

Karlheinz Essl

Sequitur VI

for trumpet and live-electronics

2008

Dedicated to Jörg Engels

© 2008 by Karlheinz Essl
www.essl.at

Karlheinz Essl

Sequitur (2008)

for various solo instruments and live-electronics

Sequitur is a series of compositions for solo instruments and live-electronics which are written for outstanding soloists. The aim is to create various pieces which use the same computer program – the so-called *Sequitur-Generator* – written in MaxMSP. It generates a complex 8-part canon from the instrument's live input as an accompaniment. Unlike traditional canons, the individual canonic layers do not enter at regular intervals but in a sort of acceleration which results in an increasing structural density. Moreover, the single canonic layers are getting gradually distorted – as if they were decaying. And at last, the 8 parts do not always play together, but are constantly cross-faded by using random operations which results in every-changing and unforeseeable structural interactions where the canon can vary between 1 and 8 voices.

In other words: A strict and mechanical construction principle of the canon (hence the title *Sequitur* from the latin word which translates into "it follows") is subversively excavated. This finally results in an unpredictable system that in fact uses the input of the soloist as its basic material but also shows an autonomous and surprising behaviour.

This dichotomy challenges the soloist who is performing a score which consists of accurately notated musical actions that are separated by fermatas. As the lengths of those fermatas is not indicated, the performer decides how long they should last - according to the output which the computer creates in real time.

Finally, the computer-generated canon structures run through a series of sound transformers (like ringmodulator, detuner, flanger and comb filter) where the sonic shape of the sound is being altered. These are controlled by a sequence of pre-composed preset which can be called by the player by pressing the space on his computer keyboard according to the indications of the score. At each key stroke, the next preset will be loaded which gradually changes the positions of the FX sliders.

The title *Sequitur* advertently relates to the famous "Sequenze" of Luciano Berio. It is an attempt to write a series of pieces which take advantage of the idiosyncratic instrumental possibilities - and confront them with a realtime sound processing environment that has its own secret life.

More information at:

<http://www.essl.at/works/sequitur.html>

37 *rit.* *tr* *tr* *straight* *a tempo* *tr* *tr*

mf mp p f mf mf

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 37 to 43. It begins with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. Above the staff, there are two diagrams: the first shows a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing right, and the second shows a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing left. The music starts with a rest, followed by a half note in 6/4 time, then a quarter note in 5/4 time, and a series of eighth notes in 4/4 time. A 'rit.' (ritardando) marking is above the staff. A box containing the number '9' is above the staff. The music then returns to a 3/8 time signature with a 'straight' marking and 'a tempo' instruction. It ends with two half notes, each with a tremolo effect indicated by a wavy line.

44 *tr* *lip trem.* *via sord.* 10 5 *quasi eco* 11

mf mf p ff p f mp

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 44 to 51. It starts with a treble clef and a 3/8 time signature. Above the staff, there are two diagrams: a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing right, and a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing left. The music begins with a tremolo effect, followed by a half note with 'lip trem.' and a half note with 'via sord.'. A box containing the number '10' is above the staff. The music continues with a series of eighth notes in 2/4 time, marked with a '5' and a slur. A box containing the number '11' is above the staff. The music then moves to a 3/8 time signature with a 'quasi eco' marking and ends with a half note.

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

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 52 to 60. It starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. Above the staff, there are two diagrams: a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing right, and a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing left. The music begins with a half note, followed by a quarter note, and then a series of eighth notes in 2/4 time. It then moves to a 3/4 time signature with a half note, followed by a quarter note, and then a series of eighth notes in 2/4 time. It ends with a half note in 3/4 time.

61 12 *Hand on mouthpiece* *sfz* *ff* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *p*

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 61 to 67. It starts with a treble clef and a 4/4 time signature. Above the staff, there are two diagrams: a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing right, and a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing left. The music begins with a series of eighth notes in 4/4 time, marked with a '3' and a slur. A box containing the number '12' is above the staff. The music then moves to a 2/4 time signature with a half note, marked with 'Hand on mouthpiece' and 'sfz'. It continues with a series of eighth notes in 4/4 time, marked with a '3' and a slur. The music then moves to a 2/4 time signature with a half note, followed by a quarter note, and then a series of eighth notes in 4/4 time. It ends with a half note in 4/4 time.

68 13 *sim.* *(„valve tremolo“)* 14 *mf* *p* *f*

mf p mp ff mf p f

Detailed description: This musical staff covers measures 68 to 74. It starts with a treble clef and a 3/4 time signature. Above the staff, there are two diagrams: a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing right, and a circle with a plus sign and an arrow pointing left. The music begins with a series of eighth notes in 3/4 time, marked with a '3' and a slur. A box containing the number '13' is above the staff. The music then moves to a 4/4 time signature with a half note, marked with 'sim.' and '(„valve tremolo“)'. A box containing the number '14' is above the staff. The music then moves to a 2/4 time signature with a half note, followed by a quarter note, and then a series of eighth notes in 4/4 time. It ends with a half note in 3/4 time.

♩=72

75 15 *hit open hand on mouthpiece* 16

83 17

91 18 *rit. ————— molto ————— a tempo*