

update status, always

Joel Kirk (2021)

solo violin

c. 6 minutes

update status, always

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for Lorenzo Gorli at the 2021 Divertimento Ensemble Young Composers Festival
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Program note:

Since the rise of social media platforms in the late-1990s, human-to-human communication has never been easier. In fact, many believe that it has become too easy. We can scroll and scroll through our social media pages all day and never see anything new. Each day on social media is a re-permutation the same statuses, the same memes, the same pictures, and the same comments; it is a simulacrum of superficiality. The virtual world is a closed circuit, and we are all stuck in it; blissfully circulating.


This piece is derived from fragments of the similarly named piece for small chamber ensemble “*always update status*” written for Ensemble Signal earlier in 2021 for the June in Buffalo festival. 15 single measures of this piece were taken and compressed into one line. Through various processes of improvisation, these 15 compressed measures were then juxtaposed into various permutations against each-other to form one ‘stanza’. This stanza is repeated thrice in this piece, with each iteration being a rough tracing of the previous; an ephemeral, etched rendering of that which preceded it.

Always in a state of forward motion, this piece slowly runs out of energy and breaks down;
all progression is ultimately proven futile as it circulates around a limited repertoire of 15 slowly decaying motifs.

Staging:


- this piece should be played from iPad OR have the pages printed out single-sided and laid out continuously on multiple stands.
- the flow of this piece should not be disrupted by page turns, even in the short pauses.
- the ending of this piece is most effective if it can be facilitated that the performer can slowly exit the view of the audience (either by walking off stage or dimming the lighting to darkness, however this is not compulsory).

Notations:

 diamond notehead = harmonic finger pressure;
indeterminate harmonics (exact pitch not essential
so long as the effect is achieved) - light, shimmering,
ethereal tone

 bow tremolo

 ricochet

 half-harmonic finger pressure;
veiled/weak/unstable tone
- feeble flickering

 or or double stop (strings at discretion of performer)

= 80 *meccanico e leggero*
tempo licenza; sempre con molto rubato

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in 2/4 time. It consists of 31 measures, with measure numbers 1, 7, 13, 19, 25, and 31 indicated at the start of their respective staves. The notation includes various note values, rests, and slurs. Performance instructions such as *gliss.* (glissando) and *ricochet* are used to indicate specific playing techniques. Dynamic markings include *smfz* (sforzando), *mp* (mezzo-piano), *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *pp* (pianissimo). The score also features several 5:4 and 3:2 ratio markings, likely indicating specific intervals or rhythmic relationships. The overall style is characterized by a mix of mechanical precision and expressive rubato, as indicated by the tempo marking.

2/5

37

ricochet

3:2

5:4

gliss.

5:4

5:4

5:4

smfz

mp

smfz

mp

smfz

mp

mf

mp

p

smfz

mp

5:4

smfz

43

3:2

mp

smfz

mp

ricochet

3:2

5:4

smfz

mp

3

4

smfz

mp

smfz

mp

smfz

mp

smfz

mp

49

5:4

mp

smfz

mp

5:4

mp

smfz

mp

5:4

mp

smfz

mp

5:4

mp

smfz

mp

5:4

mp

smfz

mp

c. 3-4 seconds

2

4

* half-harmonic finger pressure (veiled/weak/unstable tone)

= 68 *molto meno mosso*

54

2

4

5:4

smfz

mp

5:4

smfz

mp

5:4

smfz

mp

5:4

smfz

mp

5:4

smfz

mp

5:4

smfz

mp

gliss.

5:4

p

pp

60

gliss.

5:4

smfz

p

5:4

p

pp

smfz

smfz

3:2

p

smfz

p

5:4

smfz

p

5:4

smfz

p

5:4

smfz

p

66

3:2

p

smfz

p

5:4

smfz

p

5:4

smfz

p

gliss.

5:4

pp

gliss.

5:4

ppp

p

5:4

smfz

smfz

The musical score for "The Great Wall" by John Cage is presented on a single melodic line across six systems. The notation is complex, featuring a variety of musical symbols and instructions:

- Staff and Clef:** The score is written on a single staff with a treble clef.
- Measure Numbers:** The systems are labeled with measure numbers 82, 88, 94, 100, 106, and 113.
- Dynamic Markings:** Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *pp* (pianissimo), *p* (piano), *ppp* (pianississimo), and *pppp* (pianissimissimo).
- Articulation and Performance Instructions:**
 - gliss.* (glissando)
 - s.p.* (sustained pedal)
 - ord.* (order)
 - smpz* (sustained melodic phrase)
 - 3:2* and *5:4* (rhythmic ratios)
 - pppp* (pianissimissimo)
 - c. 3-4 seconds* (approximately 3-4 seconds)
- Notation Style:** The score uses a mix of standard musical notation (notes, rests, slurs) and Cage's characteristic experimental notation (diamonds, lines, and other symbols).

= 56 *molto meno mosso*

s.p. - flautando (indeterminate harmonics; ephemeral, shimmering tone)

116

spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 gliss. 5:4 pp ppp

122

pp 5:4 spz gliss. 5:4 pp ppp spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz

128

spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp gliss. 5:4 pp ppp gliss. 5:4 pp ppp pp 5:4 spz spz

134

gliss. 5:4 pp ppp pp 5:4 spz ppp spz pp 5:4 spz 3:2 pp spz pp

140

spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp gliss. 5:4 pp ppp gliss. 5:4 pp ppp pp 5:4 spz pp

146

spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp

[illegible]

Buffalo;

Buffalo; USA

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