

"The silence of a falling star" by Erkki Veltheim (2015) : performance notes

"The silence of a falling star" for violin, flute, electric guitar, cello, high bell, didgeridoo and shortwave radio was commissioned by Tura New Music for the 2015 Reflections Tour. The title is taken from Hank Williams' song "I'm so lonesome I could cry".

Duration: 12'05"

Each performer needs a stopwatch.

The nominal speed is $\text{♩} = 60 \text{ bpm}$. All rhythmic durations are indexed to this speed.

The general dynamic and atmosphere throughout is soft and gentle.

The live instruments, electronics and radio should all be balanced evenly.

The electric guitar employs 'drop D' tuning and sounds 8ve below notated pitch.

The high bell is pitched at C8. If a bell can't be found, this part can be played on a crotale or a glockenspiel bar pitched at C8.

The didgeridoo is pitched at C2.

The violin, flute, guitar and cello employ the following notation:



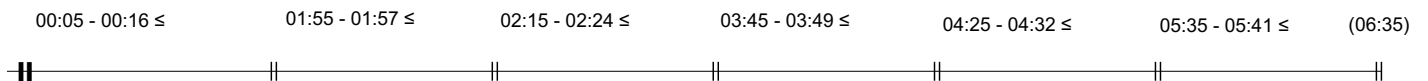
The timecode determines the start and end points for the use of each cell. The given pitches can be used to build phrases containing between one pitch and the total number of pitches in each cell. Any pitch can be played as a harmonic (sounding at the notated pitch). The durations following the pitches give the range of note durations to be used for these phrases. The durations in seconds following the fermata symbol give the range of the durations of silences between each phrase. Each phrase can be repeated once. Try to find as many variations in successive phrases as possible within these parameters.

The high bell and didgeridoo employ the following notation:



The timecode determines the start of each phrase. The didgeridoo may freely employ upper partial colourations within these rhythms.

The shortwave radio employs the following notation:



The radio is to be switched on and the scanning dial turned slowly at each given timepoint separated by a barline. Search for country music. If you don't find a country music broadcast, keep scanning the frequencies until the next timepoint (following the dash) and switch the radio off. If you do find a country music broadcast, stop scanning and leave the radio on at this frequency until the next bar. Repeat this process for each bar.