

string octet 17
Erik Carlson
2017

The octet is divided into 2 string quartets.

Each member of Quartet 2 is paired with their corresponding member in Quartet 1.

Each member of Quartet 1 makes their own part.

Each part consists of a series of pairs of numbers.

The first number is a destination pitch.

The second number is a sustain duration.

The pitches are indicated by numbers ranging from 0.0 to 12.0

0.0 is A#3

1.0 is B3

1.5 is a quarter tone between B3 and C4

2.0 is C4

2.1 is 1/10 of a semitone above C4

.

.

.

12.0 is A#4

The durations are indicated in seconds between 1.0 and 10.0

All pitches/durations are randomly chosen.

Beginning at any pitch within the A#3 - A#4 octave,
players in Quartet 1 begin glissandoing to their first indicated pitch,
at a rate of about one half step every 4-7 second
(rate can vary from gliss to gliss).

Once they reach the destination pitch, they sustain it for the duration indicated.

After that sustain, they repeat the process with the next destination pitch and sustain duration.

Players in Quartet 2 also begin on any pitch,
but instead of following a written part,
they each glissando towards the pitch being played by their counterpart in Quartet 1.
They glissando at a slower rate than Quartet 1,

a rate of about one half step every 8-12 seconds.
(rate can vary from gliss to gliss).

If a unison is reached, Quartet 2 players should sustain the unison.

If the pitch of a Quartet 1 player crosses the pitch of the corresponding Quartet 2 player,
the Quartet 2 player should change the direction of their glissando.

All players estimate pitches and durations to the best of their ability.

Play with a gentle tone. Mezzo-piano.

Play for as long as desired.