CHANGE 5

flute, clarinet, violin and cello (with coins)

Robert Blatt
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Concerning the coins

Each musician has five differently sized coins, resulting in different pitches when spun on their edge. Each musician need not use the same type of coins; however, in such cases, the coins are divided so that higher pitched coins are distributed to the flute, proceeding to the violin, clarinet and cello. Each coin is notated as a number inside a circle, with 0 as the lowest pitched coin and 5 as the highest pitched coin. The coins must be a valid form of currency.

Concerning the score

The composition is in two halves. Each half involves reading through the score once.

The first half of the piece consists of the ensemble notating the second half of the piece. The musicians read through the score, spinning coins on their edge as indicated on the bottom staff associated with their instrument. Coins are spun in small groups of one to five coins at a time, indicated by isolated measures in the score. Once all coins from a measure have come to rest, the musicians write the specific note associated with the landing heads or tails side of the coin in the blank measure above the notation for that coin. In sections A, the musicians begin spinning their coins independently but collectively maintain a silence between each measure. In this section, a coin does not come to rest before spinning the succeeding coin from that measure. In section B, the musicians maintain a continuous texture of spinning coins shifting from musician to musician, where the rate at which the musicians spin their coins, the speed at which they notate the results, and when they begin to spin their next group of coins is collectively monitored. In section C, the musicians spin their vertically aligned coins together.

The second half of the piece consists of the ensemble performing on their instruments following the realization of the score. Durations and rhythms are free within the following constraints. In section A, the musicians begin and end each measure independently but collectively maintain a silence between each measure. In section B, the musicians maintain a continuous texture of downward moving lines shifting from musician to musician. In section C, the musicians begin and end each of their vertically aligned notes together.

The clarinet is transposed to Bb in the score.

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A slow, quiet and with a clean, pure tone
Coin Assignments
Section B

B rather fast
C slow and with every subsequent note in a measure played a little longer, softer and quieter