

Dominic Murcott

MT Modulation

Percussion, piano and open score for variable ensemble

6' 30"

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Programme Note

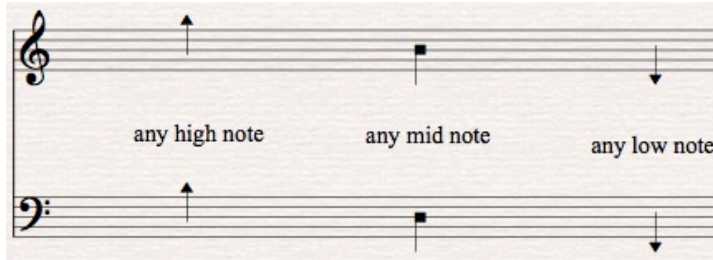
Maureen Tucker's drumming with the Velvet Underground reduced the groove to the most basic stream of pulses. Unchanging and direct it was the perfect foundation for the band's sonic adventures. Starting with the same idea, MT Modulation is a stream of 912 quavers at 130 beats per minute with no other note values and no gaps. It uses only whole tone scales, chromatic scales and notes chosen randomly by the players.

Commissioned by CoMA (Contemporary Music for All), July 2013.

Performance notes

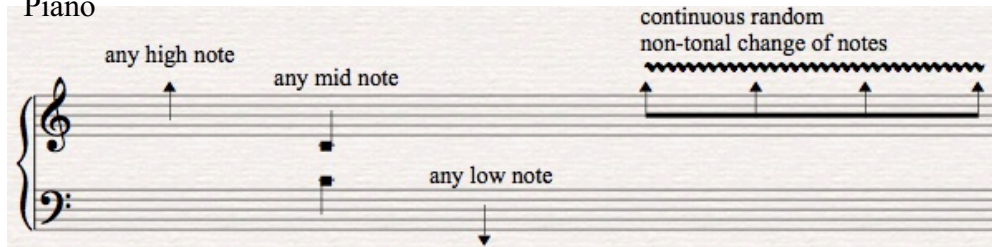
The group should be arranged with the percussionist as a central feature. The conductor should let the group play as independently as possible, helping with cues and maintaining time where needed.

Parts I-IV



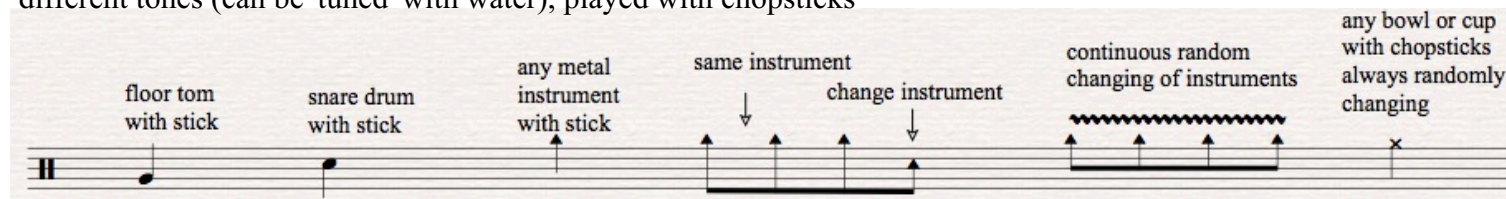
Two notes on the same staff to be played divisi.

Piano

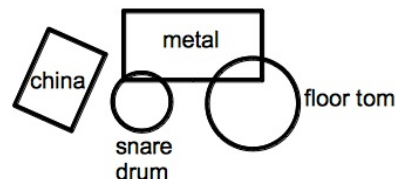


Percussion

Floor tom tuned low or small bass drum, snare drum with snares on. A collection of 5-8 metal instruments chosen for clear, crisp and contrasting qualities such as cowbells, bell of cymbal, brake drums (could use selection of scrap metal). 5-8 cups and bowls with different tones (can be 'tuned' with water), played with chopsticks



Suggested percussion layout



MT Modulation

♩=130 - mechanical throughout

Dominic Murcott 2013

The musical score is arranged in five systems. The first system includes staves I, II, III, and IV, with dynamic markings of *ff* and triangle/rectangle symbols above. The second system includes the Piano part (treble and bass clefs) and the Percussion part (drum set). The Percussion part features a *ff* dynamic marking and triangle/rectangle symbols. The score is in 7/8 time and consists of 10 measures, with modulation markings at measures 5 and 9.

