

Israel Neuman

SEMANTIC DIFFUSION

for quartet and tape

2006

Semantic Diffusion is a composition influenced by musical traditions from the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In particular it incorporates melodic elements that are common in those musical cultures, along with the use of a drone and heterophony. Such Middle Eastern melodic elements, including the *Hijaz* tetrachord, (the set 0145), are revealed throughout the piece by the use of specific melodic direction. Yet, in the absence of this melodic direction, the same exact pitch sets are part of an atonal context. This duality in meaning is also the inspiration for the title of the piece.

Semantic Diffusion

Israel Neuman

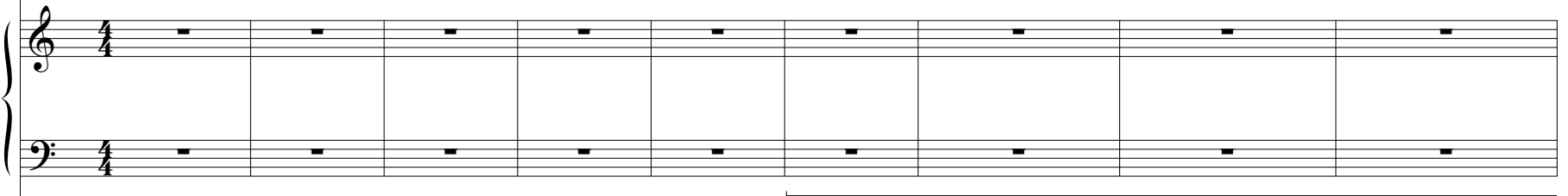
♩ = 60

Soprano Saxophone



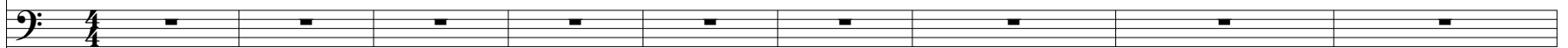
Musical staff for Soprano Saxophone, 4/4 time signature, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The staff contains a series of rests for the first nine measures.

Piano



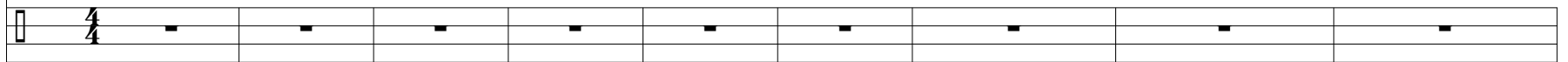
Musical staff for Piano, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a series of rests for the first nine measures.

Solo Bass



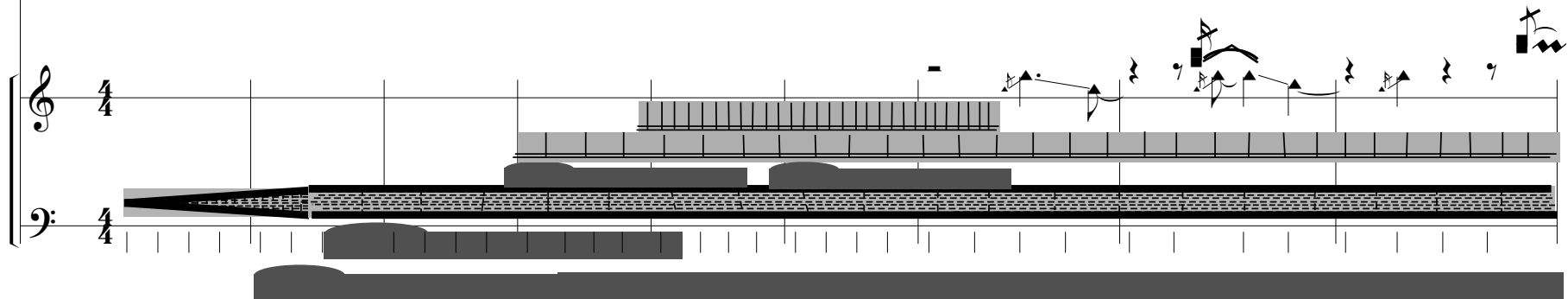
Musical staff for Solo Bass, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a series of rests for the first nine measures.

Percussion



Musical staff for Percussion, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a series of rests for the first nine measures.

Tape



Musical staff for Tape, 4/4 time signature. The staff contains a series of rests for the first nine measures. Below the staff, there are several horizontal bars of varying lengths and patterns, representing tape effects or processing. The top bar is a solid black bar. The middle bar is a hatched bar. The bottom bar is a solid black bar. The staff contains a series of notes and rests for the last three measures, including a series of notes with stems and flags, and a final note with a stem and a flag.

