

# 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 'fffff' 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 'brrm brrm' 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](http://www.honda.co.uk/civic)

# HONDA CIVIC 'CHOIR'

Composed and arranged by  
STEVE SIDWELL

$J = 120$

'START AND REV'

'GRAVEL DRIVE'

'PASSING CAR'

**GROUP 1 G**

*I. BIG solo (whine)* *(mf)* <=> <> <*f*> > , (-3) ,

*tchi* oo - ee - oo - ee - oo - ee - ee

**GROUP 2**

*(air)* *(mf)* <=> <> <*f*> > , *(closed throat)* *p* , *(low air)* phoo phew

*chu-ca-chu-ca* *rrr\** (\*rolled if poss.) mmm phoo phew

**GROUP 3**

*(air)* *(forced) f* <=> <> <*ff*> > , *(random wet tongue clicks)* *(low air)* phoo phew

*tchi* oo - ee - oo - ee - oo - ee - ee

**GROUP 4**

*(glottal) (forced) f* <=> <> <*ff*> > , *(air)* *(low air)* phoo phew

*ah - ah - ah - ah* *V* phhh phoo phew

**GROUP 5 B**

*(asthmatic wheeze) (air)* *(mf)* <=> <> <*f*> > , *(random cheek slapping)* *(low air)* phoo phew

*chu-ca-chu-ca* *V* phhh mmm phoo phew

**GROUP 6**

*(asthmatic wheeze) (mf)* <=> <> <*f*> > , *(random nails on teeth)* *(low air)* phoo phew

*rrr\** (\*rolled if poss.) mmm phoo phew

**GROUP 5 B**

*(glottal)* <=> > <> , *(mf)* *(sppp)* <=> *mf* =

*ah - ah - ah - ah* phoo phoo phoo phoo mmm phoo phew

**GROUP 6**

*(air)* *(mf)* <=> <> <*f*> > , *(random wet cheeks)* *(low air)* phoo phew

*tchi* oo - ee - oo - ee - oo - ee - ee

*(forced) (asthmatic wheeze) f* <=> <> <*ff*> > , *(random tongue clicks)* *(low air)* phoo phew

*V* phoo phew

## 2 'OUT OF FOG'

## 'INTO TUNNEL'

## 'SUNROOF'

'DOGGIES'  
(out window)

9. *f* (air through teeth) cover nose and mouth *pp* no hand (nasal whine) + chest thump 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 phor fthup! ff (throaty) cor

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

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

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

B. *f* cover nose and mouth *l/4 tone* *p* vvv fthup! ff (throaty) cor

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

B. *f* cover nose and mouth *l/4 tone* *p* vvv fthup! ff (throaty) cor

5. B. *f* cover nose and mouth *l/4 tone* *mp* no hand (nasal) + chest thump yup! aw

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

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

'REVERSING'  
Slightly Faster  $\text{♩} = 124$

Slight rit.

'ELEC. WINDOWS'

$\text{♩} = 120$

3

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

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

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

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

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

3. G. *mp* *ff + chest thump*  
sss oop!

B. *mf (nasal)* *ff + chest thump*  
V

4. G. *mp* + chest thump + exhale > *ff + chest thump*  
da ga da ga etc. tchi uh fff lup!  
B. *mp* tongue click > + chest thump + exhale > *ff + chest thump*  
da ga da ga etc. uh fff lup!

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

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

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

## 'RAIN ON ROOF'

## '+WIPERS'

## 'FAN'

'SURFACE 1'  
'SURFACE 2'

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

24 G. 

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

1. G. 

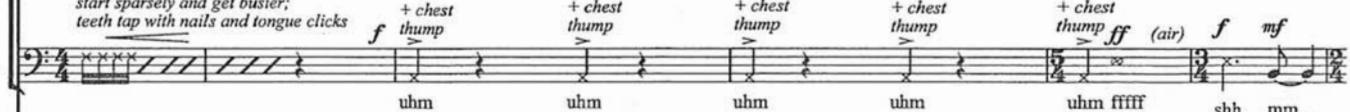
*start sparsely and get busier;  
teeth tap with nails and tongue clicks*

B. 

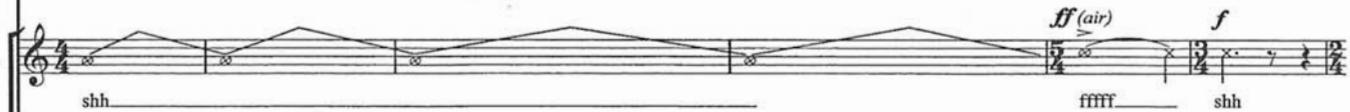
*start sparsely and get busier;  
teeth tap with nails and tongue clicks*

G. 

