

Local Orchestra

for any large number of pitched, sustaining instruments spread out evenly across a large performance space.

(indeterminate duration)

Samuel Vriezen, 2008

Acoustic situation such that it's possible, from every position, to hear every performer, but also such that it's always possible to tell nearby sounds from more distant sounds.

Two movements, played attacca:

1. Consonant Orchestras
2. Dissonant Orchestras

In both movements, all performers decide individually when to play and what pitch to play, within certain conditions.

Consonant Orchestras

1. A performer may start playing any pitch if nobody else is playing.
2. If there are already people playing, a performer may only start playing if at least one instrument seated nearby is playing. The pitch played is based on any pitch that any nearby performer is playing. It may either be the same pitch, or differ from that pitch by a perfect fourth or a perfect fifth; and the pitch chosen may be transposed into any octave.
3. Durations are mostly long.
4. No louder than mp.
5. The movement ends at any point after every performer has played at least two notes, and...
6. ...after there have been at least four moments in which nobody is playing (dividing the movement into at least five phrases). These silences may last up to about 15 seconds.
7. A much longer silence (at least 60 seconds) following the last phrase signals the end of this movement and the beginning of the second movement.

Dissonant Orchestras

1. After the long silence, any one performer playing any pitch begins the second movement.
2. After the first performer has started playing, performers start playing a note at any time. The pitch chosen is based on the pitch played by the nearest performer currently playing. It may either be the same pitch, or differ from that pitch by at most a minor second; and the pitch chosen may be transposed into any octave.
3. All durations are long to very long.
4. No louder than pp.
5. Each player stops at any point after having played at least five notes.
6. The movement is in one phrase - there are no silent moments until the end.
7. A long silence follows the last note.