

Hmmm..... in D minor

Dean Stallard 2003

This piece is a form of controlled improvisation where the stated key, D minor, relates to concert pitch. Any form of minor scale may be used within the piece. Although the piece could be simply performed by one ensemble, it is designed to examine one of three philosophical points;

1. Once performed, a work will affect the perception of all that went before and all that comes after.

The work is to be performed by 2 identical ensembles, both of which have prepared the work beforehand. After hearing the first ensemble perform, the second will retire to another room and prepare a little more, before returning and giving their own performance.

2. Rehearsal can affect spontaneity.

In this case the work will again be performed by 2 identical ensembles. One will prepare as an ensemble while the other will prepare as individuals, only coming together for the actual performance.

3. The character of a musician`s chosen instrument affects their perception and performance of music.

The work is to be performed by ensembles consisting of for example purely strings, woodwind or brass to examine differences in treatment of the material.

The instrumentalists should play from a score and try to co-ordinate their part with the others. The piece is deliberately written to make this difficult, however the players should try to play rhythms accurately and they should play everything without stopping. If a player discovers that they are not in the same place as the other performers they should increase or decrease tempo until they believe they are in the same place.

Keep to the key and try to play intelligently, listening to the others, however if you are playing a note that you feel doesn`t fit you must play it for the full duration of it`s value before you change pitch. Although tone heights are not exact try to approximate the patterns given.

No nuances are given but the players should add these as they feel fit.

Have fun and keep an open mind☺