

Final Exam Part 2: Composition based on an Ordered Series

1. Materials

1. For this composition, you need to choose an *ordered series of 7-9 notes* in which the smallest adjacent interval is no bigger than a minor third and which is *not* a degenerate collection. The ordering of the notes should *not* be a scale but should include both steps and leaps.
2. Before starting the piece, generate all 48 transpositions of the series in Prime (original), Inversion, Retrograde and Retrograde Inversion forms. Then choose at least two pairs of the prime set and a non-prime form that shares certain PCs in common, although the note order may be different. At least, in some sections of your work, these pairs should be used as a basis for proceeding from one phrase to the next.
3. Your piece must use the original series by itself in the first phrase, and it must also include passages with two or three forms of the series in counterpoint.
4. Different passages in your music must include the series stated as a succession in single notes, as dyads, as trichords, and as other combinations of notes and chords. It is also possible to use one or more notes to function in a dual capacity, both as the end of one series and as the beginning of the next.

2. Outline

1. The piece should begin with a statement of the series, and the first section should be a statement of a theme or idea, and it must include more than just the original series. It could be broken into subsections of different character.
2. The second section should be an extension or elaboration of the original theme, introducing new forms, ways of stating the series, and counterpoint.
3. The third section should be a development of the theme, stating at least two different forms in counterpoint, and concentrating on different partitions of the series.
4. Section 4 should be a shortened and abbreviated recapitulation.
5. The last section should be a coda, slowing in tempo or using longer note values, ending with a conclusive feeling.

3. Other Considerations

1. Include an outline showing your series and the forms that you use in each section. Label the sections in the piece.
2. This assignment is loosely modeled on Schoenberg's *Piano Piece*, Op. 23, No. 2. If you have questions about how to proceed, look and see what Schoenberg does in a comparable passage.