

cruel and usual

for string quartet and four bass amplifiers

Cat Hope [2011]

for Judith Hamann.
MaxMSP programming by Sam Gillies and Stuart James.

Instructions

To be read using the score player, at a speed chosen by the performers no faster than mm=60. Each line represents a single, ongoing sound. Each dip is a pitch intervention with that line, in a direction and shape suggested by the score. The score is proportional, that is, each line has a relationship to the other lines in terms of pitch and time. The grey line is intended as a guide to show where the original pitch lies. Horizontal lines that start at different points in relation to the grey central line indicate a new string. Dotted lines means apply bow pressure to achieve a distorted sound on the open string.

The computer parts are indicated by attachments to these lines. Pitch range in Hz. Sample the string instrument at that point. A solid colour indicates a clean pure sample playback, a hashed fill indicates a distorted playback. Each number box represents the transposition range. Play the transposed sound (each string to its own bass amplifier) for the length and dynamic shape as indicated by the 'flag' from the box as it passes in the player. There should be no original string sound in the output sound.

