

Marc Sabat

Spectral Canon No. 1 (for James Tenney)

PLAINSOUND MUSIC EDITION

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Spectral Canon No. 1 (for James Tenney)
(2005)

for 12 contrabasses or 1 contrabass with multiple delays

Each player performs the same material:

on the G-string (alternately A-string in solo tuning), play each of the first 12 harmonic partials of the open string, beginning with the open string (see attached table)

each harmonic to be played successively in all available positions (fingerings as natural harmonics, played on one node at a time) beginning at the nut and ending at the bridge

each note is played in a single, mezzo-forte bow-stroke: as evenly and cleanly as possible

player to maintain a steady tempo, in the case of multiple performers all players adhere to a commonly agreed pulse

each new note begins on a beat of the steady pulse, though actual durations of notes may be varied as desired

as soon as a note has ended, players move to the next note as quickly as possible and play on the next available beat

the 2nd player begins playing together with the first player's 2nd partial

the 3rd player begins playing together with the *first* player's 3rd partial

similarly for all players: the nth player begins playing with the *first* player's nth partial

subsequently each player proceeds independently, maintaining a common tempo for the onset of notes

multiple players may be replaced by a soloist with multiple delays and loudspeakers: in this case, the 11 delayed versions may be panned or spatially distributed to better distinguish the individual voices

NATURAL HARMONICS ABOVE A CONTRABASS G-STRING (Spectral Canon No. 1) - *play only notes marked with a fermata*

Marc Sabat, 2005

1 2 3 4

8 -3.9 -3.9 -2.0 -3.9

Detailed description: This block contains the first four measures of the piece. Measure 1 is in bass clef with a fermata on a G note (-3.9). Measure 2 is in treble clef with a fermata on a G note (-3.9). Measure 3 is in bass clef with a fermata on a G note (-2.0). Measure 4 is in bass clef with a fermata on a G note (-3.9). The notes are accompanied by a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

5 6

8 -17.6 -2.0

Detailed description: This block contains measures 5 and 6. Measure 5 is in treble clef with a fermata on a G note (-17.6). Measure 6 is in bass clef with a fermata on a G note (-2.0). The notes are accompanied by a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

7 8

8 -35.1 -3.9

Detailed description: This block contains measures 7 and 8. Measure 7 is in treble clef with a fermata on a G note (-35.1). Measure 8 is in bass clef with a fermata on a G note (-3.9). The notes are accompanied by a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

9 10

8 -17.6

Detailed description: This block contains measures 9 and 10. Measure 9 is in treble clef with a fermata on a G note (-17.6). Measure 10 is in bass clef with a fermata on a G note (-17.6). The notes are accompanied by a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

11

8 +47.4

Detailed description: This block contains measure 11. Measure 11 is in treble clef with a fermata on a G note (+47.4). The notes are accompanied by a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

12

8 -2.0

Detailed description: This block contains measure 12. Measure 12 is in treble clef with a fermata on a G note (-2.0). The notes are accompanied by a complex rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.

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