

Serenity Meditation
(after Ives)
for chamber orchestra

Kyle Gann
2011

Serenity Meditation (2011)

"Serenity" (1919) is one of my favorite songs by Charles Ives, and one of the rare pieces in his output in which his mysticism achieved the state of a timeless continuum. I've always regretted its brevity, and the two perfunctory chords that bring it to a premature conclusion. One day it occurred to me to take the song's material and stretch it out over a longer period of time. I also added in a few motives from his last composed song, "Sunrise" (1926), which has a similarly aimless feel, plus a phrase from "General William Booth Enters into Heaven." I like to think I extracted what was Feldman-like from Ives's most Feldmanesque pieces, and turned it into something Gannian. I wrote the piece after Neely Bruce invited me to give the keynote address for a festival of Ives's songs, and I dedicate the piece to him.

Instrumentation: two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets in Bb, bass clarinet, two bassoons, solo horn, chimes, timpani, celesta, strings

Duration: 13 minutes

to Neely Bruce

Serenity Meditation

Devout, reverent

$\text{♩} = 35$

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Musical score for *Serenity Meditation*. The score consists of 13 staves, each with a different instrument or group of instruments. The instruments are: Flutes, Oboes, Clarinets in B♭, Bass Clarinet in B♭, Bassoon, Horn in F, Chimes, Timpani, Celesta, Violin I, Violin II, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass. The score is in common time (indicated by a '2' over a '3') and the key signature is A major (one sharp). The tempo is marked as 'Devout, reverent' with a quarter note value of 35. The dynamics are generally soft, with 'p' (pianissimo) markings for the Timpani and Celesta. The Timpani part uses 'medium mallets'. The Celesta part includes a dynamic marking of '♩ = 35' below the staff. The score is divided into measures by vertical bar lines.

Serenity Meditation

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A musical score for orchestra and timpani. The score consists of ten staves. From top to bottom: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Chimes, Timpani (Timp.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Double Bass (Vc.), and Cello (Cb.). The flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, horn, chimes, and timpani staves have single vertical stems. The cello, violin, viola, double bass, and second cello staves have double vertical stems. Measure 8 starts with eighth-note rests for all instruments. The timpani play a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The cellos play eighth-note patterns. The violins play eighth-note patterns with dynamic markings: 'div.' followed by two 'pp' (pianissimo) dynamics. The violins also have grace notes above them. The viola and double bass remain silent. The second cello remains silent.

Serenity Meditation

15

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

1.

p

1.

mf

Serenity Meditation

22

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

28

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

35

A

a 2

mp

mf

mf

p

p

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

Musical score for orchestra and timpani, page 7, measure 41. The score consists of ten staves:

- Flute (Fl.):** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Measure 41 starts with a triplet bracket over three measures.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Rests throughout the measure.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamics: *mf*, *mf*.
- Bassoon (B. Cl.):** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamics: *mf*, *mf*.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Playing sustained notes with slurs.
- Timpani (Timp.):** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Measure 41 ends with a triplet bracket over three measures.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Rests throughout the measure.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Rests throughout the measure.
- Cello (Vla.):** Rests throughout the measure.
- Cello (Vc.):** Playing sustained notes with slurs.
- Bass (Cb.):** Rests throughout the measure.

Serenity Meditation

Musical score for orchestra and timpani, page 8, measure 47. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Timpani (Timp.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Cello (C. b.), and Double Bass (Cb.). The Flute and Bassoon play eighth-note patterns with grace notes. The Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon play sustained notes. The Timpani play eighth-note patterns. The Violins, Cello, and Double Bass are silent.

Measure 47:

- Fl.:** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamics: f , 3 , 3 , p .
- Ob.:** Sustained note.
- Cl.:** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamics: mf , 3 , p .
- B. Cl.:** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes. Dynamics: mf , 3 , p .
- Bsn.:** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes.
- Timp.:** Playing eighth-note patterns.
- Vln. I:** Sustained note.
- Vln. II:** Sustained note.
- Vla.:** Sustained note.
- Vc.:** Playing eighth-note patterns with grace notes.
- Cb.:** Sustained note.

Serenity Meditation

B a tempo

Fl. rit. unis.

Ob. a 2 p mf

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. p

Timp.

