

Samuel Messer

three phases for
David Berman

for ten or more players

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Notes

Instrumentation

This piece may be played by any collection of instruments, provided that players are fairly evenly-distributed amongst the four parts shown overleaf (min. 2 players on each part).

Duration: c. 10'
Score in C

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Each player chooses a part as appropriate from the four below: either 1, 2, 3, or 4.

Players proceed through sections A, B, and C, following the instructions given for each. Players do not need to wait until a full repeat of the section has been completed before moving on.

Though precise placement of notes is free, all performers follow a five-bar cycle which is identical for A, B, and C - this is marked out by the conductor, who gives downbeats, and should be followed strictly by all.

- A** At first, place a single note from Set 1 freely within each bar.
 After one or two repeats, gradually begin to introduce pitches from Set 2, becoming steadily more active on each repeat.
 The overall feel should be that of a shift from sparse, quiet single notes to a thick, agitated & aggressive texture.
 As far as possible, aim to shape the piece in your choices. Accept the end result, regardless of success.
 Once you feel that either an individual or collective peak has been reached, proceed to B. Try not to do so at the same time as others.

B Choose a single note from Set 2 - this note should be used throughout **B** without alteration.
Perform as shown by the noteheads. Enter freely, following the rough contour of the hairpins; try not to stand out.
Repeat 7-9 times, then proceed to **C** independently of others.

5" 1.5" 5"

All *pp* poss. *pp* poss. *pp* poss.

Musical notation for section B, first staff: A treble clef staff with a repeat sign at the beginning. The staff is divided into three measures. Above the staff, the durations "5\"", "1.5\"", and "5\"" are written. Below the staff, three hairpins are shown, each starting with a dot and ending with a line. The first hairpin is under the first measure, the second is under the second measure, and the third is under the third measure. The word "pp" is written above each hairpin, and "poss." is written below it.

5" 5"

All *pp* poss.

Musical notation for section B, second staff: A treble clef staff with a repeat sign at the beginning and a double bar line at the end. The staff is divided into two measures. Above the staff, the durations "5\"" and "5\"" are written. Below the staff, two hairpins are shown, each starting with a dot and ending with a line. The word "pp" is written above each hairpin, and "poss." is written below it.

C Perform something exceptionally quiet in the marked bars: this could involve any combination of notes from Sets 1 or 2, but alternatively might be pitchless, or a percussive sound, the result of an extended technique, or something spoken.
Be sensitive to the sounds around you; try not to stand out.
Conductor waits until all have reached **C**, and then allows to continue for a few repeats (as desired) before ending piece.

5" 1.5" 5"

All *ppp* place note(s) freely

Musical notation for section C, first staff: A treble clef staff with a repeat sign at the beginning. The staff is divided into three measures. Above the staff, the durations "5\"", "1.5\"", and "5\"" are written. Below the staff, the word "ppp" is written. The text "place note(s) freely" is written in the first and third measures. The second measure contains a horizontal line.

5" 5"

All *ppp* place note(s) freely

Musical notation for section C, second staff: A treble clef staff with a repeat sign at the beginning and a double bar line at the end. The staff is divided into two measures. Above the staff, the durations "5\"" and "5\"" are written. Below the staff, the word "ppp" is written. The text "place note(s) freely" is written in the first measure. The second measure contains a horizontal line.