Karlheinz Essl

Trois Cent Drones

for toy piano and live-electronics 2019-2021

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PLAYING INSTRUCTIONS

Written for a three-octave toy piano (range: F - f), this piece sounds best on a Michelsonne instrument. However, it can also be performed on a Schoenhut Baby Grand or any other toy piano with the appropriate range of three octaves.

Although notated solely in quavers, the tempo emcompasses a wde range from very slow to extremly fast. Starting with a speed of MM = 50, it gradually accelerates to MM = 400 which equals three "time octaves", speaking with Karlheinz Stockhausen (cf. his famous article *...how time passes...* from 1957). A similiar transition also happens in the harmonic domain where the full range of the toy piano – 3 octaves from F to f" – finally collapses into a single pitch. And also in the dynamics, where a permanent process of *crescendo* and *diminuendo* takes place. Needless to mention, all this processes happen simultaneously at the same time. Despite its strict structure, the piece should be played in a fluent *rubato* attitude with lots of *espressivo*.

Please listen to the computer simulation of this piece in order to understand its harmonic, temporal and dynamic development:

https://www.essl.at/works/TCD.html#snd

LIVE ELECTRONICS

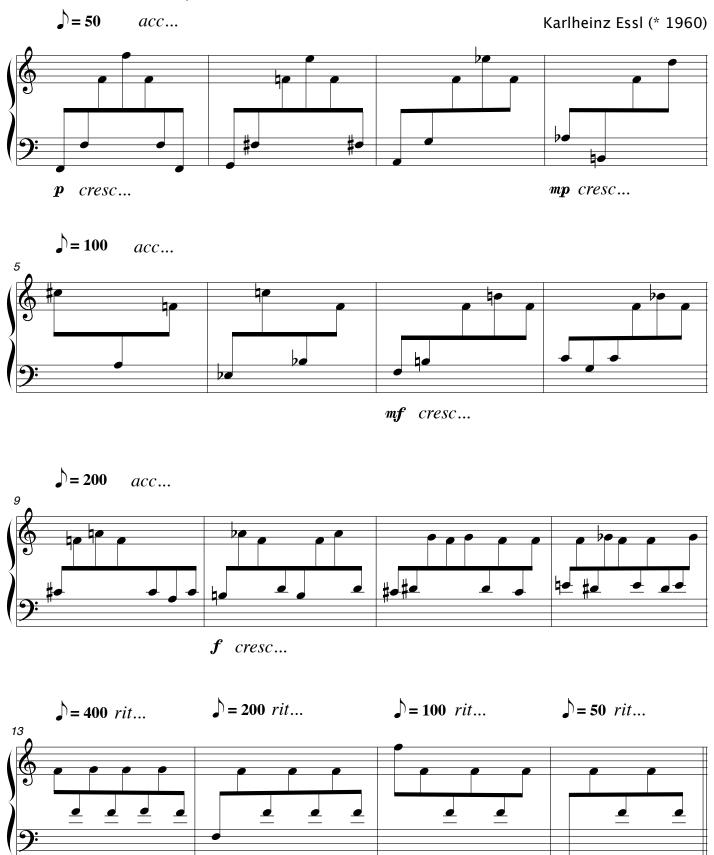
This piece requires a special macOS software written in MaxMSP that can be requested from the author by <u>e-mail</u>. It creates artificial resonance of the toy piano sounds that are transmitted via a (contact) microphone to a computer. The intensity of these spectral drones (which are generated in realtime by an audio plug-in developed by Michael Norris) will be controlled by a second musician on the computer.

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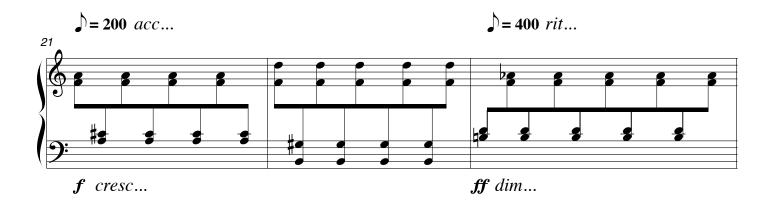
2019 - 2021

Molto rubato e espressivo











f dim...