10

S. Sx.

10

Pno.

10

S.Cb.

10

Perc.

Splash
Shaker A

f *mf* *f*

10

Tape

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for five parts: S. Sx., Pno., S.Cb., Perc., and Tape. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The S. Sx. part consists of rests in all measures. The Pno. part has a melody starting at measure 10 with dynamics of *sfz* and *sfz*. The S.Cb. part is mostly rests. The Perc. part includes a Splash Shaker A at measure 10, with dynamics of *f*, *mf*, and *f*. The Tape part shows a complex rhythmic pattern in the bass line and a series of rectangular blocks in the treble line.

14

S. Sx.

14

Pno.

8^{va}

p *ff* *p*

Clusters include all possible keys (black and white) within the indicated interval

mp *p*

14

S.Cb.

14

Perc.

f *mf* *ff* *mf*

14

Tape

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for five parts: S. Sx., Pno., S.Cb., Perc., and Tape. The key signature is G major (one sharp) and the time signature is 4/4. The measure number 14 is indicated at the start of each staff. The S. Sx. part is mostly silent. The Pno. part has a treble clef and an 8va (octave up) marking. It features three measures of clusters in the right hand, with dynamics *p*, *ff*, and *p*. The S.Cb. part is mostly silent. The Perc. part has four measures of rhythmic patterns with dynamics *f*, *mf*, *ff*, and *mf*. The Tape part consists of a dense, textured sound field represented by a series of horizontal lines and a shaded area.

18

S. Sx.

pp

(8va)

Pno.

f *ff* *fff* *f* *ff*

S.Cb.

p *mp*

Perc.

Scratch w/ reverse brush

China

mf *mp* *mf*

Tape

24

S. Sx. *mf* *p* *f* *mp*

Pno.

S.Cb.

Perc. *mp* *fp* *sfz*

at the center

Ride

Snare

Splash

Tape

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 24-26. The Saxophone part (S. Sx.) features a melodic line with dynamics *mf*, *p*, *f*, and *mp*. It includes a triplet of eighth notes in measure 25 and a slur over measures 25-26. The Piano part (Pno.) is silent. The Saxophone Contrabass part (S.Cb.) has a sustained chord with a slur. The Percussion part (Perc.) includes a snare drum pattern with dynamics *mp*, *fp*, and *sfz*. It features a 'Ride' cymbal in measure 25 and a 'Splash' cymbal in measure 26. A box labeled 'at the center' is positioned above the first snare drum note. The Tape part is silent.

S. Sx. *mf* *p* *f* 3

Pno. *mf* *f*

S.Cb. *fp*

Perc. Shaker B *p* *mf* *f*

Tape

30

S. Sx.

mp *f*

f Pno.

ff

S.Cb.

mp

Perc.

ff

Tape

33

S. Sx.

p

Pno.

p

ff

5

S. Cb.

mf

mp

f

Perc.

33

Tape

33

35

S. Sx. *f* *mf*

Pno. *mf* simili... 3 3 5

S.Cb. *mp* *mf*

Perc.

Tape

♩ = 90 (♩ = ♪)

S. Sx.

Pno.

S.Cb.

Perc.

Tape

37

3 3 3 3 3 3 3

f *mf* *ff*

7 3 3 3 3 3 3

f *mf* *ff*

3 3 3 3 3 3 3

37

3 3 3 3 3 3 3

f *mf* *ff*

37

Splash Ride

Snare

ff *mf* *ff*

3 3 3

37

37

40

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Cb.

Perc.

Tape

mp \longleftarrow \longrightarrow f

fp \longleftarrow f mf \longleftarrow f mp fp \longleftarrow mf

3

44

S. Sx.

mf *sfz* *sfz* *mp* *f*

3 3 3

44

Pno.

44

S.Cb.

sfz *mf* *p* *f* *mp*

3

44

Perc.

44

Tape

S. Sx.

Pno.

S.Cb.

Perc.

Tape

50

S. Sx.

mf *p*

3 3 3 3 3 3

50

Pno.

mp

50

S.Cb.

mf *mp* *mf*

gradual sul tasto *normal* *sul pont.*

50

Perc.

Congas *mp*

50

Tape

54

S. Sx. *mf* *f* *p* *pp*

Pno. *mf* *f*

S.Cb. *p* Glissando w/ accelerating bowing

Perc.

