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Contemporary Music Score Collection

Title

Getting Across Town

Permalink

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Getting across town for one or more performers

Michael Boyd 2017

Performance Instructions

This piece is for one or more performers of any type.

Performance duration is chosen by the performer(s) either in advance or organically during a performance. Any length that allows for a complete exploration of the performance score is permissible. Short to medium durations lend themselves to focused performance settings such as a concert, while longer durations might be more fitting for a performed installation or modifications to one's daily life.

The performance score (right) is comprised of eight rectangles that are connected by lines with arrows; each contains text and, in most cases, line-based graphic images. Performer(s) interpret rectangles one at a time, creating performance gesture(s) based on a concurrent interpretation of a given rectangle's text and, when present, images (and perhaps the rectangle's shape/size). Performance gestures that result from this interpretation can be sonic, visual, and/or theatrical. The exact way that a rectangle's text, images, or shape suggest gesture(s) will vary significantly, as none have obvious performance connotations and might be interpreted in myriad ways. Performer(s) should be creative, experiment, and explore!

Performer(s) should begin by interpreting either of the rectangles labeled "Start Here." After spending any amount of time with that location, he/she may move to any other rectangle pointed to by the arrows emanating from it. After interpreting the material at this new location, the performer may move to another using the arrow network, repeating this process as much as desired. Performers are free to interpret individual rectangles multiple times, but should attempt to vary their interpretations of a given location's material with each new visit. A performance may end at any time after a performer has interpreted all eight rectangles at least once.

When two or more performers are involved, they can perform independently, coexisting spatially, or may interact with each other based on interpreted text/images/etc. They may choose similar or different performance durations, leaving the performance space when not active. For longer performances further temporal/spatial customization may be employed (perhaps designating certain times each day for performance, associating parts of the score with specific locations, etc.).

