

Dominic Murcott
MT Modulation

Percussion, piano and open score for variable ensemble

6' 30"

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MT Modulation

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

any high note any mid note any low note

Two notes on the same staff to be played divisi.

Piano

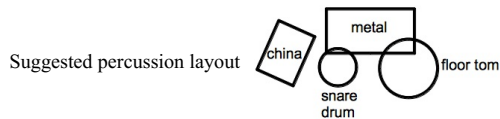
any high note any mid note any low note

continuous random non-tonal change of notes

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

floor tom with stick snare drum with stick any metal instrument with stick same instrument change instrument continuous random changing of instruments any bowl or cup with chopsticks always randomly changing



MT Modulation

♩=130 - mechanical throughout

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I II III IV Piano Percussion

ff *ff* *ff* *ff*

7 □ □ □ △ 3

Pho.

Perc.

ff *fff mf subito*

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4

17 △ □ □ □ A

Pho.

Perc.

ff *fff mf subito*

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25

strings pizz.

f

strings pizz.

f

Pno.

Perc.

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6

31

same as last note

same as last note

same as last note

same as last

Pno.

Perc.

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

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

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8 43

mf

same as last note same as last note

strings pizz. mf

strings pizz. mf

mf

mf

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49

same two notes

f

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

same two notes

Pno.

Perc.

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10

56

B

(changing pitches)

f

(changing pitches)

f

(changing pitches)

f

B

(changing pitches)

Perc.

63

same two notes

(changing pitches)

f

same two notes

same two notes

(changing pitches)

f

same two notes

same two notes

Pno.

Perc.

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12

70

(changing pitches)

(changing pitches)

pp *ff*

strings arco

pp *ff*

Pno.

Perc.

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76

divisi

ff

clarinets if possible

p

ff

ff

ff

f

mp

f

ff

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14

82

C

strings pizz.
(changing pitches)

f strings pizz.
(changing pitches)

f

(changing pitches)

f strings pizz.
(changing pitches)

f

(changing pitches)

C

f

f

f

f

f

88

strings arco

pizz.

arco

strings arco

pizz.

arco

strings arco

pizz.

arco

Pno.

Perc.

ff *pp* *ff* *pp*

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94

pizz.

arco

same notes

ff

pizz.

arco

same notes

ff

same notes

ff

pizz.

arco

same notes

ff

Pno.

Perc.

ff *pp* *ff*

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100

same notes

arco

arco

arco

arco

Pno.

same notes

8^{vb}

Perc.

cups and chopsticks

don't get quieter

ppp

ppp

ppp

ppp

ff

ff

f

ff

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18

106

D

f

f

f

Pno.

D

Perc.

f

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112

Musical score for measures 112-117. The score includes staves for Treble Clef, Bass Clef, Pno. (Piano), and Perc. (Percussion). The Pno. part features dense chordal textures. The Perc. part has a rhythmic pattern. A bracketed section in the Bass Clef staff is marked "At this octave only" and "f".

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118

Musical score for measures 118-123. The score includes staves for Treble Clef, Bass Clef, Pno. (Piano), and Perc. (Percussion). The Pno. part features dense chordal textures. The Perc. part has a rhythmic pattern. A bracketed section in the Bass Clef staff is marked "At this octave only" and "f". Another bracketed section is marked "1 or 2 players only".

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124

winds optional

Winds optional

(changing pitches)

1 player

(changing pitches)

p

mf

Perc. *p* *f*

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22

130

(changing pitches)

(changing pitches)

1 player (tutti)

(changing pitches)

1 player (tutti)

1 player (changing pitches) (tutti)

1 player (tutti)

Perc. *f*

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E

136

Musical score for measures 136-142. The score includes staves for Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon, Trombone, Trumpet, Piano, and Percussion. Dynamics include *mf* and *ff*. A piano part includes a tremolo instruction: "gradually work down to area around middle c".

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143

Musical score for measures 143-149. The score includes staves for Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon, Trombone, Trumpet, Piano, and Percussion. Dynamics include *ff*, *mf*, and *pp*. A piano part includes a "cresc." instruction.

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149

Musical score for measures 149-154. The score includes staves for Violin, Viola, Flute, Clarinet, Percussion, and Piano. Dynamics include *ff* and *mf*.

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155

Musical score for measures 155-160. The score includes staves for Violin, Viola, Flute, Clarinet, Percussion, and Piano. Dynamics include *f*, *ff*, and *p*. The word *arco* is written above the string staves.

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F

162

Musical notation for measures 162-167. It includes two vocal staves (treble and bass clef) and two piano accompaniment staves (treble and bass clef). The vocal staves contain rests. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with dynamics *mp* and *mf*.

Piano accompaniment notation for measures 162-167. It shows the right and left hand parts. The right hand has a melodic line with dynamics *mp* and *mf*. The left hand has a bass line. There are markings for *ped.* and *sim.* (sustained).

F

cups & chopsticks

Perc.

Percussion notation for measures 162-167. It shows a rhythmic pattern of 'x' marks on a staff, with dynamics *mf* and slash marks indicating rests.

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168

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

Musical notation for measures 168-173. It includes two vocal staves (treble and bass clef) and two piano accompaniment staves (treble and bass clef). The vocal staves contain rests. The piano accompaniment features a melodic line in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand, with dynamics *mf*. A large horizontal line with an upward slope spans across the piano accompaniment staves.

Pno.

Piano accompaniment notation for measures 168-173. It shows the right and left hand parts. The right hand has a melodic line with dynamics *mf*. The left hand has a bass line.

Perc.

Percussion notation for measures 168-173. It shows a rhythmic pattern of 'x' marks on a staff, with slash marks indicating rests.

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. *x x x x x x x x*

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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

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. *x x x x x x x x*

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186

Piano score for measures 186-191. The score includes five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a percussion staff. The piano part features melodic lines in both hands. The percussion part has a rhythmic pattern of 'x' marks in the first measure, followed by slashes.

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32

Musical score for page 32, measures 192-208. The score includes five staves: two treble clefs, two bass clefs, and a percussion staff. Measures 192-207 are marked 'G' and 'H' with instructions to 'continue for 1 or more minutes until cue at H'. The piano part has a complex rhythmic accompaniment with dynamics 'pp' and 'f'. The percussion part has a rhythmic pattern with dynamics 'pp' and 'f'.

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I

213

Musical score for measures 213-217. The score includes staves for vocal line, two bass lines, piano (Pno.), and percussion (Perc.). Dynamics range from *f* to *ff*. A first ending bracket labeled "I" covers measures 213-217.

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218

Musical score for measures 218-222. The score includes staves for vocal line, two bass lines, piano (Pno.), and percussion (Perc.). Dynamics range from *pp* to *fff*. Hand claps are indicated in the vocal and bass staves. A crescendo and decrescendo hairpin is shown at the bottom.

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