Tape

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for five parts: S. Sx., Pno., S.Cb., Perc., and Tape. The S. Sx. part starts at measure 54 with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It features a melodic line with trills marked with '3' and dynamic markings of *mf*, *f*, *p*, and *pp*. The Pno. part consists of two staves (treble and bass clefs) with a *mf* dynamic marking and a *f* dynamic marking at the end. The S.Cb. part is in the bass clef, starting with a *p* dynamic and a *p* dynamic marking, and includes a performance instruction: "Glissando w/ accelerating bowing". The Perc. part uses a snare drum and cymbal notation. The Tape part includes a treble clef staff with a short melodic fragment and three large, shaded, textured blocks representing tape effects, with a fourth block at the bottom of the page.

58

S. Sx. *mp* *mf*

Pno. *f* *mp*

S.Cb. *mf* *f* *mp*

Perc. 58 fingers trem. *pp*

Tape

60

S. Sx.

p f sfz mp mf

Pno.

f mp sfz mp mf

S.Cb.

f sfz p

Perc.

60 normal

mf f sfz mp

Shaker B

Tape

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a multi-instrument ensemble. It begins at measure 60. The Saxophone (S. Sx.) part starts with a long note, followed by a series of eighth notes with accents, and then a triplet of eighth notes. The Piano (Pno.) part has a complex texture with sixteenth notes and chords, featuring accents and dynamic markings. The Contrabass (S.Cb.) part has a melodic line with accents and dynamic markings. The Percussion (Perc.) part includes a 'Shaker B' section with a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes. The Tape part consists of three staves with graphic notation, including a wavy line, a series of vertical bars, and a series of diagonal lines.

64

S. Sx.

f *mp* *f* *ff* *mf*

3 3 3

Pno.

f *mp* *mf* *f* *ff* *mf*

3 5 5 5

S.Cb.

64

mp *mf* *mp* *mf*

Perc.

64

Ride Splash

mf *mp* *mf*

4 4

Tape

64

68

S. Sx.

ff *mf* *f* *mf*

Pno.

ff *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*

mp *mf* *p*

S.Cb.

mp *mf* *p*

Perc.

mp *mf* *p*

68

Tape

The score consists of five staves. The first four staves (S. Sx., Pno., S.Cb., Perc.) contain musical notation with dynamics and articulation. The fifth staff (Tape) contains a large graphic element consisting of a series of overlapping diamond shapes, with a treble and bass clef and time signatures 3/4 and 4/4. Below the Tape staff is a large, dark, horizontal graphic element that tapers to a point on the right.

72

S. Sx. *f mp ff f mf f*

Pno. *f mp ff f 3 3 mf f*

S.Cb. *mf f mf f*

Perc. *mf f f mf f*

Tape

The score consists of five staves. The S. Sx. staff has a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The Pno. staff has a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The S.Cb. staff has a bass clef. The Perc. staff has a single line with a snare drum icon. The Tape staff has a grand staff with treble and bass clefs. The music is in 5/4 time. Dynamics include *f*, *mp*, *ff*, *mf*, and *f*. Articulation includes accents (>), slurs, and breath marks (A). Fingerings are indicated with numbers 3, 5, and 3. The Tape part includes a graphic representation of a tape reel with a 7-second duration and a 5-second duration.

S. Sx.

Pno.

S.Cb.

Perc.

Tape

76

5 6

mp *ff* *mp* *f*

3 5 3 3 3

76

mp *ff* *mp* *f*

3 5 3 3 3

5

76

mp *ff* *mp* *f*

3 5 3 3 3

8va

76

3 3 5 3

mp *ff* *mp* *f*

China

76

3 3 5 3

mp *ff* *mp* *f*

76

4/4

4/4

4/4

80

S. Sx. *mf* *ff* *p*

Pno. *mf* *ff* *p*
mf *mp*

S.Cb. *mf* *f* *mf* *mp*
Pizz.

Perc. Shaker A *mf* Guiro *mf* *mp*

Tape

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for a contemporary ensemble. The S. Sx. part starts with a triplet of eighth notes, followed by a crescendo to *ff*, and then a decrescendo to *p*. The Pno. part has a similar triplet start, with a *ff* section and a *p* section. The S.Cb. part includes a *Pizz.* (pizzicato) section. The Perc. part features Shaker A and Guiro. The Tape part includes various sound effects, such as a dense cluster of notes, a rhythmic pattern, and a series of vertical lines.

85

S. Sx.

mf *p*

Pno.

simili...

85

S. Cb.

simili...

(solo) *Arco*

mp *mf*

Use one finger glissando as much as possible

Perc.

