Gonçalo Gato

Vacuum Instability

for octet
Programme Notes:

Vacuum Instability is a work for an ensemble of eight musicians. The title is derived from a recent news article related to the probable scientific discovery of the Higgs boson: "A concept known as vacuum instability could result, billions of years from now, in a new universe opening up in the present one and replacing it." - BBC News, 19th February 2013. The idea of the inner workings of the Cosmos always fascinated me, and the fact that the universe could 'renew' itself in such a way is just so surprising. I guess these ideas are very similar to ideas about music material's variation and contrast.

London, March 2013

The piece was premiered on 15 March 2013 at the BBC Maida Vale Studios, London. Richard Baker conducted an ensemble comprised of BBC Symphony Orchestra musicians plus Guildhall School of Music and Drama students.

Instruments:

- Flute
- Clarinet in B♭, Bass Clarinet in B♭, Bassoon
- Trumpet in B♭
- Tenor Trombone
- Viola
- Contrabass
- Piano

Execution notes:

- Score notated in C.
- Accidentals last one bar and affect only the octave on which they appear.
- Rests outside the staff clarify the duration of the uninterrupted glissandi.
- The letter 'n', used as a dynamic marking, stands for niente, meaning silence.
Vacuum Instability

Score in C

Largo, \( \times = 50 \)

Flute

Bass Clarinet in Bb

Bassoon

Trumpet in Bb

Viola

Contrabass

Piano

- Whispa mute
- Increase bow pressure

- fuse in harmony
- Simile

- Sul C
- Sul D

- fuse in harmony
- fuse in harmony

- ord.
- s.v.
- s.v. sempre

- f
- \( \text{s.-fino} \)
B. Cl.

2

Fl

R. Cl.

Bsn.

Tpt.

Tbn.

Vla.

Cbs.

Pno.

s.v. sempre

fuse in harmony

s.v. sempre

s.v. sempre

simile

very plain

simile

simile

simile

simile

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

sul pont.

s.v. sempre

s.v. sempre

s.v. sempre

s.v. sempre

s.v. sempre

s.v. sempre

s.v. sempre
Uninterrupted glissando

Uninterrupted glissando

a little tenser

con fuoco

pizz.

a little tenser