piano_prosthesis

Michael Young

Indicative Score
Introduction

This score can be used as a creative starting point, as a open-form score that defines all materials you use, or ignored.

The overall aim is to establish clearly differentiated musical materials, characterised by pitch, loudness, density, rhythmic activity, sustained-ness and the degree of internal variation (within a timeframe of 10-20 sec.) Having decided upon materials, either in advance or during the performance, the improvisation should focus on recalling and varying these types. Silence is recognised as a material. As you introduce new materials or recall previous ones, you should hear complementary responses from the computer improviser, which should seem both reactive and pro-active in its behaviour.

Score Notation

A definitive pitch range should be established for each occurrence of a material type. The range can be small (one octave or less) or the maximum range of the keyboard, or any range in between. Two bass or treble symbols denote that only the lower or upper half of the full range should be used as a maximum range.

All other notations and instructions are open to interpretation ad lib.

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separates

unphrased; slightly detached & uneven;
wide pitch space; effortless

remembering

narrow pitch space; even rhythms with pauses;
some notes sustained through;
little phrases hint at each other; whistful
pulsing

reinvent fixed-pitch chords in new groupings; restrict pitch space; regular with short pauses now and then; mildly insistent;

locking

vary repeats - sometimes don’t repeat; alter tempo on repeats; pitch space is wide or narrow; well-articulated; emphatic, not aggressive
frantic

mid-pitches stretch out to extremes; suddenly irregular; you can take a breath; not assertive, hesitant;

resist

hold & release; very long or less long; clusters and sometimes far reaches; appearing to have purpose;
deep pluck

nail or thumb; find harmonics, or not; easy or forceful; allow some to resonate; animate

morse

regular, a little; tap it out, detached; articulate below; as if there's something to say;
listen

as if something is being said;

monsters

almost in control; excessively loud & unremitting; mechanical maniacal;
even, well-articulated; not forceful; always in-and-out of repeats to vary in length & number; flighty;

try to sound out-of-tune; favour clusters; explore similar groups with slight changes; sickly;
aurora

plucked or swept; experiment; dampen or harsh; ring, finger or nail on string; resonant;

pianism

constant change; lightly, mildly percussive; vary hammer & pluck; caprice no consequence;
expansive

full range with a far reach; chordal in extremis; pondering but aimless;

notwalking

fluid and gently on top; breathing with pause;
listen again

as something might yet is said;