SPIRAL for solo violin and ensemble

Robert Hasegawa 2008

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Spiral is a study in sustained timbral combinations, drones, and just intonation harmony. The harmonic language of the piece is based on a progression of overtone series chords. These chords are centered around five successive drones—on the third, fifth, seventh, ninth, and eleventh overtones of a low F. Harmonies are arranged around each drone so that the drone pitch is heard successively in different harmonic meanings: for example, the initial C drone is heard first as the 3rd overtone of F, then the 5th overtone of A-flat, then the 7th-overtone of D, and so on. A low F appears at the beginning of each of the five sections, as one drone gives way to another.

Microtonal pitches are notated as follows:

closed-headed arrows indicate an adjustment of 16 cents (a sixth of a semitone) up or down open-headed arrows indicate an adjustment of 33 cents (a third of a semitone) up or down

Altered accidentals indicate quartertones:

quartertone sharp:

quartertone flat:

The notated pitches are the closest approximations in 72-tone equal temperament of pitches in just intonation: players may make slight adjustments to make the just intervals perfectly in tune. In a few instances, a held note must be corrected by a small 16-cent interval—here, a dashed tie indicates that the pitch adjustment should be made without a new attack.

Long tones for wind instruments should be played in one breath where possible—when this is impractical, a brief break in the tone and a discreet re-entrance is acceptable. String instruments should change bow as necessary. Both wind and string instruments should play with a full, rich tone without vibrato.

Duration: ca. 7'45"

This piece is dedicated to Gabriela Diaz, Eric Hewitt, and the White Rabbit Ensemble.









































