Serenity Meditation
(after Ives)
for chamber orchestra

Kyle Gann
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. In a way I think I extracted what was Feldman-like from Ives's two most Feldmanesque pieces, and turned it into something Gannian.

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

Duration: 13 minutes
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match volume with basses

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molto rit.  .  .  a tempo

207

Fl.

Hn.

Tub. B.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

pp

molto rit.

div.

pp

pp
213

Fl.
Ob.
Timp.
Cel.
Vln. I
Vln. II

219

Fl.
Ob.
Timp.
Cel.

Almost without ritard

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Germantown, NY