Candace Bustard

I AM REAL

For Mixed Ensemble

Full score

2022

Instrumentation

Flute French Horn in F Guitar Cello Percussion 1: Vibraphone 1 Percussion 2: Vibraphone 2 Bass Drum

Duration: 10'10

Program Notes



I Am Real is a through-composed work centered on themes of self and cognition. The piece opens with subtle textures calling to mind that of a whispered thought. The music expands into small gestures which are sometimes angular, melodic, and emotive. These gestures are representative of the emotions within our thoughts; with focused exploration on fear, doubt, grief, confusion disorientation, and overwhelm. The triplet motif acts as a stream of consciousness that exists through the piece. However, when the body is overwhelmed, as in the aleatoric section of m. 54, the string of consciousness disappears. The mind is overtaken with the percussion of a racing heart and a pounding head. Dark as this piece may seem, there is an underlying conflict towards hope and positivity. The tonal and atonal are engaged in battle, the section at m. 78 draws on the bitonal system, where major chords sometimes break through the darkness. The conclusion being that there will always be a positive where negativity rules, one just has to listen for it.

Performance Notes

Guitar and Both Vibraphones: Unless otherwise articulated with staccato notation leave keys/string unmutued to continue the sound. (Vibraphone:) Minimal pedal changes should be done during the bowed vibraphone sections, unless the sound exceeds the the dynamic marking.

General

Aleiatoric sections are notated such that the vertical alignement indicates the relative timing. The conductor can use a stopwatch, or use approximate times to signal gestures.

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