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Gonçalo Gato

Shapes
for string quartet

Programme Notes:

Shapes is a piece for string quartet dealing with the idea of sound shape. The various elements of music such as harmony, meter, tempo, rhythm and texture work as spaces (or conceptual canvas) on which forms develop. These forms can be, for instance, the melodic contour or the superposition of pulses that gradually sync with each other. The role of musical memory is also paramount as it constitutes one of the main resources for the composer to build coherence.

Premiered on the 20th of November of 2012 at The Forge, Camden, London, by the Ligeti Quartet.

Notes for execution:

- Accidentals (including quarter-tones) last for one bar and apply only to the octave in which they occur.
- Rests outside staves indicate prolongation time of *glissandi*.

Shapes

Gonçalo Gato
Dez. 2011

Violin I $\text{♩} = 60$ *z* - unmeasured tremolo *sul pont.* $\text{♩} = 180$

Violin II *col legno battuto* *pizz.* *arco* *ord.* *bow on bridge*

Viola *sul pont.* *ord.*

Violoncello *col legno battuto* *arco ord.* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *(pizz.)*

ff *p* *ff* *p* *f* *p* *fff* *pp* *ff* *p* *fff* *p*

7 $\text{♩} = 60$ *ord.* *sul pont.* *tremolo* $\text{♩} = 100$ *ord.* $\text{♩} = 60$

p *f* *ff* *p* *f* *p* *fff* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *fff*

p *f* *fff* *mf* *mp* *mp* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *fff*

p *f* *fff* *mf* *mp* *mp* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *pizz.* *arco* *p* *fff*

p *f* *fff* *f* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *mf* *p* *p* *fff*

15 *col legno battuto gett.* *arco ord.* $\text{♩} = 180$ $\text{♩} = 60$

f *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *p* *pp* *mp*

f *p* *p* *ff* *p* *ff* *pp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *p*

f *p* *ff* *p* *f* *ff* *f* *p* *ff* *f* *p*

f *p* *ff* *p* *f* *pp* *mf* *f* *p*

A ♩ = 104
sul tasto

Violin: *p*, *f*, *p*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *pizz.*
 Viola: *dolce*, *p*, *dolce*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *pizz.*
 Cello/DB: *p*, *ffp*, *mf*, *f*, *p*, *f*, *f*, *sfp*, *f*, *mp*

29 Sul G uninterrupted glissando Sul G+A

♩ = 260 ord. gett. (♩ = 104)

Violin: *pp*, *p*, *pp*, *mf*, *p*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *pp*, *ff*, *ff*, *pp*, *pp*
 Viola: *mf*, *arco*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*, *mf*, *pp*
 Cello/DB: *pp*, *ff*, *mf*, *ff*, *ff*, *pp*

B ♩ = 192

tallone

Violin: *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*
 Viola: *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*
 Cello/DB: *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*, *pp*, *ff*

40

pizz. l.v.

Violin: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*
 Viola: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*
 Cello/DB: *p*, *pp*, *p*, *pp*

44

pizz. l.v.

pizz. l.v.

47

(gliss.)

52

$\text{♩} = 120$
(pizz.)

arco gliss. follow contour

arco gliss. follow contour

arco gliss. follow contour

mp

p

p

p

mp

f

ff

p

mp

f

ff

pp

p

p

p

mp

f

ff

pp

C

59

p

p

p

p

Musical score for measures 62-63. The system consists of four staves. The first two staves are in treble clef, and the last two are in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 62 features a quintuplet in the first staff. Measure 63 continues the melodic lines with various articulations.

Musical score for measures 64-66. The system consists of four staves. Measure 64 starts with a treble clef and a key signature change to two sharps (D major). Measures 65-66 feature a *fff* dynamic marking. The music includes complex rhythmic patterns and articulations.

Musical score for measures 67-72. The system consists of four staves. Measure 67 includes tempo markings: $\text{♩} = 180$ and $\text{♩} = 120$. A section labeled 'D' begins in measure 68. Dynamics range from *pp* to *ff*. Performance instructions include *sul pont.*, *pizz.*, *arco*, *Sul G*, *ord.*, and *s. v.*. A *ff* dynamic is marked with a slur over measures 71-72.

Musical score for measures 73-76. The system consists of four staves. Measure 73 features a quintuplet in the first staff. Performance instructions include *pizz.*, *arco*, *mf*, *p*, *ord.*, *tr*, *mf*, *f*, and *ff*. A *ff* dynamic is marked at the end of measure 76.

78

(gett.)

f *p* *mp* *p*

p *f* *ff* *p*

mf *mf* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

mp *ff* *f*

82

ord.

(bow on bridge)

pp *p* *mp* *p* *f* *p*

Sul pont. ord.

Sul A

p

pp

E

87

f *p* *p* *pp*

pp *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp*

pp *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

pp *p* *pp*

col legno battuto

ord.

91

possibile tr

f *mp* *f* *p* *f* *mp*

mf *pp* *pp* *f*

mp *pp*

col legno battuto

ord.

96 ord. → sul pont.

f *p* *f* *fp*

pp *mf*

100 ♩ = 92
ord.

fp *f* *fp* *f* *p* *fp*

fff *n* *pp*

fff *n*

fff *n*

107

f *p* *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

f *f* *f* *p* *f*

f *f* *f* *p* *f* *p*

f *f* *f* *p* *f* *p*

111 ♩ = 72
G

pp *fp* *f* *f* *pp* *ff* *p* *p*

pp *ff* *f* *f* *pp* *ff* *p* *p*

p *ff* *f* *f* *pp* *ff* *p* *p*

ff *p* *f* *p* *pp* *ff* *p* *p*

117

Musical score for measures 117-120. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in alto clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with sixteenth and thirty-second notes. A dynamic marking of *p* is present in the second staff. A sixteenth-note sextuplet is indicated in the top staff at measure 118.

121

Musical score for measures 121-124. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in alto clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings include *pizz. l.v.* (pizzicato left hand) in the second and fourth staves. A five-note quintuplet is marked in the second staff at measure 121.

125

Musical score for measures 125-128. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in alto clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with sixteenth and thirty-second notes. A sixteenth-note sextuplet is indicated in the third staff at measure 125.

128

Musical score for measures 128-131. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in alto clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings include *p* and *pp* (pianissimo) in the second and third staves. A five-note quintuplet is marked in the second staff at measure 128.