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Nocturne for Dice

for 2-8 players

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Nocturne for Dice

2-8 players, any instrument/voice type

Setup

- Each player is given a single 12-sided die.
- Players either form an arc facing the audience, or sit around a small to medium table.
- Player One is either the left-most (in the arc) or the one closest to center, on the audience side of the ensemble (using the table setup). Player Two is just left (or clockwise) of Player One, and the rest follow suit.

Performance Instructions

- Each player, in order, rolls their 12-sided die to determine a pitch-class to play, using 12 as C/pitch-class 0.

PITCH CLASS REFERENCE CHART

12/0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
C	C#/Db	D	D#/Eb	E	F	F#/Gb	G	G#/Ab	A	A#/Bb	B

- The amount of time between each player action should be relatively consistent, not to exceed 12 seconds between rolls.
- Players should take turns in a cyclic manner, as many turns as deemed necessary by the performers.
- To end the piece, player 1 will, upon rolling, choose to cease playing. This will continue for each player until the cycle ends, skipping players who have “finished”.
NOTE: The players need not end ‘in order’.

Additional Instructions

- The piece should begin with long tones, and move to freely improvised rhythms as needed fit.
NOTE: Winds, brass, and Voice may choose to perform short rhythmic gestures at the end of these long tones to make the piece easier on their breath capacity.
- Dynamics should be used to cause variation in texture/balance.

Additional Notes

- Vocalists may use microphones to aid in being heard properly.
- A poker table is preferred as the shared surface in the middle. If possible, using a poker tabletop on top of a piano works best.
- Contact microphones may be used on the rolling surface to amplify the dice rolls (if not on a piano).
- The visual elements of this piece are important. Make sure the audience knows when you roll!

Alternative Versions of the piece

Op 51a: 12-sided dice, 12-tone system

Op 51b: 8-sided dice, with 8 as an octave shift based on the last pitch given. These pitches may be of any diatonic scale series. Major, or minor. ***“Diatonic”***

Op 51c: 6-sided dice, with 6 as an octave shift based on the last pitch given. These 5 pitches may be of any pentatonic scale series. ***“Pentatonic”***