

8 IX 2003 / 7:58pm; no. 4 (2005)

[\_blind documents\_ series]

mark so

scored for:

violin

piano

& tape

dur: 11'05"

As with all the pieces in this series, the generative process entails the documentation of a walk taken in my neighborhood using map-making and sound recording, followed by the direct imposition of those documental materials into an explicitly musical situation. Thus, the form of each instrumental part derives from the re-mapping of the walking map as a score, legible within a system of realizing notated pitched events. The durational structure of the piece derives from the re-imposition of the original walk-length as a timeline for each part, against which the timing of musical events is plotted. (Musical events occur at each change in vector.) Additionally, the sound recording is played back at a low level during performance, re-realizing the soundscape of the walk as a rich atmosphere that embeds the instrumental parts, as well as the myriad other "parts" that pass with fluctuating prominence within (and around) the recording.

Performance Instructions:

General:

Performers (and the tape operator) coordinate the start of the piece, and use stopwatches throughout.

The beginning and end of each instrumental part are indicated for clarification, but note that each part is more a "collection" than a sequence, the order and spacing of events being determined by their position with regard to the corresponding timeline, and not their position along the mapped line-form.

The dynamic level is consistently very soft throughout. All events are played with a minimum of attack. The sound of each event should be consistent and plain. Events within each part may not overlap. Durations are free, within the guidelines given in the following instructions for each instrument.

Simultaneities within each part are marked with brackets for emphasis.

Violin:

The score is divided into four vertical bands, one for each of the four violin strings. The string number is designated for each band with a roman numeral (I-IV). Vertical space within each numbered band represents pitch, lowest to highest available (all comfortable harmonics included) on the respective string. The pitch of each event is thus determined by its vertical position within the band in which it occurs, relative to the available pitch range of the appropriate string.

Events may last up to one full bow (but may be quite short), with successive events each to be played on separate bows, no matter how rapid the succession. Successive events may, but need not, proceed directly from one to another (provided that no re-bow is required to maintain one note's duration to the next attack). When events occur in close succession, they may also be played *pizzicato* for ease of playing.

The three events in the center of the part are marked with directional arrows, indicating slow microtonal *glissandi*. These are to be the longest events (ca. 20-25 sec.), and each should traverse the given interval – given beneath the arrow as an approximate value in cents – gradually and evenly, in the direction indicated. The two events at 5'54" begin simultaneously, but should be played as independent events whose attacks happen to coincide.

All events are played with no vibrato.

Piano:

Accidentals apply to individual notes only.

Events may last up to the full decay of sound, when possible, but may be quite short. Events in close succession may, but need not, proceed *legato* from one to the next.

No damper/sustain pedal is to be used; *una corda* pedal may be held down throughout to regulate volume.

8 IX 2003 / 7:58 PM; No 4

VIOLIN,  
VERY SOFT

MARK SO

I

II

III

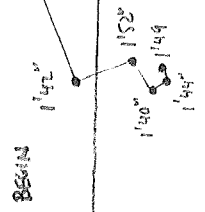
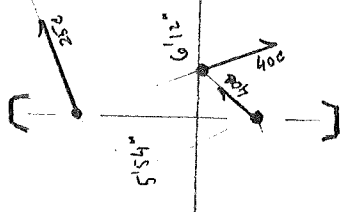
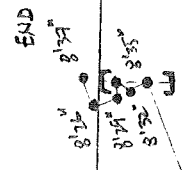
IV

I

II

III

IV



0' 0'30" 1' 1'30" 2' 2'30" 3' 3'30" 4' 4'30" 5' 5'30" 6' 6'30" 7' 7'30" 8' 8'30" 9' 9'30" 10' 10'30" 11'

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MARK SO

PIANO.

VERY SOFT

Handwritten musical score on two staves. The top staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The bottom staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score includes several measures with notes and rests, connected by horizontal lines. Time markers are written below the staves: 0', 0'30", 1', 1'30", 2', 2'30", 3', 3'30", 4', 4'30", 5', 5'30", 6', 6'30", 7', 7'30", 8', 8'30", 9', 9'30", 10', 10'30", 11', 11'05". Performance instructions include "PIANO.", "VERY SOFT", "BELOW", and "END". Specific time points are marked with brackets and labels: 1'28", 6'28", 6'01", 9'23", 9'33", and 9'27".

9 Nov. 2005