

Modular III

for soloist or N performers on any instruments

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2021

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Modular III is a verbal composition for any number of performers on any instruments. The score consists of eight pages, each of which contains a simple instruction or description of a gesture or type of sound to be played. No knowledge of conventional music notation is required; in addition, the score can be realized by performers of any skill level.

For a solo performance:

The number of pages to be played and the order in which they are to be played are to be chosen by the performer; each page may be played for as long as the performer is inspired to do so. The duration of the performance is to be set by the performer, who can choose an overall duration within which to play as many of the selected pages as he or she can fit into the preset time limit, or can choose to play each selected page for a set time. The performer may treat each page as a movement with a significant silence placed between each movement, or may move directly from page to page.

For an ensemble performance:

The number of pages to be played is to be determined before the performance, with each performer having the same number of pages as every other performer. Once the pages have been selected the sequence in which they should be played may be determined collectively by the ensemble beforehand or may be left up to the individual performer. The duration of each page should be agreed upon beforehand, and a conductor used to indicate when to move from page to page. The performance is over once all of the selected pages have been played through.

long tones or sounds
even duration
constant timbre
with generous spaces

play something
you ordinarily
wouldn't

one long tone or sound
repeat it
and keep reducing it
by half

short sounds
narrowly spaced

sounds of ambiguous
pitch

sounds following
the pattern of your breath

the thinner the sound
the better

tacet