

Las Piedras del Cielo

For Pablo Neruda

John Kennedy

(2004)

*For 8 or more people forming a large and wide circle
playing pairs of rocks*

Granite river rocks are recommended for their durability and depth of sound. They can be found in oval shapes the size of large potatoes or mangos, and fit the hand nicely.

The ensemble's circle might conform to the perimeter of a concert hall, or if played outdoors, the perimeter of a natural or public space such as a clearing or a plaza. If a space permits, an extremely large circle might be made in which the performers are spread as much as 100 feet from one another. The audience might be free to be mobile within this during the piece.

This may be performed as a concert work, or may be performed as an ambient sonic happening for which no formal announcement is necessary.

PERFORMANCE INSTRUCTIONS:

The leader starts with the following pattern in slow (40 bpm) tempo:

1 1 2 1 2 3

etc to

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

etc to

1

The ensemble joins in canon in counter-clockwise direction. Each player enters approximately when the person before in the circle begins their 4th phrase (1234rest); enter with the same tempo but with one's own pulse, **at an irregular division** of the previous person's quarter note.

With each cycle, the leader waits until the last person has finished and then begins a new cycle at a faster tempo. The entrance pattern remains the same.

After a number of cycles at the discretion of the leader, each faster than the previous, all players play their interlude (labeled A-H, distributed randomly if there are more than 8 players) simultaneously on cue from the leader.

When all have finished their interlude in their own time, the leader again begins a cycle at fast tempo (as fast as rock weight allows), in reverse and in reverse direction (clockwise). Entrances are begun at the start of the previous player's *second* phrase and again with like tempi but uncoordinated pulse.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

etc to

1 1 2 1 2 3

etc to

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

The leader slows down the tempo with each successive cycle and determines when to end the piece, allowing the last player in the final cycle to finish.

VI

**A loud sound and a soft sound
In proportional length phrases slow or fast**

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