

Second opera
Erik Carlson
2017

This piece involves 6 groups of performers:

8 singers (with varied and balanced ranges)
8 strings (2 violins, 2 violas, 2 cellos, 2 basses)
8 winds (2 flutes, 2 oboes, 2 clarinets, 2 bassoons)
8 brass (2 trumpets, 3 horns, 2 trombones, 1 tuba - all with mutes)
1 organ
1 computer

The 6 groups alternate playing chords using the score below.

When it is time for a group to play a chord,
each member chooses a note to play,
in a comfortable range,
microtones encouraged (if possible),
avoiding self-repetition,
(the organist chooses 8 pitches themselves)
(the computer randomly chooses 8 frequencies to play as sine tones
between 30 and 4000 Hz,
distributed evenly over pitch-space (as opposed to frequency space) and including non-integer frequencies)

Groups begin their chord together and sustain it for 10 seconds
(singers on "ah"),
performed with a full but gentle sound,
balanced so that no group is much louder/softer than other groups.
Avoid overly-abrupt entrances and cutoffs.

New chords begin every 8 seconds, so
there are always 2 seconds of overlap between chords.

The total duration of the piece is about an hour.

brass voices brass organ sines voices strings sines strings voices
organ voices brass winds sines strings organ winds strings winds
sines organ winds voices brass strings brass strings brass winds
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winds strings voices winds strings sines winds voices sines brass