er _____ vvv _____ fthup! cor _____

4.

G. *f* (air through teeth) *cover nose and mouth* *p* *no hand (high whistly air)* *+ chest thump* *ff*
 fthup! shh _____

B. *f* *cover nose and mouth* *1/4 tone* *p* *no hand (air)* *+ chest thump* *ff* (throaty)
 ew/er _____ vvv _____ fthup! cor _____

5. B. *f* *cover nose and mouth* *1/4 tone* *mp* *no hand (nasal)* *+ chest thump* *ff*
 ew/er _____ ee _____ yup! aw _____

6.

G. *f* (air) *hand over mouth; inhale with slight whistle* *p* *no hand (high whistly air)* *+ chest thump* *ff*
 shhh _____ yup! shh _____

B. *f* (air) *hand over mouth; inhale with slight whistle* *p* (low) *no hand (high whistly air)* *+ chest thump* *ff* (throaty)
 shhh _____ yup! cor _____

'REVERSING'
Slightly Faster ♩ = 124

Slight rit.

'ELEC. WINDOWS'
♩ = 120

♩ = 86

16

G. *mf* (nasal) (bounce on toes) (bounce) *p* (air) *ff* (hand stop air) + chest thump
nee shh

1. G. *mf* (nasal) (bounce on toes) (bounce) *p* (air) *ff* (hand stop air) + chest thump
nee shh

B. *p* (air) *ff* (hand stop air) + chest thump
shh

2. G. *mf* (nasal) (bounce on toes) (bounce) *p* (nasal) *ff* + chest thump
nee V + chest thump + chest thump
uh uh

B. *mp* *ff* + chest thump
uh oop!

3. G. *mp* *ff* + chest thump
da ga da ga etc. tchi uh fff lup!

B. *mp* *ff* + chest thump
da ga da ga etc. tongue click + chest thump + exhale fff lup!

4. B. (nasal) (bounce on toes) (bounce) *mf* *ff* + chest thump
nee V

5. G. (1/2 whistled air) (bounce on toes) (bounce) *p* (air) *ff* (hand stop air) + chest thump
shh

6. B. (1/2 whistled air) (bounce on toes) (bounce) *p* (air) *ff* (hand stop air) + chest thump
shh

24
start sparsely and get busier; teeth tap with nails and tongue clicks

G. *oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi* *sim.* *ff (air)* *mf*

1. G. *oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi* *sim.* *ff (air)* *mf*

B. *oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi oo - wi* *sim.* *ff (air)* *mf*

2. G. *da da ga dm da da ga dm da da ga dm da da ga dm da da ga dm* *ff (air) f* *shh*

B. *uhm uhm uhm uhm uhm* *f + chest thump* *ff (air) f mf* *shh mm*

3. G. *shh* *ff (air) f* *shh*

B. *ffff* *ff (air) f mf* *v er*

4. G. *ffff* *ff (air) f* *rolled 'r' with air + chest thump*

B. *(wet cheeks) (in) (out) (in) (out) (in) (out) (in) (out)* *ffff* *ff (air) f mf* *mm*

5. B. *ng ng ng ng* *f* *ff* *f mf* *er v er*

6. G. *ffff* *ffff* *aw* *(air through teeth on bottom lip) f mf*

B. *ffff* *ffff* *v er* *(air through teeth on bottom lip) f mf*

♩ = 120

30

1. G. *ff* (whiney) *f* (hands slap chest) 1. BIG solo 'pen roll!' (tap teeth) (a2) *p* (nasal whine) + nod head

neer

1. G. *mf* whistley air *mp* (nasal whine) + nod head

B. *ff* (whiney) *f* (hands slap chest) *mf* (nasal whine) + nod head

neer aw ee aw

2. G. *f* (high air) *f* (throaty) *f* (hands slap chest) 1. BIG solo Skid Noise *mp* (nasal whine) + nod head

fwee cor

B. *ff* (throaty) *f* (hands slap chest) *mf* (nasal whine) + nod head

cor aw ee aw

3. G. *f* (high air) *f* (throaty) *f* (hands slap chest) *mf* whistley air tongue click

fwee cor cor -

B. *f* *ff* (throaty) *f* (cheek slaps; open mouth) *mf* um cli uh uh

v er aw ee aw

4. G. *f* (high air) *ff* (throaty) *f* (hands slap chest) *mf* whistley air finger pop

fwee cor cor -

B. *ff* *f* (Death Rattle and hand slaps chest) *mf* um cli uh uh

rr ah aw ee aw

5. B. *f* *ff* (throaty) *f* (Death Rattle and hand slaps chest) *mf* (stagger breathing) *mp* (nasal whine) + nod head

v er ah ah

6. G. *f* *ff* (hissy) (+ chest rumble) *f* with fingers *mf* whistley air *mp* (nasal whine) + nod head

fr ss phew

B. *f* *ff* (hissy) (+ chest rumble) *f* with fingers *mf* whistley air *mp* (nasal whine) + nod head

fr ss phew

'DRUM'n'BASS'
♩ = 170

nasal whine ('analogue synth') *f*

nasal whine ('analogue synth') *f*

37

G.

