

## Instrumentation

Lituus (amplified)

Percussion (1 player):

Bongos, Claves, Snare Drum,  
Tambourine, Triangle, Vibraphone

Violin I

Violin II

Viola

Violoncello

Double Bass

«Sed fugit interea, fugit irreparabile tempus»

Virgil, *Georgicae*, III, 284



The Etruscan Lituus dates back to around 680 BCE, with only six instruments having been discovered to this day. The specific Lituus that *Tempus Fugit* calls for is a modern analogue of the *Pian di Civita* Lituus, excavated from the ancient city of Tarquinia and meticulously reconstructed in bronze by Dr. Peter Holmes.

The *Pian di Civita* Lituus was not discovered in its present-day form, however, but had been ritually bent into three sections so that it could no longer be used as a sound tool. The instrument was then buried in a shallow pit under the threshold of a ritual building along with an axe, a folded shield and the body of a young child, ensuring that anyone who entered would have to pass over this liminal space. The power of this particular Lituus therefore outlasted its worldly use.

Played with the bell on the ground, the Lituus forms a conduit between heaven and earth and the spiral cord around the tubing could be said to represent a snake, in itself a symbol of immortality and rebirth. In Roman society, the J-shaped Lituus existed in two forms, that of sound tool and then also as the ritual staff of an augur, raised up to the sky to make a square and to see into the future.

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