7

□ □ △

Perc.

Pno.

17

A



Musical staff 1 (Treble clef) with notes and rests.

Musical staff 2 (Treble clef) with notes and rests.

Musical staff 3 (Bass clef) with notes and rests.

Musical staff 4 (Bass clef) with notes and rests.

Piano (Pno.) section with two staves (treble and bass clef) showing rests.

A



Percussion (Perc.) staff with rhythmic notation and dynamics.

ff ————— fff mf subito

25

strings pizz.

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, measures 1-6. Measure 4 contains a single eighth note with an upward-pointing stem and a dynamic marking of *f* below it.

strings pizz.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, measures 1-6. Measure 5 contains a single eighth note with a downward-pointing stem and a dynamic marking of *f* below it.

Pno.

Musical staff 5: Grand staff (treble and bass clefs), measures 1-6. Measure 4 contains a single eighth note with an upward-pointing stem and a dynamic marking of *f* below it.

Perc.

Musical staff 6: Percussion staff, measures 1-6. Measures 1-4 have eighth notes with accents (>). Measures 5-6 have eighth notes with upward-pointing stems.

31

same as last note

same as last note

same as last note

Pno.

Perc.

same as last

The image shows a musical score for Percussion and Piano. The Percussion part is on a single staff with a drum icon, showing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents (>) and a triplet of eighth notes. The Piano part consists of six staves. The first two staves (treble and bass clef) contain rests for most of the piece, with a single note in the third measure marked 'same as last note'. The remaining four staves also contain rests.

37 same as last note same as last note same as last note (changing pitches) 7

same as last note same as last note same as last note

same as last note same as last note same as last note (changing pitches)

same as last same as last same as last (changing)

43

same as last note same as last note

strings pizz.

strings pizz.

Pno.

Perc.

mf

mf

mf

mf

mf

49

same two notes *f* same two notes

same two notes *f* same two notes

same two notes *f* same two notes

same two notes *f* same two notes

same two notes *f* same two notes same two notes same two notes

Perc.

B

(changing pitches)

56

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, 5/8 time signature. The staff contains a fermata over the first five measures. In the sixth measure, there is a dynamic marking *f* and notes with upward-pointing arrows, indicating a change in pitch.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, 5/8 time signature. The staff contains a fermata over the first five measures.

(changing pitches)

Musical staff 3: Bass clef, 5/8 time signature. The staff contains a fermata over the first five measures. In the sixth measure, there is a dynamic marking *f* and notes with upward-pointing arrows, indicating a change in pitch.

Musical staff 4: Bass clef, 5/8 time signature. The staff contains a fermata over the first five measures.

(changing pitches)

Pno.

Musical staff 5: Grand staff (treble and bass clefs), 5/8 time signature. The staff contains a fermata over the first five measures. In the sixth measure, there is a dynamic marking *f* and notes with upward-pointing arrows, indicating a change in pitch.

B

(changing pitches)

Perc.

Musical staff 6: Percussion staff with a snare drum icon, 5/8 time signature. The staff features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with accents (>) throughout. In the sixth measure, there are notes with upward-pointing arrows, indicating a change in pitch.

63

same two notes

(changing pitches)

same two notes

same two notes

(changing pitches)

same two notes

Pno.

same two notes

Perc.

70 (changing pitches)

(changing pitches)

pp *ff*

strings arco

pp *ff*

Pno.

Perc.

76 *divisi*

clarinets if possible strings arco

Pno.

Perc.

82

strings pizz.
(changing pitches)

f strings pizz.
(changing pitches)

(changing pitches)

f strings pizz.
(changing pitches)

(changing pitches)

f

Pno.

Perc.

C

C

88

strings arco

pizz.

arco

strings arco

pizz.

arco

strings arco

pizz.

arco

Pno.

pizz.

Perc.

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

94

The musical score consists of six systems. The first four systems are for string instruments: Violin I, Violin II, Viola, and Cello/Double Bass. The fifth system is for Piano (Pno.), and the sixth system is for Percussion (Perc.).

