

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.

Entropy

Perpetual Decelerando

Jordan Nobles

♩ = 144

♩ = 136

Musical notation for measures 1-4. The piece is in 4/4 time. Measures 1-3 are empty staves with a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 4 begins with a treble clef and a tempo marking of *♩ = 136*. The right hand plays a series of chords, and the left hand plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. A *Ped. sempre* marking is present below the left hand.

♩ = 128

Musical notation for measures 5-7. The tempo is *♩ = 128*. The right hand continues with chords, and the left hand with eighth notes. A *Let ring, keep sustain pedal down throughout* instruction is written below the right hand.

A ♩ = 120

Musical notation for measures 8-11. A section marked **A** begins at measure 8 with a tempo of *♩ = 120*. The right hand has a whole note chord with a fermata and a '2' above it. The left hand has a whole note chord with a fermata and a '2' below it. The right hand then plays a series of chords, and the left hand plays eighth notes with a flat.

♩ = 112

Musical notation for measures 12-14. The tempo is *♩ = 112*. The right hand plays chords, and the left hand plays eighth notes with a flat. Measures 13-14 show the right hand with a whole note chord and a fermata, and the left hand with a whole note chord and a fermata, both with a '2' above/below.

Piano

♩ = 104

16

B ♩ = 96

18

♩ = 88

22

♩ = 80

24

C ♩ = 72

27

♩ = 64

29

32

34 $\text{♩} = 56$ **D**

$\text{♩} = 96$

mp

$\text{♩} = 80$

40 $\text{♩} = 88$

44 **E** $\text{♩} = 72$

48 $\text{♩} = 64$

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

56 $\text{♩} = 88$

p

60 $\text{♩} = 80$ **G** $\text{♩} = 72$

p

65 $\text{♩} = 64$

p

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

p

74 $\text{♩} = 88$ $\text{♩} = 80$

p

80 I ♩ = 72

85 ♩ = 64 J ♩ = 56

89 J ♩ = 48

pp

93 ♩ = 40

ppp

8va

97 ♩ = 32 2 ♩ = 24 2

5