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The Main Complaint

For Clarinet in Bflat, Trombone and Cello
(2008)
The Main Complaint

A composition as part of a portfolio submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

By
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Performance Notes

Duration: c.16 minutes

Score in C

The Main Complaint involves three players, Clarinet in Bflat, Trombone and Cello. The first part for each instrument is to be played live; the second and third parts are to be pre-recorded. A click track should be used in recording the second and third parts; the first part should be played live without a click track. In performance the players should be separated spatially so that each performer’s sound is distinct (see diagram opposite).

There are two options as to how the pre-recorded parts are played back in performance. The first is for each performer to have their own cd player with their two pre-recorded parts on cd. All performers then simply start playing their cd as close to the same time as possible. The second option is to have the pre-recorded parts in three stereo tracks on a laptop, with each track routed to two speakers beside each performer (six speakers in total); the start of playback is activated at the laptop.

Between page 20 and 47 an extremely gradual crescendo is marked from \textit{pppp} to \textit{fff} in the Clarinet and Cello parts, and from \textit{pppp} to \textit{ff} in the Trombone part. The increments of the crescendo are marked in the score. After one or more bars rest the most recent dynamic level is marked in brackets to aid re-entry into the sound world. Each instrument should be equally audible throughout the piece.

All parts should be played with no vibrato throughout.

The score illustrates the approximate vertical relationships between the different instruments (not between the different parts of the same instrument), as the co-ordination of the start of the playback of the recorded parts need only be approximate.
Programme Text

The Main Complaint explores the idea of layering memory for each live performer, by using two pre-recorded parts for each of the three live instruments. Each performer only has their two pre-recorded parts played back through their speakers.
Cl.1

Cl.2

Cl.3

non vib.

Tbn.1

Tbn.2

Tbn.3

Vc.1

Vc.2

Vc.3

[PPPP]
extremely gradual crescendo
Cl.1

Cl.2

Cl.3

Tbn.1

Tbn.2

Tbn.3

Vc.1

Vc.2

Vc.3

con sord. (Practice Mute)
Cl.1

Cl.2

Cl.3

Tbn.1

Tbn.2

Tbn.3

Vc.1

Vc.2

Vc.3