

Entropy

Jordan Nobles

ABOUT THE PIECE

- Entropy was written in March 2009 in North Vancouver and Montreal.
- The duration of the piece is about 6 minutes.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

In Entropy the tempo is not steady but constantly decelerates throughout the piece as the harmonic process slowly breaks down. In fact for most of the piece (from Section B onwards) the piece decelerates to half of its tempo every 18 measures.

There is a simple Metric Modulation (♩ = ♪) at Sections D, F and I to allow for the constant deceleration as the pulse would become too slow to follow otherwise.

The deceleration should be very smooth throughout the piece.

The tempi given are just approximations but should be used as a guide. They are also handy when starting the piece in the middle during rehearsals.

PROGRAMME NOTES

One of the ideas involved in the concept of entropy is that nature tends from order to disorder in isolated systems. More energy is always required to create than to destroy.
As Entropy increases energy and order are lost.
Degeneration is inevitable.
The centre cannot hold.

This piece is dedicated to my two year old son Julian who, as it turns out, is an agent of entropy himself.

Perpetual Decelerando

♩ = 144

3

♩ = 136

f

6

♩ = 128

9

A ♩ = 120

2

13

♩ = 112

16

♩ = 104

B ♩ = 96

20

♩ = 88

2

mf

24

♩ = 80

26

C ♩ = 72

Viola

29 $\text{♩} = 64$

33 $\text{♩} = 56$

$\text{♩} = \text{♩} (= 96)$
D

36

40 $\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 80$

mp

E $\text{♩} = 72$

44

49 $\text{♩} = 64$ $\text{♩} = 56$

$\text{♩} = \text{♩} (= 96)$
F

53

Viola

58 ♩ = 88
con sord.

♩ = 80

Musical staff for measures 58-61. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.

62

G ♩ = 72

Musical staff for measures 62-65. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.

66

♩ = 64

Musical staff for measures 66-69. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.

70

♩ = 56

♩ = ♩ (= 96)
H

Musical staff for measures 70-73. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.

74

♩ = 88

♩ = 80

Musical staff for measures 74-77. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.

80

I ♩ = 72

♩ = 64

Musical staff for measures 80-83. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic marking of *ppp*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.

86

♩ = 56

J ♩ = 48

Musical staff for measures 86-92. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic marking of *ppp*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations.

93

♩ = 40

♩ = 32

♩ = 24

Musical staff for measures 93-96. The staff is in bass clef with a key signature of one flat. It begins with a dynamic marking of *ppp*. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes with various articulations. The final two measures (95 and 96) are marked with a '3' and a '2' respectively, indicating triplet and doublet figures.