

ENTR'ACTES (1979 - 1982)

For bass clarinet solo

The work consists of four Entr'actes, each constructed from two interactive but ultimately independent types of material.

The first, fairly static and non-developmental in character, is derived from a repertoire of 'known gestures' that overlap, are mirrored, superimposed and continuously re-stated in various juxtapositions one to another. The second consists of a complex network of nested proportional relationships mapped onto a set of interlocking tempi and articulated by means of an excessively dense array of parametric detail.

In addition, both types of material are subjected to a paraphrase technique, similar both in thematic scope and intent to those from 'Sangbec II', one or more such paraphrases occurring during the course of each Entr'acte. These paraphrases are essentially fragmented 'excavations' of the Entr'actes and share the same musical 'space'. Furthermore, these paraphrases progressively dominate the musical structure, rather in the manner of mutant genes in genetic engineering, developing a life of their own that is consistently urgent, violent and unpredictable. Thus, although both Entr'actes and in-built paraphrases exhibit specific common traits, the underlying process is one of mutual independence.

The entire work is designed to be performed as a 'frame' within and around which other works may be placed. In this context it is essential that each Entr'acte be clearly separated from the other three by one or more pieces. No Entr'acte may be repeated however, and all four Entr'actes should be performed. Free choice may be exercised in the ordering of the Entr'actes as this will largely depend upon contextual programming criteria.

Entr'actes may also be performed as a single work in concert. Within this context the cyclic nature of the compositional scheme should be emphasised by using one of the following order sequences; 1,2,3,4; 2,3,4,1; 3,4,1,2; or 4,1,2,3.

Entr'actes for bass clarinet solo was commissioned by Harry Sparnaay with funds provided by the Music Board of the Australia Council and is dedicated to the Australian sculptor, Lenton Parr.