

Karlheinz Essl

on common ground

for cello and piano
2020

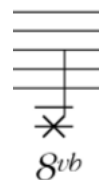
Dedicated to Emanuele Torquati & Francesco Dillon

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Throughout the entire piece, a "drone" based on c is held in the 3rd pedal. This pitch and its harmonic components create a shimmering background that represents the "common ground" which forms the basis of the harmonic structure. In the very beginning, the pianist presses the 5 octaves of this note (using the nose as well) silently and holds it with the sostenuto pedal until the end of the performance.

The composition lives from the interaction between cello and piano – a kind of discourse which encompasses a broad variety of expressions and reactions. Besides the obvious dialogic aspect, both players with their individual instruments are part of an uncommon "hyper-instrument" which they shape and modify together.

Playing instructions



prepared key: damp C0 with tuning wedges on both sides of the string



pluck string inside the piano with finger nail



quasi trillo: irregular permutation of the three notes

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♩ = 60

Karlheinz Essl (* 1960)

The first system of the score consists of three staves: Cello (bass clef), Piano (treble and bass clefs), and a prepared piano section (bass clef). The Cello staff starts in 6/4 time, changes to 5/4, then 4/4, and ends in 3/4. The Piano staff starts in 6/4, changes to 5/4, then 4/4, and ends in 3/4. The prepared piano section starts in 6/4, changes to 5/4, then 4/4, and ends in 3/4. The score includes various dynamics such as *ppp*, *pp*, *mp*, *sfz*, *p*, and *mf*. It also features trills (*tr*) and plucked notes (*plucked*). Performance instructions include "smash piano lid" and "press this key with your nose". The prepared piano section includes "prepared key" and "8vb" markings. A rehearsal mark "3P" is followed by a double bar line and the word "Red." with a line extending to the right.

rit. **a tempo**

The second system of the score consists of three staves: Cello (bass clef), Piano (treble and bass clefs), and a prepared piano section (bass clef). The Cello staff starts in 4/4 time, changes to 3/4, then 2/4, and ends in 3/4. The Piano staff starts in 4/4, changes to 3/4, then 2/4, and ends in 3/4. The prepared piano section starts in 4/4, changes to 3/4, then 2/4, and ends in 3/4. The score includes various dynamics such as *p*, *mp*, *f*, *pp*, *mf*, and *ppp*. It also features plucked notes (*plucked*) and a flaut. marking. Performance instructions include "pizz. arco" and "s.t.". The prepared piano section includes "8vb" markings. A rehearsal mark "Red." is followed by a double bar line and the word "Red." with a line extending to the right.

13

s.t. *s.p.* *s.p.* *pizz.* *arco*

p *ff* *p* *f* *mf* *f* *sfz* *pp*

p *p* *f* *p* *mf*

f

17

mf *tr* *f* *pp* *mf* *tr* *pp* *pp*

pp *mp* *pp* *tr* *pp*

pp *mp* *pp* *Sub* *sfz* *f* *p*

pp *mp* *pp* *Sub* *sfz* *f* *p*

Red. *Red.*

acc. ----- ♩ = 90 rit. -----

23 *pizz.*

sfz *p* *f* *mf* *p* *sfz* *f*

tr *tr* *mf* *pp* *pp* *mf* *pp*

pp *mf* *pp* *p* *f*

Red.

arco
8th 4th 2nd

sfz *f* *pp* *mf* *pp*

Sub *sfz* *Red.*

28 ♩ = 60

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *p* *f* *pp*

p *f* *p* *f*

Red. *Sub* *sfz* *sf* *Sub* *sfz*

32

f *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f*

mf *pp* *mf* *pp* *mf* *mf* *mf*

pp *mf* *pp* *mf* *pp* *sfz* *sfz*

Red.

37

arco *tr* *s.p.* *tr* *tr* *tr*

sfz *f* *p* *mp* *f* *mp* *f* *pp* *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp*

pp *mp* *pp* *mf* *pp* *sfz* *sfz*

Sub

42 *tr* *f* *tr* *s.p.*

ff *f* *mf* *p* *f* *pp*

8vb sfz *Red.* *HP* *Red.*

47 *ord.* *saltando* *ricochet*

f *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *f* *mf* *mp* *p* *f* *pp* *mf* *pp* *ff* *f* *mf*

8vb sfz *p* *f* *8vb sfz* *p* *f* *8vb sfz*

HP

♩ = 48 *acc.* ----- ♩ = 96 *rit.*

ricochet *espressivo con rubato* *ricochet*

52

mp *p* *f* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf* *sf*

pp *mp* *pp*

sfpp *mp* *pp* *8^{sub} sfz* *HP*

Red. →

p *f* *p*

♩ = 60

57

ord. s.p. *ord. > s.p.* *s.t.* *s.t.* → *s.p.*

sfz *p* *sfz* *mf* *f* *ff*

pp *mf* *pp* *f* *pp*

8^{sub} p *ff*

62

rit. *rit.* *into the noise...*

pizz. *arco*

ff *p*

glissando on white keys

p *p*

8vb *8vb*

sffz *p* *p*

rit.

67