Formless being – for flute, clarinet, bassoon, french horn, percussion, piano and string quartet

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Abstract

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Formless being can be thought of as a piece with a circular structure whose segments are cut short, just as the idea reaches its full development. An idea is presented and developed, pressing forward through the movement, only to be suppressed in its prime. Formless Being is an exploration of the meaning of continuous musical structure and the perceptual continuity between fragments. Successive movements pick up on where the previous movement ended, though there is sometimes a 'gap' of musical development between where one left off and another begins. The common point — the 'origin' in the circle metaphor — is harmonic: a common chord serves as a reference point throughout the piece and appears in different manifestations to different extents in each movement.
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INSTRUMENTATION

Flute
Clarinet in Bb
Bassoon
French Horn in F
Percussion: Vibraphone, Crotales (C6 – C7), Small tam-tam
Piano
Violin I
Violin II
Viola
Cello

Duration: ca. 12 minutes
Symbols

For all instruments:

N
Let vibrate
Naturale
Improvising in the range indicated, as fast as possible.
A phrase in a box is one of possible realizations.

Horn:

Gradually move muted with the hand to unmuted.

Percussion:

arco
Play arco with a bow for cello or double bass.

produce a scratchy sound with a tip of a mallet.

Piano:

mute
Pizz.
Mute directly on the bottom end of a string with finger.
Pluck the string directly with fingernails with pedal.
Play tremolo on low strings with the palm of the hand.

Strings:

S.T.
Sul tasto
S.P.
Sul ponticello
M.S.P.
Molto sul ponticello
S.T. → S.P.
Gradual transition between bow position

Add bow pressure to produce noisy sound.

Bow side of the instrument.

C.B.
Play jeté, col legno batutto, sul tasto.

Movement IV:
The timing of sections in the 4th movement is to be decided by the performers.
The whole movement should last between 2’ and 2’30”.
The conductor indicates instruments’ subsequent entrances
as indicated with arrows above the staff.
Fl.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

T.-t.

Crot.

Vib.

Pno.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.