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Four Fluctuations for Chamber Ensemble or Chamber Orchestra
Trevor Wozniak
Abstract

Four Fluctuations is a four movement work for large chamber ensemble or chamber orchestra. Using my experience composing for large chamber wind groups, jazz big band, orchestra, and small chamber wind groups, Four Fluctuations attempts to explore elements of these ensembles in terms of their texture and instrumentation. The instrumentation is as follows:

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet in B-flat
Bass Clarinet in B-flat
Soprano Saxophone
Alto Saxophone
Bassoon
Horn in F
Percussion: Bass Drum, Tenor Drum, Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Splash Cymbal, and China Cymbal
Orchestra Bells
Marimba
Piano
Strings: Violin I & II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass

In part, this work focuses on utilizing its instrumentation to achieve unpredictability through texture, rhythm, harmonic language, and orchestration. The work employs various compositional techniques to achieve this, including implied meter, polyrhythm, rhythmic ostinato, juxtaposition, and elision of thematic material. At any time the listener should be able to hear elements of woodwind quintet, orchestra, jazz instrumentation, wind ensemble, and a unique blend of these various textures. It is my hope that through these various compositional techniques, instrumentation orchestration choices, and through the work’s rhythmic and harmonic language, the idea of “fluctuations” is made obvious to the listener.
FOUR FLUCTUATIONS FOR CHAMBER ENSEMBLE OR CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

A thesis submitted to the College of the Arts of Kent State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts

by

Trevor M. Wozniak

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Instrumentation

Flute
Oboe
Clarinet in B-flat
Bass Clarinet in B-flat
Soprano Saxophone
Alto Saxophone
Bassoon
Horn in F
Percussion: Bass Drum, Tenor Drum, Snare Drum, Suspended Cymbal, Splash Cymbal, and China Cymbal
Orchestra Bells
Marimba
Piano
Strings: Violin I & II, Viola, Cello, and Double Bass

Duration: 26 minutes
Percussion Explanation

Bass Drum  Tenor Drum  Snare Drum  Suspended Cymbal  Splash Cymbal  China Cymbal
Orch. Bells
Sop. Sax.
Alto Sax.
Vln. II
B. Cl.
Perc.
Pno.
Vla.
Hn.
Vc.
Cl.
Fl.