

Brittany J. Green

...to experience life.

for trumpet, piano, percussion, and live electronics

Written for the SPLICE Ensemble at the 2019 SPLICE Institute

B
BJG

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Instrumentation and Equipment

Trumpet in C

Harmon Mute without Stem

Piano

Percussion

Small Singing Bowl

Small Gong

Ride Cymbal

Ratchet

Small Woodblock

Singing Bowl Mallet

Small Triangle Beater

Small Super Rub Mallet

Two Small Hard Rubber Mallets

Bow

Electronics

Laptop equipped w/Max MSP

"To Experince Life" Patcher

Midi Foot Controller

Three Microphones

Stereo Speaker Configuration

LED Fixture

Program Notes

How do we define the experience of life? Is it the breaths we take? The biological functions of existence and growth? Perhaps, living is defined through our time on Earth, the thoughts we have, our experiences with one another, or the impact we leave on our planet and the collective conscious.

...to experience life. explores these varying explanations through fragmented gestures of growth and decay, juxtaposed with manipulated recordings of text that attempts to define the experience of life. The intertwining of these gestures and manipulations throughout the ensemble abstractly reflect the drama, nuance, and meaningful meaninglessness of life. The electronic elements of this piece were realized using Pro Tools, Max/MSP, Adafruit Neopixels, and Arduino.

Text

"Life is the quality that distinguishes a vital and functional being from a dead body."

"An organismic state characterized by capacity for metabolism, growth, reaction to stimuli, and reproduction."

"Life is the sequence of physical and mental experiences that make up the existence of an individual."

"The life expectancy for Homo Sapiens on planet earth is 69 years, meaning the average primate has 828 months, 3,588 weeks, 25,185 days, 604,440 hours, 36,266,400 minutes, or 2,175,984,000 seconds to experience life."

Text taken from definitions of the word "Life" found in Webster's Dictionary and statements written by the composer.

Performance Notes and Notation Keys

Accidentals apply only to the notes they directly precede.

Trumpet

- All muted sections should be muted with a harmon mute without stem
- Trumpet player will cue all electronics

Blow air through trumpet (no pitch) with decreasing speed

Perform with breath attack. Mostly air with a small amount of pitch.

Key Clicks

Rapidly Alternate between these pitches at random with breathy sound

Press Midi Foot Controller to trigger electronics

Percussion

Small Singing Bowl (w/small triangle beater) Small Singing Bowl (w/small triangle beater) Small Gong (w/super rub mallet) Small Gong (w/small triangle beater) Small Gong (bowed)

Small Woodblock (w/small triangle beater) Ride Cymbal (bowed) Ride Cymbal (bowed) Ratchet

Electronics

All electronics are triggered by trumpet player

The following electronics are employed throughout the piece:

- Generative LED light configuration
- Amplification with reverb of various trumpet and percussion gestures
- Playback fixed media passages
- Filtering and distorting select live piano passages
- Recalling and transposing select live piano passages

...to experience life.

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A Patient and Deliberate ♩=80

Electronics Cues

Trumpet in C

Percussion

Piano

Blow air through trumpet (no pitch) with decreasing speed

ca. 5 sec.

p *n*
(amplified)

p *n*

p *n*

mf

n

let ring

let ring

let ring

let ring

ca. 5 sec.

p *n*

ca. 5 sec.

6 6 3 6 3

pp

pp

E. Cues

C Tpt.

Perc.

Pno.

Rapidly Alternate between these pitches at random with breathy sound

Breath Attack

Mute

Open

ca. 5 sec.

pp

n

pp

ca. 5 sec.

let ring

mf

p

ca. 5 sec.

fp

pp

p

8va

B
BJG

B

"life is..."

accel.

Flustered ♩=120

E. Cues

C Tpt. 22 Mute *p* *mf*

Perc. 22 (amplified) *p*

Pno. 22 *p* *mp* *f*



E. Cues 27

C Tpt. 27 (not amplified) *pp*

Perc. 27

Pno. 27 *subito p* 6 3

...to experience life.

6
30

E. Cues

C Tpt. *Open* Repeat 4x with increasing intensity *f* *fp* with vibrato

Perc. Repeat 4x with increasing intensity *f* let ring

Pno. Repeat 4x with increasing intensity *f*

34

E. Cues

C Tpt. *n* ca. 10 sec. ord. *pp* *mp* *n* *p* (amplified) 3

Perc. ca. 10 sec. *p* *mf* (not amplified) let ring

Pno. *mp* *n* ca. 10 sec. *p* *mp* *Red.* *

41 *senza misura*

E. Cues

C Tpt. **Key Clicks** *mp* *n* *ca. 10 sec.* **Mute** *pp* (not amplified) *with vibrato* *ord.* *pp* (amplified)

Perc. *pp* (not amplified) *pp* *ca. 10 sec.*

Pno. *ca. 10 sec.* *mp* 3 3 3 *mp* *

n

48

E. Cues (does not reflect actual pitch)

C Tpt. 3 *ca. 5 sec.*

Perc. *pp* *pp* *let ring* *ca. 5 sec.*

Pno. 3 *ca. 5 sec.*

n

(text cluster begins and continues until the end of the piece)

56 "to experience life"

E. Cues

C Tpt.

Perc.

Pno.

fp *pp* *pp*

let ring

(amplified)

mp *pp*

n

63

E. Cues

C Tpt.

Perc.

Pno.

ca. 10 sec.

let ring

p *mf* *pp*

(not amplified)

let ring

p *pp*

n