1. G.

B.

G.

2. B. *f* 'Snare Drum' *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf*

G. *f* 'Shaker'

3. wee-yup ch ch ch etc.

B. *f* 'Hi-hat' Ta-ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts ta ka ts Ta kats ts ta ka ta ka ts Ta ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts ta ka ts Ta kats ts ta ka ta ka ts Ta ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts ta ka ts

G. *f* 'Snare Drum' wee-yup *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf* *tf*

4. B. *f* Sing and whistle at the same time oo oo oo etc.

G.

5. B. *f* 'Moog Bass' ng ng ng etc.

G. *f* 'Shaker'

6. ch ch ch etc.

B. *f* 'Bass drum' mm mm mm mm mm mm mm mm mm mm

'DRIVE'
♩ = 120

'CAT'S EYES'
accel.

'HORN'
♩ = 142

43

G. (high squeak) (al)

1. G. (throaty air) cor. nyee (Passing car horn (nasal) molto)

B. (aggressive) V

2. G. (throaty air) cor. nyee (Passing car horn (nasal) molto)

B. (aggressive) V

tf tf tf

3. G. (throaty air) cor. nyee (Passing car horn (nasal) molto)

B. (aggressive) V

Ta ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts ta ka ts Ta ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts

4. G. tf b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km ffff

B. b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km ffff

5. B. (aggressive) er

6. G. b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km ffff

B. mm mm mm mm b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km ffff

Detailed description: This page contains six systems of musical notation for a horn part. Each system consists of a vocal line (G.) and a bass line (B.).
- System 1: Vocal line starts with a 'high squeak' and 'throaty air' (labeled 'cor.'). The bass line is 'aggressive' and marked 'V'. Lyrics include 'nyee' and a 'Passing car horn (nasal)' sound effect.
- System 2: Similar to system 1, with 'throaty air' and 'aggressive' bass line. Lyrics include 'nyee' and a 'Passing car horn (nasal)' sound effect.
- System 3: Similar to system 1, with 'throaty air' and 'aggressive' bass line. Lyrics include 'Ta ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts ta ka ts Ta ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts' and a 'Passing car horn (nasal)' sound effect.
- System 4: Similar to system 1, with 'throaty air' and 'aggressive' bass line. Lyrics include 'b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km ffff'.
- System 5: Bass line only, marked '(aggressive)' and 'er'.
- System 6: Similar to system 4, with 'throaty air' and 'aggressive' bass line. Lyrics include 'b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km b' km ffff' and 'mm mm mm mm' in the bass line.

'TYRE SPIN'
'ACCEL.'

'CATTLE GRID'
'ACCEL.'

'DISTANT'
'BIG ACCEL.'

'PUDDLE'

'TO DISTANCE'

49

G. *f* *ff* *f* *p* (wheeze) *ff*
 (air) *ffff* brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

1. G. *f* *ff* *f* *p* *f* *ffff* brr brr phss - ss - shh ch
 (air) *ffff* brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

B. *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ffff* brr brr er ch
 prrr* (*rolled 'r') V brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

2. G. *f* *ff* *f* *p* *f* *ffff* brr brr phss - ss - shh *ffff*
 (air) *ffff* brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

B. *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ffff* brr brr er ch
 shhh V brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

3. G. *f* *ff* *f* *p* *f* *ffff* brr brr er ch *ffff*
 (air) *ffff* brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

B. *ff* (throaty) *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ffff* brr brr er *subito p*
 er V brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

4. G. *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ffff* brr brr er ch *ffff*
 (air) *ffff* brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

B. *ff* (throaty) *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ffff* brr brr er *subito p*
 cor V brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

5. B. *ff* (throaty) *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ffff* brr brr er *subito p*
 er V brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

6. G. *ff* (throaty) *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ffff* brr brr er ch *ffff* *mp*
 (air) *ffff* brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

B. *ff* (throaty) *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *ffff* brr brr er ch *ffff* *mp*
 (air) *ffff* brr brr cover mouth (+face slap)

Foot stamps: shh - phh - ss - shh

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