

Katherine Ryan Ayres

*with thanks to Michelle, David, and Michael*

**m**

for 4 synthesizers and technician



### Performance Notes:

*m* is a piece written as an homage to composer Steve Reich's early experiments in phase patterns with pieces such as *Come Out* (1966), *Clapping Music* (1972), and *Electric Counterpoint* (1987). It is performed with 4 players on 4 synthesizers with an additional person controlling the dynamic levels of the synthesizer parts. The performing ensemble may use any software, hardware, sampling, or synthesis to achieve the following synthesizer voices:

- 3 identical quasi-sawtooth leads. These should be bright, buzzy, resonant, and forward.
- 1 polyphonic synthesizer or sampler (minimum 8 voices) that emulates a string section (a general MIDI "strings"-type patch will do, but alternatives are encouraged). This pad sound should be rounded, full, and mellow. If necessary, use a high shelf or high-pass to cut excess brightness.

The technician controlling the volume levels of the synthesizers may do so with any hardware or software that is convenient to use with the chosen synthesizer setup. It is recommended that the technician use a hardware mixing board, since tactile control is generally smoother, more immediate, and more subtle than digital manipulation.

The score is notated with repeat ranges. Since the music is written such that only one significant dynamic or formal event happens at a time, the musicians should be able to take aural cues from one another and move through the music while still adhering to the prescribed repeat ranges. At the end of the piece, all musicians are meant to stop at the same time; one player should give a signal to the other players that there are 4 repeats remaining so that everybody stops together.



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# m

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Katherine Ryan Ayres (2013 rev. 2023)

♩ = 212

Sawtooth 1 *f* (16-32x) (4-12x) **A** (8-24x) *mf*

Sawtooth 2 *mf*

Sawtooth 3

Synth Drone

**B**

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x) *ff*

Drone (wait 5-10x before beginning) (20-40x) *ff*

**C**

6

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x)

Drone (as before and throughout) (20-40x) *ff*

**D**

8

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x)

Drone (20-40x) *ff*

**E**

10

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x)

Drone (20-40x) *ff*

12 **F**

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x)

Drone (20-40x) *ff*

14 **G**

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x)

Drone (20-40x) *ff*

16 **H**

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x)

Drone (20-40x) *ff*

**I**

18

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x)

Drone (20-40x)

*ff*

*ff*

**J**

20

Saw 1 (6-18x)

Saw 2

Saw 3 (20-40x) (3-6x)

Drone (20-40x)

*ff*

*ff*

**K**

22

Saw 1 (8-24x) (8-24x) (24-48x)

Saw 2

Saw 3

Drone

*fff*

*fff*

*mf* *fff*

*fff*