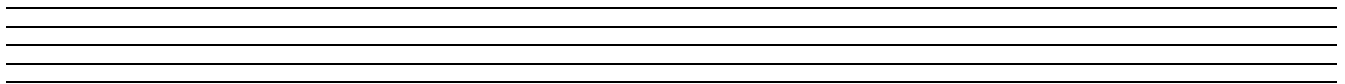


ostinati

open score for chamber ensemble

Dedicated to Brian Eno

Jordan Nobles



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ABOUT THE PIECE:

ostinati was premiered by **Motion Ensemble** (Sackville, New Brunswick) on October 17, 2009 and released on the CD ***Undercurrents*** by **Contact Contemporary Music** (Toronto, Ontario)

PROGRAM NOTES:

I have increasingly become interested in writing music in 'open score' - i.e. music not designed to be performed by any specific instrument but by any instrument or ensemble. I have found that the less restrictive and controlling I am in composing a piece the more I enjoy the listening experience. In *ostinati*, the musicians have a series of small melodies and ostinati to perform. Which to play, when they play them and in what octave to play them is entirely up to the musicians to decide in the moment. Therefore each performance is entirely unique. There is no overt form to the piece just a steadily shifting harmonic canvas. *ostinati* is inspired in part by Brian Eno's infamous *Discreet Music* and is dedicated to him.

PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS:

- Each performance should begin and end with an ostinato and an ostinato should always be present throughout. If you are playing an ostinato do not stop playing it until someone else is playing one as well.
Note: wind and brass instruments should not play the ostinati.
- Performers play any cell, osinati or bass note in any order.
- Everyone should play within the pulse provided by the ostinati players.
- Each melodic cell should be chosen at random by each performer and repeated 4-8 times before either pausing for space or moving to another cell.
- Performers are encouraged to vary octaves (within the mid-range of the instrument) and timbre when moving to a new cell.
- Not all instruments need be playing at all times. Depending on the size of the ensemble some players can take a break and listen before joining in again.
- The overall atmosphere should be relaxed and quiet. - There is no set duration to this piece. Play as long or as little as you wish.
- players play in time with each other but can move to the next cells independently, making decisions on the spot about what cell to play and in what octave.
- cells should be played in order and some may be skipped if desired.
- two players playing the same cell at the same time need not line up exactly; in fact they should try to be out of phase with each other.

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Ostinati - for polyphonic instruments (piano, guitar, harp, vibraphone, marimba, etc.). Repeat many times, let ring as much as possible

♩ = 60

mp

Melodic Cells - for all instruments. Repeat 4-8 times (always repeat in the same octave)

♩ = 60

mp *mp*
mp *mp*
mp *mp*
p *p*

Bass Notes - for low instruments (piano, cello, guitar, bass, etc.). Use sparingly, do not repeat, octaves are not necessary

mf *mf* *mf* *mf*

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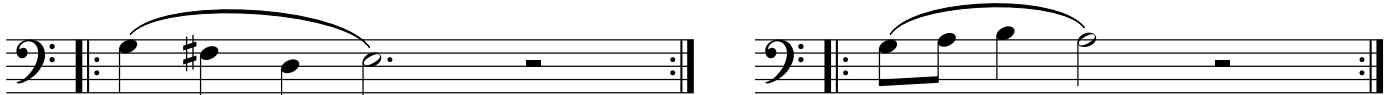
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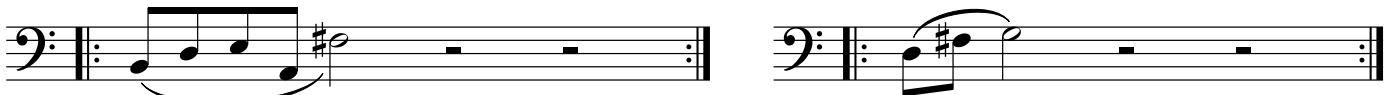
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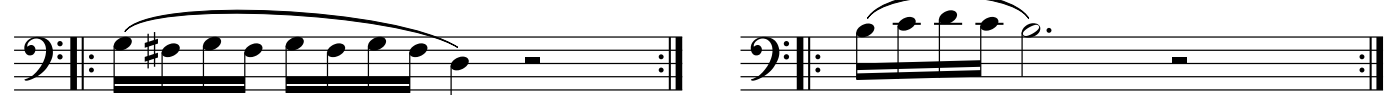
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