

Ryan Laney

# Nothingness Stimulates

*for Chamber Ensemble*

(2014)

C Score



By closing ourselves off to certain stimuli, others can become much more present. For instance, in a quiet, empty space with little to distract us, it is possible to concentrate on sounds we usually don't notice – perhaps an air conditioner, cars on the road outside, a flowing stream of water, or the sound of the wind. And at some point, these sounds can even begin to seem musical. The smallest things often become much more interesting when they're not overshadowed by our usual distractions.

*Nothingness Stimulates* begins with only a few simple sounds, as most instruments are restricted to only one or two notes. As the texture develops, the capabilities of each instrument start to expand, and the music becomes less static. By the end, the piece becomes trapped in new, much more insistent, mass of sound as the piano, bass, and drums pound the same notes mercilessly, until finally, the opening texture sets back in. The piece ends with the hi-hat abruptly forcing a return to reality.

*DURATION: ca. 10 minutes*

## **INSTRUMENTATION:**

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B-flat

Bassoon

Viola

Bass Guitar (4-string)

Piano

Drum Set

- kick
- snare
- hi-hat
- ride cymbal
- 2 crash cymbals



# Nothingness Stimulates

♩ = 108 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Flute

Oboe

Clarinet in B $\flat$

Bassoon

Viola

Bass Guitar

Piano

Drum Set

*mf* *mp* *p*

non vibrato  
V V

RH with fingers (not pick)

*ppp* *p*

with sticks, snare ON

lower crash cymbal

*p*

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Vla.

Bass

Pno.

Dr.

*f* *ff* *ff* *pp*

*f* *n* *pp* *ff* *ff* *pp*

*f* *subitof*

*mp* *pp* *mp* *pp*

(# is not tied)

ride cymbal

*mf*

4 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34  $\text{♩} = 96$

Fl. *ff* *ff* *fff* *non diminuendo* *fff*

Ob. *sempre legato* *ff* *ff* *non diminuendo* *fff*

Cl. *sempre legato* *ff* *ff* *non diminuendo* *fff*

Bsn. *ff* *ff* *fff* *non diminuendo* *fff*

Vla. *f* *ff*

Bass *f* *ff* *fff*

Pno. *f* *ff* *mp* *fff*

Dr. *hi-hat pedal* *kick drum* *higher crash cymbal* *insistent*

(# is not tied)

sost.

35 36 37 38 39

Fl. *ff*

Ob. *ff*

Cl. *ff*

Bsn. *ff*

Vla. *f*

Bass *f*

Pno. *mp* *mf* *p*

Dr. *p* *ff* *move from crash to ride*

40

$\text{♩} = 108$

41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50

Fl. *n*

Ob. *n*

Cl. *n*

Bsn. *n*

Vla. *p*

Bass *p*

Pno. *p*

Dr. dampen crash cymbals



59

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 60 61 62 63

Fl. *pp* *mf* *n*

Ob. *pp* *fff* *mf* *p* *mf*

Cl. *pp* *fff* *p*

Bsn. *pp* *fff* *p*

Vla. *p*

Bass *p* *with knob*

Pno. *f* *mp*

Dr. *f* *snare*

strum the strings with your fingernails

64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74

Fl. *pp* *n* *pp* *p*

Ob. *p < mf* *p < mf* *n < p*

Cl. *f* *mp* *f*

Bsn. *f* *mp*

Vla.

Bass

Pno. *f* *p* *mp* *f*  
sost.

Dr. hi-hat



75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83

Fl. *n* *p*

Ob. *mf* *n* *p < mf* *p < mf*

Cl. *mf* *f*

Bsn. *mp* *f*

Vla.

Bass

Pno. *mp* *f*

Dr. slightly open  
3  
3



84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *p* *n* *n*

Cl. *n* *n*

Bsn. *non diminuendo* *mp* *mp* *p*

Vla.