85

mf *p*

Tape

85

89

S. Sx.

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Pno.

89

S.Cb.

p *f* *ff* *mf* *f*

Perc.

89

Maracas

mp *p* *mp* *p* *mf*

Tape

89

93

S. Sx.

f *mf* *p*

93

Pno.

sfz *sfz* *sfz*

Clusters include all possible keys (black and white) within the indicated interval

93

S.Cb.

mp *sfz* *p*

sul pont.

3

normal

Double-stop glissando from random high notes, follow indicated contour, dynamics and duration.

93

Perc.

mf *p*

Fill, use indicated instruments follow dynamics and duration.

93

Tape

97

S. Sx. *mf* *f* *mf* *f* *p* *mp* *mf* *f*

Pno. *p* *mp* *mf* *p* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *p* *mp* *ff*

S.Cb. *sffz* *mp* *sffz* *mp* *p* *f* *p* *sffz* *mp*

Perc. *sffz* *mp* *sffz* *mf* *ff* *mp* *ff* *mf*

Tape

Glissando from random low note to random high note

Glissando from random high note to random low note

sul pont.

normal

102

S. Sx. *f* *p* *f* *fp* *ff* *mp*

Pno. *sfz* *mp* *ff* *p* *mf* (Both hands)

S.Cb. *p* *mf* *mp* *f* *mf* *ff* (Glissando w/ accelerating bowing) (Simili. w/ double-stop)

Perc. *fp* *ff* *p* *f*

Tape

Go wild, return to departure point, follow dynamics.

107

S. Sx. *f* *p* *f* *p* *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *f* *fff* *mp* *sf* *mp* *mf* *sf*

sul pont.

107 (\diamond)

S.Cb. *mf* *ff* *mp* *mf*

Mute all strings w/ L.H. trem. on indicated strings

Perc. 107 *mp* *ff* *p* Shaker B Maracas *mf*

Tape

112

S. Sx.

f *mp* *p*

Pno.

p *mp*

S.Cb.

mp

Perc.

Congas

f *mp* *p*

Tape

115

S. Sx.

115

Pno.

115

S.Cb.

115

Perc.

115

Tape

The image shows a musical score for measures 115 through 120. The staves are arranged vertically from top to bottom: S. Sx. (Soprano Saxophone), Pno. (Piano), S.Cb. (Soprano Clarinet), Perc. (Percussion), and Tape. Measures 115-119 are mostly empty, with rests indicated by short horizontal lines. Measure 120 contains musical notation for S. Sx. and Pno. The Tape staff shows a complex texture with a wavy line, a dense vertical line, and three large, jagged, black scribbled shapes.

120

S. Sx. Keys clicks

f *mp*

Pno.

120

S. Cb.

mf

Perc. On the sides of the drums

TmblH
L

mf

Tape

125

S. Sx.

mf *p* *mp*

Pno.

125

S.Cb.

mp *pp*

Perc.

125

Snare

Scratch w/ reverse brush

Ride

p *mf* *mp*

Tape

125

130

S. Sx.

pp

130

Pno.

Strum w/ fingernail inside the piano

mf

mp

mf

130

S.Cb.

Fingernail Pizz., close to L.H.

mp

mp

130

Perc.

130

Tape

136

S. Sx.

136

Pno.

136

S.Cb.

136

Perc.

136

Tape

Strum w/ fingernail inside the piano

15^{ma}-----

15^{ma}-----

f

mp

mp

f

Bounce the bow on muted indicated strings

mf

p

mf

pp

141

S. Sx.

Pno.

S. Cb.

Perc.

Tape

141

141

141

141

141

141

Simili., behind the bridge

mf

mp

pp

mf

p

mf

pp

Detailed description of the musical score: The score is for measures 141-144. The S. Sx. part consists of a series of 'x' marks on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp, with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Pno. part has two staves (treble and bass clef); measures 141-142 have rests, while measures 143-144 feature chords with a dynamic marking of *pp*. The S. Cb. part has a bass clef staff with a dynamic marking of *mf* in measure 141, followed by a series of downward-pointing triangles in measures 142-144, with a dynamic marking of *p*. The Perc. part has a single staff with a dynamic marking of *mf* in measure 141, followed by a circled 'W' symbol in measure 142, and a dynamic marking of *pp* in measure 144. The Tape part has two staves (treble and bass clef); the treble staff has a few notes in measures 141-144, and the bass staff has a dense, textured pattern of notes throughout.

146

S. Sx.

146

Pno.

146

S.Cb.

146

Perc.

146

Tape