

five by five

a text score for any ensemble

duration: a minimum of 5 minutes

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Instructions:

This piece has five parameters: affect (blue), pitch choices (green), range (yellow), dynamics (orange), and texture (pink), each of which has five characteristics. For a performance, the pages should be laid out in a five-by-five grid on the floor where they are visible to all performers, with each row consisting of the complete set of characteristics for one parameter set out in a random order. Each column will thus have one characteristic for each parameter, and is considered a movement. There are five movements in the piece, each of which should last a minimum of one minute (but it could be much longer). You might want the movements to be approximately the same length, or you might want them to be very different lengths. You can decide if you would like to determine the duration in advance or in performance. Likewise, you can decide if you would like to direct any of the elements of any of the movements (e.g. it can be easier to achieve a “chordal” sound if someone indicates when to play).

None of these words are intended to govern every single note of a movement - rather, they should indicate the overall feeling of the movement. So, for example, a movement that is “high”, “quiet”, “contrapuntal”, “chromatic” and “lively” might still have the occasional low diatonic chord - it should just give the overall impression of high, quiet, contrapuntal, chromatic liveliness.

mournful

lively

still

joking

ethereal

chromatic

diatonic

microtonal

unpitched

perfect intervals

(fourths, fifths, octaves)

high

low

narrow

falling

rising

diminishing

growing

quiet

loud

scattered

contrapuntal

chordal

**duos and
trios**

**lots of
silence**

tutti