Bass

Pno. *mp* *p* *n* strum the strings

Dr. *mp*



95 96 97 98 99 100

Fl. *fff* *pp* *f*

Ob. *p* *mf molto* *fff* *pp*

Cl. *p* *mf molto* *fff* *pp*

Bsn. *n* *fff* *f*

Vla. *fff* *f*

Bass *f* *mf*

Pno. *fff* *p*

Dr. *p* *pp molto* *ff* *mf*

*poco rit.*

A little slower (♩ = 96)

101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109

Fl. *p* *mf*

Ob. *mp* *mf*

Cl. *mp* *mf*

Bsn. *p* *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Bass *mp* *mf*

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf*

Dr. *p* *mp* *mf*



110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118

Fl. *mf* *f* *f*

Ob. *n* *f* *p*

Cl. *n* *f* *mp*

Bsn. *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Bass *mp*

Pno. *f* *ff* *mp*

Dr. *f* *subitop*

119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf* *p* *mf* *mp*

Cl.

Bsn. *p*

Vla.

Bass

Pno. *mf* *f* *mp* *mf*

Dr. *p* *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 119 through 127. The score is written for a full orchestra. The woodwinds (Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon) and strings (Viola, Bass) have melodic lines with various dynamics. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern of chords. The drum part consists of a series of rhythmic patterns marked with 'x' and 'y' symbols. Measure 122 is highlighted with a box. Dynamics include *mf*, *p*, *mp*, and *f*.



128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135

Fl. *f*

Ob. *mf* *f*

Cl. *mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Vla.

Bass

Pno. *f* *ff* *mf*

Dr. *f* *ff* *fff* *mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 128 through 135. The score continues from the previous page. The woodwinds and strings have melodic lines. The piano part features a complex rhythmic pattern of chords. The drum part consists of a series of rhythmic patterns marked with 'x' and 'y' symbols. Measure 132 is highlighted with a box. Dynamics include *f*, *mf*, *ff*, and *fff*.

10 136 137 138 ft. 139 140 141 142 143 144

Fl. *ff* *mf*

Ob. *ff* *mf*

Cl. *ff* *mf*

Bsn. *ff* *mf*

Vla. *mp*

Bass *mp*

Pno. *p* *ff* *mp*

Dr. *p* *ff* *f*

145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155

Tempo I (♩ = 108)

Fl. *n*

Ob. *n* *pp* *mf*

Cl. *n* *pp* *mf*

Bsn. *n* *p*

Vla. *p* *mp*

Bass *p* *mp*

Pno. *pp* *mp*

Dr. *mf* *p* *pp*

156 157 158 159 160 161 162 **163** 164 165 166

*poco rit.* A little slower (♩ = 96)

Fl. *pp*

Ob. *f*

Cl. *f*

Bsn. *f* *p*

Vla. *mf*

Bass *mf*

Pno. *ppp* *p*

Dr. *pp* *p*



167 168 169 170 171 172 173 **174** 175 176

Fl. *mp* *mf* *mp*

Ob. *mp* *mp*

Cl. *mp* *mp*

Bsn. *mf* *p* *mf*

Vla. *p* *mf*

Bass *p*

Pno. *subito p*

Dr. *mp* *subitop*

12 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186

*poco rit.* Pesante (♩ = 92)

Fl. *mf* *f* *ff* *ft.*

Ob. *mf* *molto* *ff*

Cl. *mf* *molto* *ff*

Bsn. *molto* *ff*

Vla. *ff*

Bass *mf* *ff*

Pno. *ff*

Dr. *ff*



187 188 189 190 191 192

Fl. *sempre fff*

Ob. *sempre fff*

Cl. *sempre fff*

Bsn. *sempre fff*

Vla. *sempre fff*

Bass *sempre fff*

Pno. *insistent*

Dr. *insistent*

193 *ft.* 194 195 196 197 198 13

Fl. *sempre fff*

Ob.

Cl. *sempre fff*

Bsn. *sempre fff*

Vla. *n* *ff insistent*

Bass

Pno.

