pete stollery

social d[ist]ancing (2020) for mixed ensemble

for Any Enemy, during COVID-19 lockdown Social D[ist]ancing

Pete Stollery

DIRECTIONS FOR PERFORMANCE

The piece can be played by any number and combination of instruments

PROMENADE: one instrument plays an improvised melody, using any of the notes in the *Promenade* box, in any order. The player chooses a mood they might have during their once a day walk/run/bike ride and reflects that in the choice of rhythm, timbre, articulation, etc. Pitches indicated are pitch classes, so the player chooses the octave for the instrument which best helps evoke the required mood.

ENCOUNTER: between 15 and 20 seconds later, a second instrument joins in, using pitches from the Same *Promenade* box. As soon as the second instrument enters, a duet takes place where each performer chooses a single pitch from the box and improvises (dances) rhythmically on it for between 3 and 5 seconds before moving to another pitch from the box. However, each player must avoid choosing a pitch which is less then 2 semitones away from the pitch being played by the other player. The encounter continues for...

ENSEMBLE: ... between 15 and 20 seconds, after which the rest of the ensemble (family group) join in, playing the two chords in the *Cadence* box, whilst the duet continues. The ensemble should provide a supportive texture which reflects the "conversation" between the duettists. The ensemble enters one at a time, choosing a note from the first chord and, repeating that note, improvises a rhythm which matches the mood of the duettists' material. Once the whole of the ensemble is playing (after between 15 and 20 seconds), players move one by one to the second chord, choosing a single pitch and performing it in the same manner as the previous chord. Once the whole ensemble is playing (again, after between 15 and 2social_distancing_score0 seconds), players are furloughed one by one, leaving a single self-isolating player holding steady a single pitch. This player then becomes the soloist for the next promenade using the held pitch as a starting point for the next *Promenade* improvisation. In the case of the final *Cadence*, once the second chord has been reached, the duettists should change their improvisation to using the notes of a C major scale. Then they two are furloughed one by one, once the second chord has died away.

The group can pre-determine who plays in each *Promenade* before the performance or decide this on the fly.

The piece cannot be performed more than once a day.

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