

many echos, many ghosts

for flute, bass clarinet, violin, cello, and electronics

alex christie

2021

a note for the performers, but not for the audience:

many echos, many ghosts is about the things that linger (for better and for worse) when we're suddenly faced with an unexpected vacuum. This piece is for my dear friend Ryan Maguire who died on October 22, 2020. Ryan was one of the most thoughtful listeners I have ever known.

a note about electronics:

The electronics in this piece are entirely "fixed" (purely playback). I have provided the electronics in three forms: just electronic sound, electronic sound with click track, just click track.

performance instructions

many echos, many ghosts is a 14-note loop (in 4 parts) that is repeated 8 times. Both the electronics and acoustic instrumentalists engage with this loop with varying degrees of variation. The simultaneous and differing performances of this loop create illusions of emergence and cause and effect. Variations are notated in the right column in the structure below. Dynamics are described in the left column.

notation key

as written: play the loop as written (precise pitch, rhythm, and duration).

extend: players may sustain a pitch for longer than notated. After a player is done with an extended pitch, they must re-enter the sequence at the correct spot. In other words, if a player extends a note from measure 2 through measure 4, they must continue playing the notated pitch at measure five in rhythm with the rest of the ensemble.

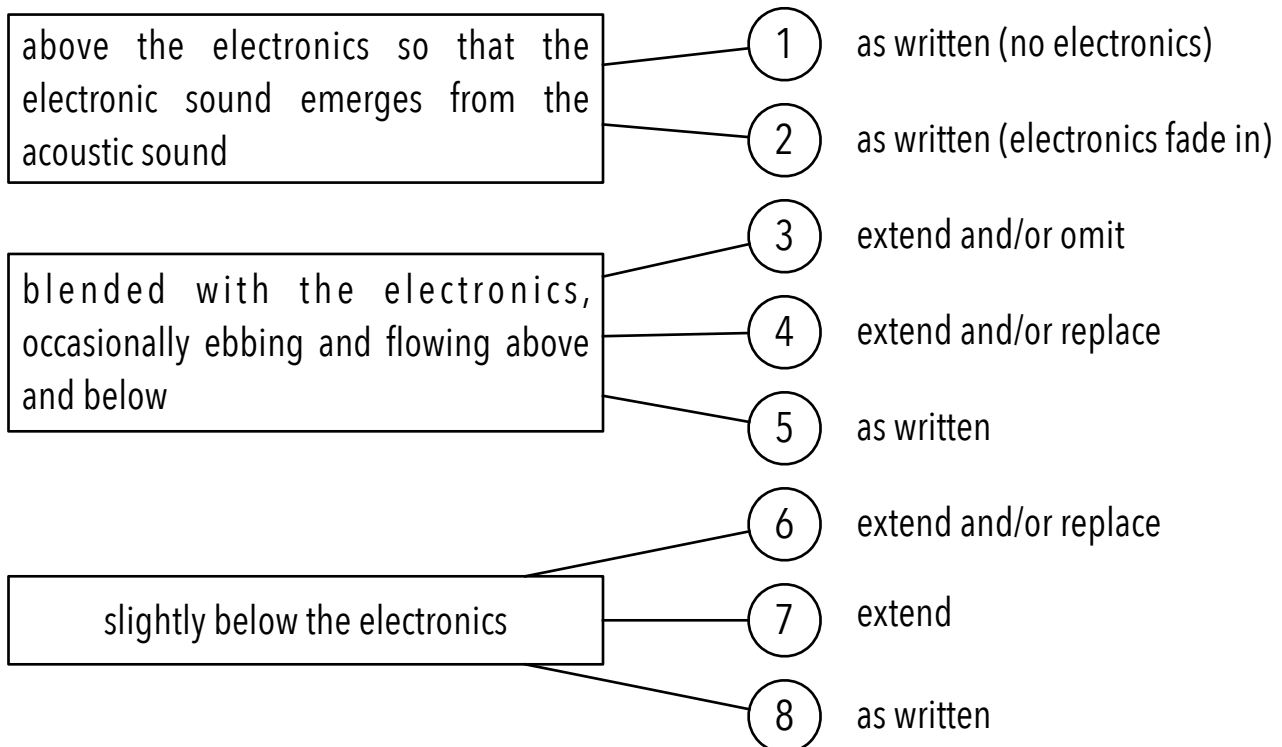
omit: players may choose to rest instead of playing a written pitch.

replace: players may choose to play a pitch other than the notated pitch. Players should replace a notated pitch only with a pitch they hear in the electronics. Players should replace only a maximum of 2 pitches per loop.

dynamics are described in relative terms in the boxes on the left

boundaries between sections are fluid, not strict

performance structure



many echos, many ghosts

Play the following 14-measure loop 8 times. Follow the instructions under "performance structure" for dynamics and variations.

$\text{♩} = 72$

Flute

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Violin

Violoncello

Detailed description: This block contains the first 14-measure loop of the score. It is written for four instruments: Flute, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Violin, and Violoncello. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The music is in 4/4 time. The Flute part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G4 with a flat (B-flat), and continues with a sequence of notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The Bass Clarinet part starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G3 with a sharp (B), and continues with: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2. The Violin part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G4 with a flat (B-flat), and continues with: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The Violoncello part starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G2 with a sharp (B), and continues with: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. The first measure of the loop includes a key signature change to B-flat major.

8

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

Detailed description: This block contains the second 14-measure loop of the score, starting at measure 8. It is written for the same four instruments: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The music continues from the first loop. The Flute part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G4 with a flat (B-flat), and continues with: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The Bass Clarinet part starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G3 with a sharp (B), and continues with: G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2. The Violin part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G4 with a flat (B-flat), and continues with: G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4. The Violoncello part starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter rest, then a half note G2 with a sharp (B), and continues with: G2, F2, E2, D2, C2, B1, A1. The first measure of this loop includes a key signature change to B-flat major. The final measure of the loop includes a dynamic marking of *8va* (octave up) for the Violoncello part.

many echos, many ghosts

Play the following 14-measure loop 8 times. Follow the instructions under "performance structure" for dynamics and variations.

$\text{♩} = 72$

Flute

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Violin

Violoncello

Detailed description: This block contains the first 14-measure loop of the score. It is written for four instruments: Flute, Bass Clarinet in Bb, Violin, and Violoncello. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 72. The music is in 4/4 time. The Flute part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of half notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The Bass Clarinet part starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of half notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The Violin part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of half notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The Violoncello part starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of half notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

8

Fl.

B. Cl.

Vln.

Vc.

8va

Detailed description: This block contains the second 14-measure loop of the score, starting at measure 8. It is written for four instruments: Flute (Fl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Violin (Vln.), and Violoncello (Vc.). The music is in 4/4 time. The Flute part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of half notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The Bass Clarinet part starts with a half note G3, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of half notes: G3, A3, B3, C4, D4, E4, F4, G4. The Violin part starts with a half note G4, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of half notes: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5. The Violoncello part starts with a half note G2, followed by a quarter rest, and then a series of half notes: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. The key signature has one flat (Bb). The Flute part ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The Bass Clarinet part ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The Violin part ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The Violoncello part ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The Violoncello part has an 8va marking above the final measure.