

tenth cello octet
by Erik Carlson
2015

Cellist 1 starts on C5 and holds it for 8 seconds.

After Cellist 1 begins, each of the other cellists enters one at a time, with 1 second between each entrance, each on C5, holding it for 8 seconds.

All notes last 8 seconds, and are played with a full but gentle tone.

The effect is that each cellist is staggered from the others, with one cellist changing bow every second.

When each cellist changes bow, they can choose to either stay on the same note, or move down 1 semitone.

When a cellist reaches their open C string, they remain on that note until all the other cellists have arrived at the open C string. When the final unison is reached, each cellist stops playing at the end of their current note.

Aim for the duration of the piece to be about 12 minutes. But if it lasts longer or shorter, that's fine.