- Violin I:** Starts with a *pizz.* (pizzicato) section, followed by an *arco* (arco) section, and ends with a *ff* (fortissimo) *pizz.* section labeled "same notes".
- Violin II:** Similar to Violin I, with *pizz.*, *arco*, and *ff* *pizz.* "same notes" sections.
- Viola:** Similar to Violin I, with *pizz.*, *arco*, and *ff* *pizz.* "same notes" sections.
- Cello/Double Bass:** Similar to Violin I, with *pizz.*, *arco*, and *ff* *pizz.* "same notes" sections.
- Piano (Pno.):** Features chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. It includes a *ff* section.
- Percussion (Perc.):** Features a rhythmic pattern with dynamic markings *ff*, *pp*, and *ff*.

100

same notes

arco

arco

ppp

arco

ppp

arco

ppp

Pno.

same notes

ff

Perc.

cups and chopsticks

f don't get quieter

ff

D

106

Pno.

D

Perc.

112

The musical score consists of six staves. The top two staves are treble clef, the third is bass clef, the fourth is bass clef with a dynamic marking *f* and a bracketed instruction "At this octave only", the fifth is grand staff (treble and bass clef) for Piano (Pno.), and the bottom staff is percussion (Perc.) with a drum set icon. The score is in 4/4 time and features a key signature of one sharp (F#). The percussion part has a steady eighth-note pulse. The piano part features chords and arpeggios. The string parts have melodic lines with some rests.

The musical score consists of seven staves. The top two staves are in treble clef, the third is in bass clef, the fourth is in bass clef with performance instructions, the fifth and sixth are grand staff (treble and bass clef) for piano, and the seventh is in percussion clef. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, dynamics (f), and performance directions like 'At this octave only' and '1 or 2 players only'.

124

winds optional

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, starting with a melodic line and followed by a dense sixteenth-note texture.

winds optional

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, starting with a melodic line and followed by a dense sixteenth-note texture.

Musical staff 3: Bass clef, starting with a melodic line and followed by a dense sixteenth-note texture.

Musical staff 4: Bass clef, featuring a melodic line with a "1 player" annotation and "changing pitches".

(changing pitches)

Musical staff 5: Grand staff for Piano, showing complex chordal textures and dynamics *p* and *mf*.

Pno.

Perc.

Musical staff 6: Percussion staff, showing rhythmic patterns and dynamics *p* and *f*.

130

(changing pitches)

1 player

(tutti)

(changing pitches)

1 player

(tutti)

1 player
(changing pitches)

(tutti)

1 player

1 player

(tutti)

Pno.

Perc.

E

136

Musical staff 1: Treble clef, starting with a rest and a quarter note G4, followed by a series of eighth notes and quarter notes in a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics: *mf*.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef, starting with a rest and a quarter note G4, followed by a series of eighth notes and quarter notes in a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics: *mf*.

Musical staff 3: Bass clef, starting with a rest and a quarter note G2, followed by a series of eighth notes and quarter notes in a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics: *ff*.

Musical staff 4: Bass clef, starting with a rest and a quarter note G2, followed by a series of eighth notes and quarter notes in a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics: *ff*.

gradually work down to area around middle c

Piano section (Pno.) with two staves. The right hand has a series of notes with a wavy line above them and arrows pointing up, indicating a glissando effect. Dynamics: *mf*.

E

Percussion section (Perc.) with a single staff. It starts with a rest and a quarter note G2, followed by a series of eighth notes and quarter notes in a rhythmic pattern. Dynamics: *f*.

143

The musical score consists of six staves. The first two staves are treble clef, the next two are bass clef, the fifth is a grand piano (Pno.) section with a tremolo effect, and the sixth is a percussion (Perc.) section. The music is in 4/4 time. The first two staves have dynamics of *ff* and *mf*. The third staff has a dynamic of *mf*. The fourth staff has a dynamic of *mf*. The fifth staff has a tremolo effect and a dynamic of *cresc.*. The sixth staff has a dynamic of *pp*.

149

The musical score consists of five staves. The top two staves are for the Percussion (Perc.) and Piano (Pno.) parts. The Percussion part is on a single staff with a drum set icon, featuring a steady eighth-note pattern. The Piano part is on two staves (treble and bass clef), with a wavy line above the treble staff indicating a tremolo effect. The bottom three staves are for the main melodic and harmonic parts, including a treble clef staff with dynamics *ff* and *mf*, a bass clef staff with dynamics *ff* and *mf*, and another bass clef staff. The score is divided into six measures by vertical bar lines.

155

arco

f *ff*

arco

f *ff*

f *ff*

f *ff*

Pno.

ff *ff* *ff* *ff*

Perc.

ff *fff* *p* *fff*

F

162

Four musical staves (two treble clefs and two bass clefs) showing rests for the first four measures. The notation indicates that these instruments are silent during this section.

