James Weeks

still here

for violin and piano

2020

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Duration: 45'

Performance notes

still here should be performed at an even pace; owing to the long span of the piece, it is recommended to have a timer with second-counter (e.g. stopwatch) visible, as tempo perception can vary. However, it is important the music not be performed in a rigid manner.

Coordination: both players play at the same tempo throughout, but unless indicated should not attempt to co-ordinate pulse (tactus). Exceptions to this are at moments where a performer is indicated to begin precisely 2 beats after the start of a repetition in the other performer's part (see below); or in the section from pages 10-12, where dotted co-ordination lines are linked to precise moments in each performer's part – this section should be performed with accurate alignment. In other sections (for example, pages 4-6) a certain amount of drift is expected. Here, however, it is important to be aware of one's own tactus, so that one part does not get significantly away from the other.

Durations (of rests, or whole passages), are given in seconds or minutes in whichever part is required to count them. The other performer follows the lead performer at these points.

Co-ordination marks in sections with repeated bars are given as follows:

[/7] begin after the start of the other performer's 7th repetition – this would normally be after a few beats, but not rigidly so

begin precisely 2 beats after the start of the other performer's 3rd repetition (align tactus)



[Piano] trembling: play the notes given in any order, repeating ad lib., for the duration indicated above, as if the hands were set gently in motion by a breath of wind. Extremely gentle and soft, blurred (not clearly articulated), the hands not coordinated rhythmically and slightly in each other's way.



[Violin] at irregular intervals (the duration range is given, e.g. between 1 and 4 secs), play one or other of the notes given, very lightly as marked. Aim for variety of note and of duration between notes, avoiding patterns or regularity. The gesture should be very slight, as if a stillness briefly disturbed by a breath of wind.



[Violin] play on the edge of the frame of the violin, just beside where the bow would touch the strings played *sul tasto*: a very gentle and subtle sound-gesture.

still here: being still, being here; still being here.

still here was premiered as an online concert for MUSICON (Durham, UK) on 2nd December 2020. The performers were Sophie Appleton (violin) and James Weeks (piano).































