

Quickening

open score for chamber ensemble

Jordan Nobles

North Vancouver, November 2012

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About the Piece

Quickening was premiered by the Aventa Ensemble, directed by Bill Linwood, on December 4, 2012.

The original Performance included *Quickening*, *Surface Tension* and *Rogue Waves* all played attacca.

Performance Notes

- *Quickening* involves swells of very fast tremolos that gradually decelerate to slow pulses and finally a C drone.
- each system has a set of pitches to choose from to tremolo and a dynamic which one can rise to
- each dynamic swell should proceed from as quiet as possible to the given dynamic at the head of each system
- systems have to be played in order, each lasting approx. 20 seconds or so; musicians proceed independently, playing 1, 2, or 3 notes per system and then moving down to the next system
- pitches can be played in any octave as long as the dynamics are observed
- there is no pulse or synchronization required or desired

For example:

System 1 could sound like this:

approx. 20 sec.

1

ppp < *f* > *ppp* < *f* > *ppp* *ppp* < *f* > *ppp* < *f* > *ppp*

Detailed description: This musical notation for System 1 is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a series of 16 very fast, closely spaced notes, creating a tremolo effect. The dynamic markings below the staff show a swell from *ppp* to *f* and back to *ppp*, repeated twice. After a 7-measure rest, the notation continues with another series of 16 notes, but these are spaced out to create a pulse. The dynamic markings show a swell from *ppp* to *f* and back to *ppp*. A dashed line above the staff indicates a duration of approximately 20 seconds.

System 4 could sound like this:

approx. 20 sec.

4

ppp < *p* > *ppp* *ppp* < *p* > *ppp*

Detailed description: This musical notation for System 4 is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a series of 16 notes, creating a tremolo effect. The dynamic markings below the staff show a swell from *ppp* to *p* and back to *ppp*. After a 7-measure rest, the notation continues with another series of 16 notes, but these are spaced out to create a pulse. The dynamic markings show a swell from *ppp* to *p* and back to *ppp*. Brackets above the notes indicate groups of 5 notes. A dashed line above the staff indicates a duration of approximately 20 seconds.

And **system 7** could sound like this:

approx. 20 sec.

7

ppp < *p* > *ppp* *ppp* < *p* > *ppp*

Detailed description: This musical notation for System 7 is written on a single treble clef staff. It begins with a series of 16 notes, creating a tremolo effect. The dynamic markings below the staff show a swell from *ppp* to *p* and back to *ppp*. Brackets below the notes indicate groups of 3 notes. After a 7-measure rest, the notation continues with another series of 16 notes, but these are spaced out to create a pulse. The dynamic markings show a swell from *ppp* to *p* and back to *ppp*. A dashed line above the staff indicates a duration of approximately 20 seconds.

Instrument Specific Notes

Winds & Brass: play fluttertongue at the beginning and then triple, double or single tonguing as the pulse slows

Strings: use sul ponticello throughout

Percussion: play on mallet instruments, possibly starting on harder mallets at first and softer near the end

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Play random notes in each system, in any octave, play each system for approx. 20 sec. then move on to the next one

- tremolo as fast as possible (winds and brass fluttertongue), fast, multiple dynamic swells, tremolo any notes in any octave



- tremolo very quickly (winds and brass fluttertongue), multiple dynamic swells, any notes in any octave



- tremolo quickly (winds and brass double or triple tongue), slower dynamic swells



- tremolo slower (winds and brass double or single tongue), slower dynamic swells



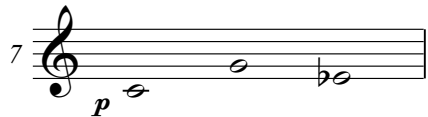
- fast pulses (winds and brass single tonguing)



- medium pulses, slow, longer swells



- slow pulses, slow swells



- very slow pulse, slow swells



- very slow pulse



- repeat 9 very slowly until everyone arrives on 9
- very slow dynamic swells, repeat in any octave

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- tremolo very quickly (winds and brass fluttertongue), multiple dynamic swells, any notes in any octave

2 

- tremolo quickly (winds and brass double or triple tongue), slower dynamic swells

3 

- tremolo slower (winds and brass double or single tongue), slower dynamic swells

4 

- fast pulses (winds and brass single tonguing)

5 

- medium pulses, slow, longer swells

6 

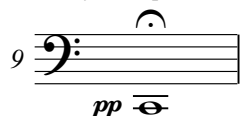
- slow pulses, slow swells

7 

- very slow pulse, slow swells

8 

- very slow pulse

9 

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- tremolo quickly (winds and brass double or triple tongue), slower dynamic swells

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- tremolo slower (winds and brass double or single tongue), slower dynamic swells

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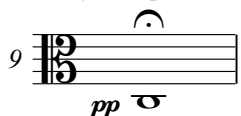
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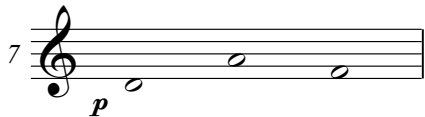
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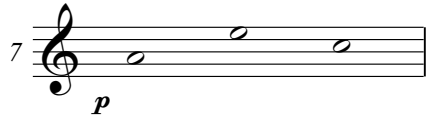
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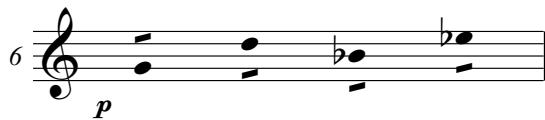
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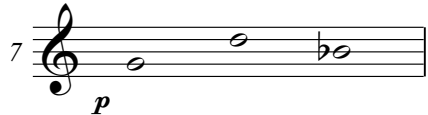
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