

Corriente Fluida for (variable) chamber ensemble, 2007

Corriente Fluida is Spanish for flowing current or flowing stream. The work attempts to create textures of varying density out of the gradual presentation of a single stream of music. The textures created are characterized by an increasing contrapuntal complexity that is both indeterminate in each performance and temporally adjustable within well define boundaries. With the exception of Percussion and Piano scores, which may add a repetitive rhythmic pattern, all performers play from the same type of score. In other words, there are no individual parts. Of great importance is the independent quality provided to each performer, which implies that the music should not feature one performer over another, thus creating the illusion of a single wall of sound with no hierarchical order of background, middle ground, or foreground. The work can, in fact, be performed either by a soloist or by ensembles of different size and of different instrumentation as long as they are able to perform in the given register.

About the notation:

The work is structured as a single movement where six modules present an increasing number of options for ramification. For example, Module 1 functions both as the beginning as well as the ending of the work. Module 2 presents a point of arrival and departure with two possible paths. Module 3 presents a point of arrival and departure with three possible paths, and so on until Module 6 which eventually returns to Module 1. Each phrase may be repeated 2 to 5 times with the choice being left to the performer. Furthermore, each point of arrival and departure functions as a meeting point for the ensemble. At these points, the players are expected to synchronize with each other before moving on to the next module through a path of their choice. Overall, the textures can be perceived as a wash of sound that changes density through the ramification and unification of multiple voices.

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