

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.

Oboe

Entropy

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Perpetual Decelerando

♩ = 144

f

♩ = 136

6

♩ = 128

A ♩ = 120

11

♩ = 112

16

♩ = 104

B ♩ = 96

mf

21

♩ = 88

25

♩ = 80

C ♩ = 72

29

♩ = 64

33

♩ = 56

36

♩ = ♩ (= 96)

D

mp

Oboe

40 $\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 80$

Musical staff 40-43: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 41-43 contain a melodic line with eighth and quarter notes, including a sharp sign. Measure 44 is a whole rest.

44 **E** $\text{♩} = 72$

Musical staff 44-47: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 45-47 contain a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes, including a dotted quarter note.

48 $\text{♩} = 64$

Musical staff 48-51: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 49-51 contain a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes, including a flat sign.

52 $\text{♩} = 56$ **F** $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (= 96)$

Musical staff 52-55: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 53-55 contain a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes, including a flat sign. Measure 56 is a whole rest.

56 $\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 80$
p

Musical staff 56-59: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 57-59 contain a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes, including a flat sign. Measure 60 is a whole rest.

63 **G** $\text{♩} = 72$ $\text{♩} = 64$

Musical staff 63-66: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 64-66 contain a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes, including a flat sign.

69 $\text{♩} = 56$ **H** $\text{♩} = \text{♩} (= 96)$ 3

Musical staff 69-72: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 70-72 contain a melodic line with quarter and eighth notes, including a sharp sign. Measure 73 is a whole rest.

76 $\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 80$ **I** $\text{♩} = 72$ $\text{♩} = 64$ $\text{♩} = 56$

Musical staff 76-80: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 77-80 contain a series of triplet markings (3) over a whole rest.

91 **J** $\text{♩} = 48$ $\text{♩} = 40$ $\text{♩} = 32$ $\text{♩} = 24$

Musical staff 91-95: Treble clef, starting with a whole rest. Measures 92-95 contain a series of triplet markings (3) and a final marking (2) over a whole rest.