

update status, always

(a thing that chirps)

Joel Kirk (2021)

solo violin

c. 6 minutes

update status, always

c. 6 minutes
solo violin
(a thing that chirps) Joel Kirk (2021)
for Lorenzo Gorli at the 2021 Divertimento Ensemble Young Composers Festival

Program note:

Since the rise of social media platforms in the late-1990s, human-to-human communication has never been easier. In fact, many believe that it has become too easy. We can scroll and scroll through our social media pages all day and never see anything new. Each day on social media is a re-permutation the same statuses, the same memes, the same pictures, and the same comments; it is a simulacrum of superficiality. The virtual world is a closed circuit, and we are all stuck in it; blissfully circulating.


This piece is derived from fragments of the similarly named piece for small chamber ensemble “*always update status*” written for Ensemble Signal earlier in 2021 for the June in Buffalo festival. 15 single measures of this piece were taken and compressed into one line. Through various processes of improvisation, these 15 compressed measures were then juxtaposed into various permutations against each-other to form one ‘stanza’. This stanza is repeated thrice in this piece, with each iteration being a rough tracing of the previous; an ephemeral, etched rendering of that which preceded it.

Always in a state of forward motion, this piece slowly runs out of energy and breaks down;
all progression is ultimately proven futile as it circulates around a limited repertoire of 15 slowly decaying motifs.

Staging:


- this piece should be played from iPad OR have the pages printed out single-sided and laid out continuously on multiple stands.
- the flow of this piece should not be disrupted by page turns, even in the short pauses.
- the ending of this piece is most effective if it can be facilitated that the performer can slowly exit the view of the audience (either by walking off stage or dimming the lighting to darkness, however this is not compulsory).

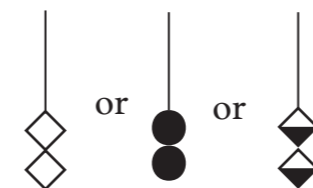
Notations:

 diamond notehead = harmonic finger pressure;
indeterminate harmonics (exact pitch not essential
so long as the effect is achieved) - light, shimmering,
ethereal tone

 bow tremolo

 ricochet

 half-harmonic finger pressure;
veiled/weak/unstable tone
- feeble flickering

 or or double stop (strings at discretion of performer)

= 80 *meccanico e leggero*
tempo licenza; sempre con molto rubato

1 *smfz mp* 5:4 *smfz mp* 5:4 *smfz mp* 5:4 *smfz mp* 5:4 *smfz* *gliss.* *mp* 5:4 *p*

7 *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *gliss.* *mp* 5:4 *p* *smfz* 3:2 *mp* *smfz mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* 5:4 *smfz*

13 *smfz* 3:2 *smfz* *mp* *smfz mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* *gliss.* 5:4 *p* *gliss.* 5:4 *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *smfz*

19 *gliss.* 5:4 *mf* *p* *smfz* 5:4 *smfz* *pp* *smfz mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* *ricochet* 3:2 *mp* *smfz* *mp*

25 *smfz* *ricochet* 3:2 *mp* *smfz* *mp* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *gliss.* 5:4 *mf* *mp* 5:4 *p* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp*

31 *smfz* 3:2 *smfz* *mp* *mp* 3:2 *smfz* *mp* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *smfz* *smfz mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp* *ricochet* 3:2 *mp* *smfz* *mp* 5:4 *smfz* *mp*

[illegible]

82 *gliss.* s.p. ord. s.p. *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

88 *gliss.* *gliss.*

94

100 *gliss.* *gliss.* *gliss.*

106 **3**
4

III **2**
4 c. 3-4 seconds

mp, pp, p, smpz, ppp, 5:4, 3:2, s.p., ord., gliss., 3/4, 2/4

= 56 *molto meno mosso*

s.p. - flautando (indeterminate harmonics; ephemeral, shimmering tone)

116

spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 gliss. 5:4 pp ppp

122

pp 5:4 spz gliss. 5:4 ppp spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz

128

spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp gliss. 5:4 pp ppp gliss. 5:4 pp ppp pp 5:4 spz spz

134

gliss. 5:4 pp ppp pp 5:4 spz ppp spz pp 5:4 spz 3:2 pp spz pp

140

spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp gliss. 5:4 pp ppp gliss. 5:4 pp ppp pp 5:4 spz pp

146

spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz pp gliss. 5:4 spz 3:2 pp spz pp 5:4 spz pp

152

spz pp spz pp 3:2 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 spz pp 5:4 spz

gliss. gliss. gliss.

158

pp spz spz pp 3:2 5:4 spz spz 3/4 pp

163

5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4

rall. e dim poco a poco al fine

167

5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4

171

5:4 5:4 5:4 5:4

repeat ad lib. a niente, continually rising in pitch.
slowly exit from view of the audience if possible, either by walking off stage or dimming the lighting to darkness

Buffalo; USA

05/2021

(revised Milan, ITA; 09/2021)