Folk Dance for Henry Cowell
(Mechanical Piano Study No. 4)
1999
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Henry Cowell, in *New Musical Resources*, suggested that triplet quarter notes need not always occur in groups of three, and that if you’re using triplets, quintuplets, septuplets, and so on, there’s nothing wrong with interspersing them amongst each other. So in this sad little dance inspired by the idea, there might be three triplets and five quintuplets in a measure, but one of the triplets might be followed by two quintuplets, then another triplet and three more quintuplets, and so on.

New-fangled computer software can’t handle this notation, but some of the old stupid programs can. More to the point: the harmony is clear, but what meter is it in?