HAPPY ENDING
(for DAVID GARLAND)

for Disklavier (computer-driven piano)

by Kyle Gann
2019
Happy Ending (for David Garland) (2019)
for Disklavier

I have always admired David Garland's song "Happy Ending," from the late 1980s, and I got the idea of basing a piece on its chord progression - as an homage to David and just because it's a neat chord progression. My first piece for normally-tuned Disklavier in fifteen years, I made it a study on the Cowell/Nancarrow idea of accelerations and decelerations played against a steady pulse. Here the accelerations are sometimes logarithmic, sometimes exponential. Despite the stretching and compression of time, there are a few places in which, if you know David's song, you could sing along.
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