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Scattered Polaroids

For String Quartet
(2007)
Scattered Polaroids

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

By

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Performance Notes
Duration: c.8 minutes

arco  with the bow
arco flautando  light bow pressure to achieve a hollow sound (with the pitch barely audible)
pizz  pluck the string in the conventional manner
normale  arco or pizzicato on the normal position of the strings in the conventional manner
sul pont.  very near the bridge
sul tasto  on the fingerboard
non vib.  no vibrato.

Wide, fast and uneven vibrato (without this indication play non vib.)
snap pizzicato

continuous transition (from one state to another)

A black triangle notehead indicates a deformed tone produced by slightly increased bow pressure. A slight scratching quality should be achieved to the sound with the pitch still slightly audible. This applies to all of the parts for the whole of the piece. Except for the violin 2 and viola parts from bar 207 till the end when the sound should be produced with extreme bow pressure where pitch is barely audible.

A diamond notehead indicates that ‘flautando fingering’ should be used to produce a wispy sound. This is only used in the violin 1 and violoncello parts from bar 195 to the end of the piece.

Nicholas Peters, November 2007

Programme Text

Scattered Polaroids is primarily concerned with exploring in sound the idea of reflection, essentially the mirroring of material in separate pitch bands to create a pitch void in between the two.
Scattered Polaroids

\( \text{\textit{j} = 92 with urgency, wooden (should sound fast)} \)

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\( \text{Violin 1} \)
con sord.
(practice mute)

\( \text{P marcat\textit{o} - secco} \)
Non vib.

\( \text{Violin 2} \)
con sord.
(practice mute)

\( \text{\textit{P}} \)
Non vib.

\( \text{Viola} \)
con sord.
(practice mute)

\( \text{\textit{P}} \)
Non vib.

\( \text{Violoncello} \)
con sord.
(practice mute)

\( \text{\textit{P marcat\textit{o} - secco}} \)
Non vib.

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(increased bow pressure)

 normale

(increased bow pressure) normale

sim.
arco normale  very slow upward glissando
very slow downward glissando
normale

very slow upward glissando
sul pont

very slow downward glissando

mp

PP
(increased bow pressure)
very slow downward glissando