ALTER-SONI-CATION

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ABSTRACT

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*Alter-Soni-Cation*, a ten-minute work scored for mixed chamber ensemble (flute, clarinet, percussion, piano, violin and cello), consists of musical conversations between six instruments. In this work, a set of specific musical characters are continually mapped onto the work’s instrumentation and differ in three main categories: pitch material, texture and rhythm. These characters are treated as disparate sound worlds, which usually conflict with one another. Using this strategy, tension builds throughout the piece until reaching a grand climax when all instrumentalists finally agree on sharing the same sound world. The pitch material for this work is divided into two contrasting harmonic worlds: A) that which is generated through set theory and B) that which is derived from extended functional harmony. The material from harmonic world A is generated from pitch class sets 3-2[013] and 4-19[0148]. These are elaborated through various set-theoretic and mathematical methods, such as serial techniques, Ulam’s prime number spiral and 33-note pitch cycles. Harmonic world B utilizes tertian harmonies with clear pitch centers such as D-flat and A-flat in order to mimic classical key structures. *Alter-Soni-Cation* is comprised of three sections. The entire first section is structured as a large accelerando utilizing harmonic world B. The transition into the second section is met by a breakdown in rhythm, texture and harmony, utilizing harmonic world A. Throughout this section, the contrasting musical characters are showcased and developed. The final section features a grand climax and all instruments in agreement as they culminate on a unison A-flat 5. The remainder of the section revisits the harmonic material from the opening of the work.
INSTRUMENTATION:

Flute
Clarinet in B-flat
Violin
Violincello
Percussion (vibraphone and suspended cymbal)
Piano
**ALTER-SONI-CATION**

Dan Tramte

Duration approx. 10 min

- **Flute**
  - *subtone
  - *Marcato $\approx 60$

- **Clarinet in Bb**
  - *Marcato $\approx 60$

- **Violin**
  - *Marcato $\approx 60$

- **Violoncello**

- **Vibraphone**

- **Piano**

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*Preserve order. Vary speed between eighth notes and sixteenth notes.*
Angrily

Fl.  

Cl.  

Vln.  

Vc.  

Vib.  

Pno.  

E

Vc.  

Pno.  

\(q = 62\)

\(q = 72\)
With a sense of breathing
* Approx. two revolutions per measure.
With a sense of breathing

Fl.
Cl.
Vln.
Vc.
Vib.
Pno.

With a sense of breathing

K

pitch bend

pp

ff

pp

ff

With a sense of breathing

III

circle bow

IV

molto vib

mf

mp

*Approx. three to four revolutions per measure.
Obstinately

Fl.

Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Vib.

Pno.
Over a period of 4 to 6 seconds the pianist should approximate the texture as written. The metric orientation should resume on the downbeat of mm. 138.
* Preserve order. Vary speed between dotted quarter notes and dotted eighth notes. ** Alternate finger trill.