Richard Harding

Turkish Delight

Turkish Delight is for any number of players, playing any instruments, and of indeterminate duration.

It consists of thirty-one sections, which are played in order.

Each section is has three strands:

i. Pitch indications to be played, in any octave, as drones. The notes are to be played with smooth attack and decay, and sustained for the length of a breath.

ii. Melodic fragments, which may be transposed into any octave.The black noteheads indicate short durations, the white noteheads long durations.The precise note lengths are left to the performers to decide.The clef and key signature at the start of each line apply to all the boxes on that line.

iii. Instructions for improvisation. These indicate the scale and expressive gestures to be used.

Each player is free to shift between strands i, ii and iii as and when they choose as the performance proceeds. Also, never underestimate the power of silence.

The change from one section to the next may be cued by the ensemble leader, or negotiated between the members of the ensemble by ear as they play.

The piece may be ended on a cue, or as the players drop out one by one in the final section.

Turkish Delight.

Richard Harding 2011