Dr.



199 200 201 *ft.* 202 203

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Vla.

Bass *spank the strings* *insistent*

Pno.

Dr.

Musical score for measures 204-208. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Viola (Vla.), Bass, Piano (Pno.), and Drums (Dr.). Measures 204-208 are marked with a large brace above the Flute staff. The Flute part has rests in measures 204-208. The Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, and Viola parts have continuous rhythmic patterns. The Bass part features a steady accompaniment of chords. The Piano part has a complex, dense texture of chords. The Drums part has a consistent rhythmic pattern.



Musical score for measures 209-214. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Viola (Vla.), Bass, Piano (Pno.), and Drums (Dr.). Measures 209-214 are marked with a large brace above the Flute staff. The Flute part has rests in measures 209-214. The Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon, and Viola parts have continuous rhythmic patterns. The Bass part features a steady accompaniment of chords, with the instruction *molto pesante* and *simile* written below the staff. The Piano part has a complex, dense texture of chords. The Drums part has a consistent rhythmic pattern, with the instruction *molto pesante* written below the staff.



Musical score for measures 215-220. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Viola (Vla.), Bass, Piano (Pno.), and Drums (Dr.).

- Fl.:** Measures 215-220. Measure 215 has a dynamic marking of *pp*. Measure 217 has a dynamic marking of *ppv*. Measure 220 has a dynamic marking of *ppv*.
- Ob.:** Measures 215-220. Measure 217 has a dynamic marking of *v*.
- Cl.:** Measures 215-220. Measure 217 has a dynamic marking of *v*.
- Bsn.:** Measures 215-220. Measure 217 has a dynamic marking of *v*.
- Vla.:** Measures 215-220. Continuous eighth-note accompaniment.
- Bass:** Measures 215-220. Chordal accompaniment.
- Pno.:** Measures 215-220. Chordal accompaniment. Measure 218 has a dynamic marking of *molto pesante*.
- Dr.:** Measures 215-220. Rhythmic accompaniment with asterisks.



Musical score for measures 221-229. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Viola (Vla.), Bass, Piano (Pno.), and Drums (Dr.).

- Fl.:** Measures 221-229. Measure 221 has a dynamic marking of *pp*. Measure 222 has a dynamic marking of *ppv*. Measure 223 has a dynamic marking of *pp*. Measure 224 has a dynamic marking of *pp*. Measure 225 has a dynamic marking of *pp*. Measure 226 has a dynamic marking of *pp*.
- Ob.:** Measures 221-229. Measure 223 has a dynamic marking of *v*.
- Cl.:** Measures 221-229. Measure 223 has a dynamic marking of *v*.
- Bsn.:** Measures 221-229. Measure 223 has a dynamic marking of *v*.
- Vla.:** Measures 221-229. Continuous eighth-note accompaniment.
- Bass:** Measures 221-229. Chordal accompaniment.
- Pno.:** Measures 221-229. Chordal accompaniment.
- Dr.:** Measures 221-229. Rhythmic accompaniment with asterisks.

230 231 232 233 234 235 236 238 G.P. 239 240 241

Fl. -

Ob. - *p* *pp* < *mf* < *f*

Cl. - *p* *pp* < *mf* < *f*

Bsn. - *p* *pp* < *mf* < *f*

Vla. - *pp* ord.

Bass - MUTE ALL SOUND *pp*

Pno. - MUTE ALL SOUND *pp*

Dr. - MUTE ALL SOUND



242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260

Fl. -

Ob. - *pp* *mp* < *mf* *pp* < *f* > *pp* *pp* < *mp* < *ff*

Cl. - *pp* < *mp* < *mf* *pp* < *mf* < *f* *pp* < *mp* < *mf*

Bsn. - *pp* < *mp* < *mf* *pp* < *mf* < *f* *pp* < *mp* < *mf*

Vla. -

Bass -

Pno. -

Dr. - *p* *p*