

1797

Empty Spaces

large scale computermusic for a media-aware public

Ambrose Field
UK

Empty Spaces

Artistic Statement

Empty Spaces is a large-scale computermusic work.

Large scale computermusic works can suffer from drawbacks:
exhaustive development of timbre at the expense of structure,
and shortage of materials to sustain a long timespan.

Empty Spaces tackles the problem of creating an expanded form in an age where faster and shorter are demanded by our media public, by harnessing the creative power of natural environments.

Empty Spaces will transport you to many different places, some populated, some extremely desolate. At times you may feel that you are the only human presence in a vast, drifting landscape.

Familiarity, and computer music's effortless ability to take sound out of its original context are my structural allies. This is no classical re-working of pre-digital symphonic form, yet the work is tightly constructed. You can never be sure that your imagination is in a safe space.

Empty Spaces

dur: 22 mins 10 secs

Programme Note

Empty Spaces is a powerful environmental electroacoustic work, on a large scale. Climatic qualities of water and ice permeate the structure, driving large scale freezing and thawing motions. The sharp fracturing of twigs and the erratic activity of insects evoke a vast, unstable natural environment in which human presence is fleeting.

The work has five sections:

- | | | |
|----|-------------|--------|
| 1: | Inside | (id 2) |
| 2: | Tidepools | (id 3) |
| 3: | Freezeover | (id 4) |
| 4: | Scatter | (id 5) |
| 5: | Waterspaces | (id 6) |

Tape Information

There is a three minute preview of the work at (id 1) on the dat tape to assist the jury. *Empty Spaces* commences at id 2.

Levels!

As this piece contains some loud transients, it has been recorded at a lower level than usual (peaks at -6dB). If you are listening on studio quality equipment, then please increase the over-all listening level.

Empty Spaces

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Performance

It does not matter where or how this work is performed. Empty Spaces is a work *about* space. The structure of the work has been designed to permits it's use as

- an installation

Simply install 4 loudspeakers in any space: outside, or inside. The work is particularly powerful in small enclosed environments such as hotel lobbies, or cafe entrances.

(a special ADAT tape is avaiable containing pre-set automatic re-wind points. Musical content is exactly the same as this submission.)

- a personal work

Empty spaces has been engineered to sound good in your car, or on your Walkman. It does not need absolute studio conditions for you to be able to enjoy it.

- a concert work

However, the audience should be encouraged to stand up, move around, or even leave the audiatorium (some spaces, like today's society, can appear dense or intimidating due to their scale) to return at a later time.

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Technical Information

-for information only

Created with a Silicon Graphics Indigo workstation running the composer's own software (sound spatialisation, phase-vocoding), and freeware packages from NoTAM's public ftp site (<ftp://notam.uio.no/pub/sgi>).

The work was realised at the Composer's studio, York, 1998.