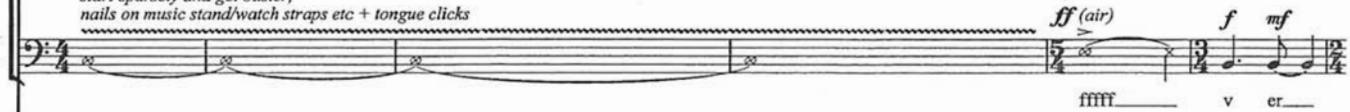
*start sparsely and get busier;  
teeth tap with nails and tongue clicks*

2. B. 

*shh*

3. G. 

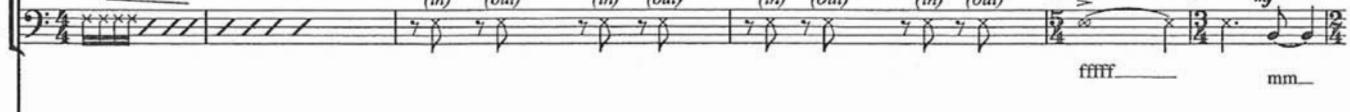
*start sparsely and get busier;  
nails on music stand/watch straps etc + tongue clicks*

B. 

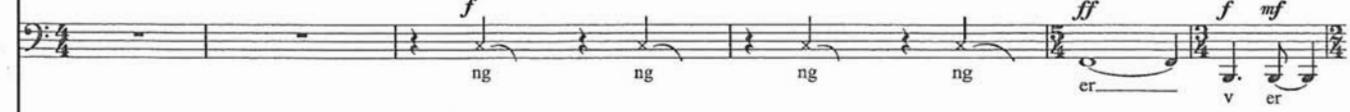
*start sparsely and get busier;  
teeth tap with nails and tongue clicks*

G. 

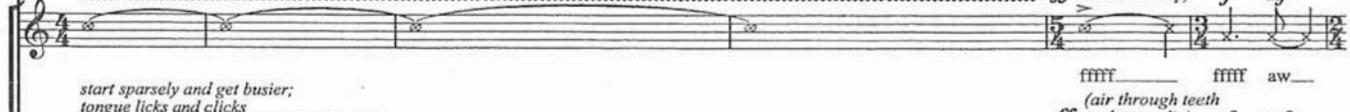
*start sparsely and get busier;  
teeth tap with nails and tongue clicks*

B. 

*start sparsely and get busier;  
wet cheeks*

5. B. 

*start sparsely and get busier;  
wet cheeks*

G. 

*start sparsely and get busier;  
tongue licks and clicks*

B. 

'SURFACE 3'  
'SURFACE 4'

'BELGIAN PAVING'

'SKID'

'+PEN'

'CD PLAYER'

$\text{♩} = 120$

5

30

G. *ff (whiney)* *f (hands slap chest)*  
neer

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

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

G. *f (high air)* *f (throaty)* *f (hands slap chest)* *ff* *Skid Noise* (nasal whine)  
fwee cor *mp + nod head*

2. B. *ff (throaty)* *f (hands slap chest)* *mf* (nasal whine)  
cor aw ee aw *mp + nod head*

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

3. B. *f* *ff (throaty)* *f* (cheek slaps; open mouth) *mf*  
v er aw ee aw um cli uh uh

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

4. B. *ff* *f (slaps chest)* *mf*  
rr ah aw ee aw um cli uh uh

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

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

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

'DRUM'n'BASS'  
♩ = 170

'DRIVE'  
J = 120

'CAT'S EYES'  
accel.

'HORN'  
J = 142

7

43

G. (high squeak) (al)

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

B. (aggressive) V

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

B. tf tf tf (aggressive) V

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

B. + + o o + + + + o + + + o (aggressive) Ta ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts ta ka ts Ta ka ts ts ta ka ta ka ts V

4. G. tf tf tf b' km b'km b'km b'km b' km b'km b'km b'km b' km ffffff

B. b' km b'km b'km b'km b' km b'km b'km b'km b' km ffffff

5. B. (aggressive) er

6. G. b' km b'km b'km b'km b' km b'km b'km b'km b' km ffffff

B. mm mm mm mm b' km b'km b'km b'km b' km b'km b'km b'km b' km ffffff

'TYRE SPIN'      'CATTLE GRID'  
'ACCEL.'

'ACCEL.'

'DISTANT'  
'BIG ACCEL.'

'PUDDLE'      'TO DISTANCE'

49

G. *f*  
(air) *ff* *f* *p* cover mouth *(wheeze)*

1. G. *f*  
(air) *ff* *f* *p* cover mouth *fff*  
(+face slap)

B. *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* cover mouth *fff*  
(+face slap)

prtt\* V brr brr er ch  
(\*rolled 'r')

G. *f*  
(air) *ff* *f* *p* cover mouth *fff*

2. B. *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* cover mouth *fff*  
(+face slap)

shhh V brr brr er ch

G. *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* cover mouth *fff*  
(+face slap)

3. B. *ff* (throaty) *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* cover mouth *subito p*

er V brr brr er

G. *ff* *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* cover mouth *fff*  
(+face slap)

4. B. *ff* (throaty) *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* cover mouth *subito p*

cor V brr brr er

5. B. *ff* (throaty) *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* cover mouth *subito p*

er V brr brr er

G. *ff* (throaty air) *foot stamps* *mp* *f* *fff* *mp*  
(+face slap)

6. B. *ff* (throaty air) *foot stamps* *mp* *f* *fff* *mp*  
(+face slap)

cor shh - phh - ss - shh ch fffff

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