

Trumpet City

for 18 or more trumpets performing outdoors

Craig Shepard

Trumpet City

For 18 or more trumpets and/or cornets in Bb.

Commissioned by the *Musikpodium der Stadt Zurich*.

The piece lasts about one hour.

The material of the piece is notated on twelve A6 pages. Four A6 pages each contain a long melody (white notes). Eight A6 pages contain short figures (mostly black notes).

The four long melodies are read from left to right, and are played in order from 1 to 4. Each melody begins and ends more or less within a fifteen minute time-span. Each performer plays every tone of each melody, placing the tones of the melody at his or her own pace. Each tone lasts one full breath. Between tones, there is silence, at least as long as one breath. The dynamic of the melodies is just below that of the ambient sound of the performance site.

From the eight A6 pages with short figures, each player, independently of the others, chooses one page with eight figures. During the performance, the player may play some, all, or none of these eight figures. Figures are played in any order. Each figure is performed only once; no figure may be repeated. A figure may be performed at any time within the one-hour performance: before a melody, after a melody, and/or between notes of a melody. The performer may play all of the figures, some of the figures, or none of the figures. The dynamic of the figures is a little louder than the ambient sound of the site. Figures should be noticeable, without being dominant.

Tone is clear and full. The sounds of the piece frame the ambient sounds of the performance site, inviting listeners and passersby to enjoy what they pass by every day. Performers should keep in mind that they are performing even when they aren't playing. In order to maintain concentration during the performance, especially while not playing, performers are encouraged to listen to sounds from the site, and the music of fellow performers.

Craig Shepard | February 2009 | Weehawken, New Jersey, USA

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1.

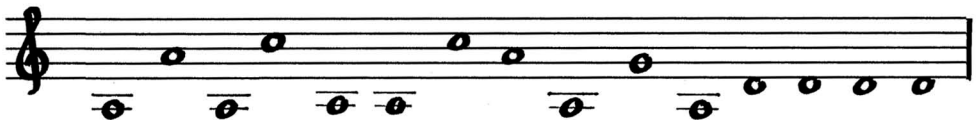
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2.

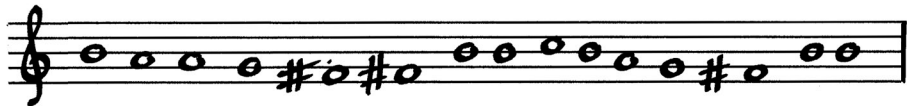
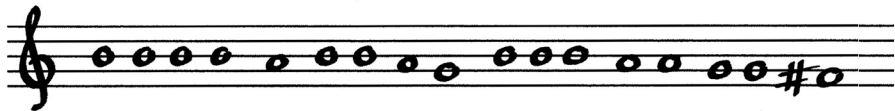
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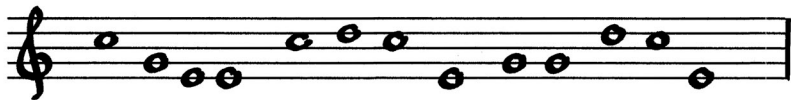
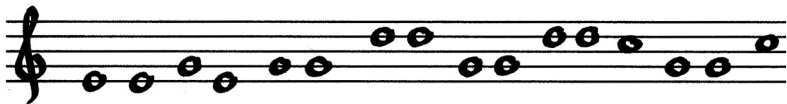
3.



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4.



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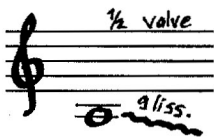
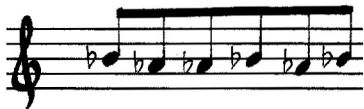
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