Cel. mp rit. div. B a tempo div. pp

Vln. I mp div. p pp

Vln. II mp mf

Vla. mp mf

Vc.

Cb. pizz. p mf

Serenity Meditation

59

Fl.

Ob. *mf*

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Timp.

Cel. *mf*

Vln. I

Vln. II *mf*

Vla. *mf*

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

Musical score for orchestra and chimes, page 11, measure 65.

The score consists of ten staves:

- Flute (Fl.):** Playing eighth-note chords.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Playing eighth-note chords.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Rests.
- Bassoon (B. Cl.):** Rests.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Rests.
- Horn (Hn.):** Rests.
- Chimes:** Rests.
- Timpani (Timp.):** Rests.
- Cello (Cel.):** Playing eighth-note chords.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Playing eighth-note chords.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Playing eighth-note chords.
- Viola (Vla.):** Playing eighth-note chords.
- Cello (Vc.):** Rests.
- CDouble Bass (Cb.):** Playing eighth-note chords.

Measure 65 starts with a forte dynamic. Measures 66-67 show sustained notes with dynamics *mf*. Measures 68-69 show sustained notes with dynamics *mf*.

Serenity Meditation

71

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

3

3

mp

a 2

Serenity Meditation

77

C

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

C

p

mp

pp

pp

p

Serenity Meditation

84

A musical score for orchestra and chimes. The score consists of ten staves. From top to bottom: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Chimes, Timpani (Timp.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Cello/Bass (Cb.). The flute has a melodic line with grace notes and slurs. The bassoon and cello provide harmonic support. The chimes and timpani enter with sustained notes at the end of the measure. The cellos play eighth-note patterns. The violins and viola remain silent.

Serenity Meditation

90

D

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

pp

pp

pp

Serenity Meditation

96 a 2

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

101

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

107

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

p
a 2

mp

d.

Serenity Meditation

113

Fl. Ob. Cl. B. Cl. Bsn. Hn. Timp. Cel. Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc. Cb.

p

rit. a 2 6/4 a 2 6/4 p a tempo E

a tempo

Serenity Meditation

119

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

a 2

unis.

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

p

mf

mp

Serenity Meditation

125

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

130

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f

a 2

f

a 2

mf

mf

mf

mf

Serenity Meditation

134

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

f

Serenity Meditation

139 a²

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

144

Fl. *p*

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cel.

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

150 1.

Fl. **p**

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn. **p** — **f**
a 2

Hn. **pp** 3

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. **p** — **f**

Cb.

F

F

Serenity Meditation

156

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

a 2

mf

f

mp

p

div.

div. p

f

Serenity Meditation

161 \flat

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

165

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

169

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

173

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

Fl. *rit.* div. 177 **G** *a tempo*

Ob. *p*

Cl. *p*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn. *p*

Timp.

Cel. *p* rit. **G** *a tempo*

Vln. I *mp*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *p*

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

183

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

p

mp

p

Serenity Meditation

Musical score page 188. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Chimes, Timpani (Timp.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Cello (Cello), and Double Bass (Cb.). The page features measures 1 through 5. Measure 1 starts with a rest for Flute and Oboe, followed by a melodic line for Clarinet and Bassoon. Measures 2-5 show rhythmic patterns for Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, and Bassoon, with dynamic markings *mp* and *a 2*. Measures 6-10 feature sustained notes for Chimes, Timp., Cel., Vln. I, and Vln. II. Measures 11-15 show sustained notes for Vla., Cello, and Double Bass.

192

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn.

Hn. *mp*

Chimes

Timp.

Cel. 5

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

197

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

202 **H** a 2 *warmly*

Fl. Ob. Cl. B. Cl. Bsn. Hn. Chimes Tim. Cel.

mp *mp* *p*

Vln. I Vln. II Vla. Vc. Cb.

ppp *mp* unis. *mp* unis. *mp* *mp* arco

mp *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

warmly unis. *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp* *mp*

Serenity Meditation

209

molto rit. a tempo

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

molto rit. a tempo

p

mp

mp

molto rit. a tempo

pp

pp

div.

div.

arco

Serenity Meditation

216 *3*

1.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

mp

3

Serenity Meditation

222

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Almost without ritard

Timp.

Cel.

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Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Serenity Meditation