Pno.

Piano accompaniment staff with treble and bass clefs. The treble clef part begins with a melody in measure 162, marked *mp*. The bass clef part has rests. Pedal markings include *Ped.* with a line and a wedge symbol, and *sim.* (sustained). A second *mp* marking appears in measure 165.

F

cups & chopsticks

Perc.

Percussion staff with a snare drum icon. The first measure contains a rhythmic pattern of eight eighth notes marked with 'x'. The following four measures contain a slash symbol, indicating a cymbal crash.

mf

individual players rising chromatic scale, start any time, rest, then repeat, any length, always start and end at 'nothing'. Continue until cue at H

168

The musical score consists of several parts:

- Perc.**: A percussion staff with a rhythmic pattern of 'x' marks in the first measure, followed by five measures with a slash symbol (/).
- Pno.**: A piano part with a chromatic scale in the right hand and rests in the left hand across six measures.
- Strings**: Five staves for string instruments, all containing rests.
- First Staff**: A staff with a treble clef, a crescendo line above it, and a chromatic scale in the right hand starting in the third measure. The dynamic marking *mf* is placed below the scale.

174

individual players rising chromatic scale, start any time, rest, then repeat, any length, always start and end at 'nothing'. Continue until cue at H

mf

Perc.

Pno.

180

individual players rising chromatic scale, start any time, rest, then repeat,
any length, always start and end at 'nothing'. Continue until cue at H

individual players rising chromatic scale, start any time, rest, then repeat,
any length, always start and end at 'nothing'. Continue until cue at H

Pno.

Perc.

186

The musical score consists of six staves. The top two staves are treble clefs, the third is a bass clef, and the fourth is another bass clef. All four of these staves contain a continuous, high-frequency, sawtooth-like wavy line. The fifth staff is a grand staff for Piano (Pno.), with a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The piano part begins with a melodic line in the treble clef, featuring eighth and sixteenth notes with various accidentals (sharps, naturals, flats). The bass clef part of the piano staff contains rests. The sixth staff is for Percussion (Perc.), starting with a double bar line and a snare drum symbol, followed by a series of 'x' marks on a line, and then five measures containing a slash symbol.

G

H

192

208

A musical staff in treble clef containing a continuous tremolo pattern. A vertical bar line is present at the beginning of the staff.

continue for 1 or more minutes until cue at H

A musical staff in treble clef containing a continuous tremolo pattern. A vertical bar line is present at the beginning of the staff.

continue for 1 or more minutes until cue at H

A musical staff in bass clef containing a continuous tremolo pattern. A vertical bar line is present at the beginning of the staff.

continue for 1 or more minutes until cue at H

A musical staff in bass clef containing a continuous tremolo pattern. A vertical bar line is present at the beginning of the staff.

continue for 1 or more minutes until cue at H

Pno.

Piano accompaniment for the Pno. part, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The music features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with various accidentals (sharps, flats, naturals). Dynamics include *pp* and *f*. A vertical bar line is present at the beginning of the first staff.

pp

f

f

G

H

continue for 1 or more minutes until cue at H

Perc.

A percussion staff in common time containing a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with various accidentals. Dynamics include *pp* and *f*. A vertical bar line is present at the beginning of the staff.

pp

f

I

213

Musical staff 1: Treble clef. Starts with a dynamic of *f*. After two measures, there is a whole rest. From measure 5, it features a series of chords marked *ff*.

Musical staff 2: Treble clef. Starts with a dynamic of *f*. After two measures, there is a whole rest. From measure 5, it features a series of chords marked *ff*.

Musical staff 3: Bass clef. Starts with a dynamic of *f*. After two measures, there is a whole rest. From measure 5, it features a series of chords marked *ff*.

Musical staff 4: Bass clef. Starts with a dynamic of *f*. After two measures, there is a whole rest. From measure 5, it features a series of chords marked *ff*.

Pno.

Piano accompaniment (Pno.) consisting of two staves (treble and bass clefs). Both staves are marked *ff* and feature a dense texture of chords.

I

Perc.

Percussion (Perc.) staff with a percussion clef. It is marked *ff* and features a rhythmic pattern with accents (>) over the notes.

218

hand clap *f*

hand clap *f*

hand clap *f*

hand clap *f*

hand clap *f*

Pno.

Perc. *pp* *fff*