

Eliav Kohl

Arctic

(2015)

For two pianos
with friction mallets and an unplugged cassette tape

FOREWORD

My work *Arctic* (2015) is a two consecutive movement piece. Each movement portrays a different aspect of the same extreme environment. The overall process is of expansion; in my mind, as temperature decreases sound becomes static, as if time itself slows down. When the time-stretch is wide enough, it is possible to detect the granular nature of sound. Between every bit of information there is an empty space of silence. As I get closer, these intervals of absolute zero expand, until one becomes so vast, that a new yet similar internal universe of sounds begins to emerge from it. Thus, a desolate line is freezeed, stretched and stripped out of meaning, to make *Arctic* an imaginary trip to nothingness.

Explanation of sings

All accidentals applied traditionally, they hold until the end of the bar.

l.r. trem.

Left and right hand tremolo. The left hand is playing on the black keys and the right hand on the white keys.

The notes written in the ossia stave are the notes added to the chord, and the crossed letters above it indicate the notes that are subtracted from the chord.

The small haded notes in brackets indicate the new chords created by a substitution.

f.n. trem.
ir. gliss

Fingernails tremolo. This technique is to be applied directly on the strings. It is preferable to use four fingers, in order to create a more blurry sound.

ir. gliss = irregular glissando, also illustrated by the broken gliss lines.

ir.crec.dim

Irregular crescendo and diminuendo

Diminuendo to silence

m.s. trem.

Metal spoon tremolo. Use a metal spoon directly on the strings

ppp mf ppp

The x-headed notes indicate direct contact with the strings, and the regular headed note is to be played normally on the keyboard. Keep in mind, that the overall dynamic level held by the metal spoon tremolo is pianissimo, and the mf indicates only the left hand accent.

mute the string with your finger, while gradually change the finger's position until you reach any overtone node.

----- Gradually slowing down tremolo

1.v Let vibrate

Coin scratch. Slowly scratch the piano's lowest A-string coile wrapping with a coin.

Hit the strings with the palm of your hand a the approximate register.

Fingernail pluck. Pluck the indicated string with your fingernail.

Fragment repetition. Keep repeating this fragment, until the end of the line.

II

Place your left hand on the white keys and your right hand on the black keys, to create a chromatic cluster between the indicated notes.

Use superball mallets, or friction mallets to slowly rub against the piano's wooden frame.

Rub your finger against a magnetic tape. The tape is to be tied to the note Eb4 before the beginning of the performance. Use one hand to stretch the tape, and the other hand to "bow" it.

ARCTIC

Eliav Kohl

I

♩=40

PIANO I

ppp **l.r. trem. sempre**

ppp **Ped. sempre**

p

PIANO II

♩=40

f.n. trem

ir. gliss

ppp **ir. cresc. dim**

p

Ped. sempre

accents are out of dynamic line

9

Ab G Gb F E Eb D

out out Eb Db C Bb A

mp *ppp mf* *pp* *fpp* ir.crec.

m.s.trem ir.gliss

ir.crec.dim *mp* *ppp mf ppp* *mp ppp* *mp ppp* *mf ppp* *p* *mf* *p*

muted → node

l.v 3

17

fff

node 3 3

fff

II

I

p muted → node

pp

pp m.s.trem

ppp → *mp*

mp (mp) *pp*

mp (mp) *pp*

ppp → *mp*

pp *pp*

II

pp c.scratch

mp f.n.pluck 3

p

fpp muted → node

mp

3 3 3 5

fn.trem
ir.gliss

Hand icon

Detailed description: This musical score is for two violas, labeled I and II. Part I consists of two staves in bass clef. The first staff begins with a dynamic of *p* and a 'muted' instruction with an arrow pointing to a 'node' (indicated by a dashed line). It features a series of chords and a triplet of eighth notes. The second staff starts with *pp* and includes a 'Ped. sempre' instruction. It contains a triplet of eighth notes, a 'muted' instruction with an arrow to a 'node', and a triplet of eighth notes. Part II consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and includes a triplet of eighth notes with 'f.n.pluck' and *mp* dynamics, followed by a single eighth note with *p* and a triplet of eighth notes with *fpp* and a 'muted' instruction with an arrow to a 'node'. The lower staff is in bass clef and starts with *pp* and 'c.scratch' (with a hand icon), followed by three triplets of eighth notes and a quintuplet of eighth notes.

I

ppp p > ppp p

pp senza ciec.

II

f.n.pluck node f.n.pluck muted node

mp pp p

pp

I

p

ppp

II

s.b.mallet

cluster

mp mp mp mp

ppp ppp ppp ppp