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**Citation:** Gato, Gonçalo (2016). Algorithm and Decision in Musical Composition.  
(Unpublished Doctoral thesis, Guildhall School of Music and Drama)

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Gonçalo Gato

**Shapes**  
for string quartet



**Programme Notes:**

Shapes is a piece for string quartet dealing with the idea of sound shape. The various elements of music such as harmony, meter, tempo, rhythm and texture work as spaces (or conceptual canvas) on which forms develop. These forms can be, for instance, the melodic contour or the superposition of pulses that gradually sync with each other. The role of musical memory is also paramount as it constitutes one of the main resources for the composer to build coherence.

Premiered on the 20th of November of 2012 at The Forge, Camden, London, by the Ligeti Quartet.

**Notes for execution:**

- Accidentals (including quarter-tones) last for one bar and apply only to the octave in which they occur.
- Rests outside staves indicate prolongation time of *glissandi*.





**A**  $\text{♩} = 104$   
sul tasto

*p dolce*  
*f p*  
*n*  
*pizz. p*  
*arco*  
*f p*  
*pizz. p*  
*ffp* *mf* *f* *p* *f* *f* *sfz* *f* *mp*

$\text{♩} = 260$   $\text{♩} = 104$

**29** Sul G uninterrupted glissando Sul G+A

*pp arco*  
*p*  
*pp*  
*mf arco* *p* *mf* *pp*  
*mf* *p* *mf* *pp*  
*pp* *ff*  
*mf* *ff*  
*mf* *ord.* *ff* *ff*  
*mf* *ord.* *ff* *ff*  
*pp* *pp*  
*pp* *ff* *pp*

**B**  $\text{♩} = 192$   
tallone

*pp* *ff*  
*pp* *ff*  
*pp* *ff*  
*pp* *ff*  
*p* *p*  
*p* *p*  
*p* *p*

**40**

*pizz. l.v.*  
*pizz. l.v.*

44

pizz. l.v.

pizz. l.v.

47

(gliss.)

52

$\text{♩} = 120$   
(pizz.)

arco gliss. follow contour

arco gliss. follow contour

arco gliss. follow contour

*mp* *p* *p* *p* *mp* *f* *ff* *p*

*p* *p* *p* *mp* *f* *ff* *pp*

*p* *p* *p* *mp* *f* *ff* *pp*

C

59

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*



Musical score for measures 62-63. The system consists of four staves. The top two staves are in treble clef, and the bottom two are in bass clef. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). Measure 62 features a quintuplet in the first staff. Measure 63 continues the melodic and harmonic development.

Musical score for measures 64-66. The system consists of four staves. Measure 64 starts with a new melodic line in the first staff. Measure 65 continues the pattern. Measure 66 features a quintuplet in the first staff and a *fff* dynamic marking in the second staff.

Musical score for measures 67-72. The system consists of four staves. Measure 67 includes tempo markings:  $\text{♩} = 180$  and  $\text{♩} = 120$ . Measure 68 has a *pp* dynamic. Measure 69 has *p* and *pp* dynamics. Measure 70 has *p* and *pp* dynamics. Measure 71 includes *pizz.*, *arco*, and *Sul G* markings. Measure 72 includes *ord.*, *sul pont.*, and *tr* markings. A *ff* dynamic is also present.

Musical score for measures 73-76. The system consists of four staves. Measure 73 features quintuplets in the first staff. Measure 74 includes *pizz.* and *arco* markings. Measure 75 includes *mf* and *p* dynamics. Measure 76 includes *ord.*, *tr*, and *f* markings. A *ff* dynamic is also present.



96 ord. → sul pont.

*f* *p* *f* *fp*

*pp* *mf*

100 ♩ = 92  
ord.

*fp* *f* *fp* *f* *p* *fp*

*fff* *n* *pp*

107

*f* *p* *fp* *f* *p* *fp* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p* *f* *p*

111 ♩ = 72  
G

*pp* *fp* *f* *f* *pp* *ff* *p* *p*

*pp* *ff* *f* *f* *pp* *ff* *p* *p*

*p* *ff* *f* *p* *pp* *ff* *p* *p*

*ff* *p* *p* *pp* *ff* *p* *p*

117

Musical score for measures 117-120. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in alto clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The music features complex rhythmic patterns with sixteenth and thirty-second notes. A sixteenth-note triplet is marked with a '6' in the first measure of the first staff. A dynamic marking of *p* is present in the second measure of the second staff.

121

Musical score for measures 121-124. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in alto clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. The instruction *pizz. l.v.* (pizzicato left hand) is written above the first and second staves in measures 121, 122, and 124. Dynamic markings of *p* and *pp* are used throughout the system.

125

Musical score for measures 125-128. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in alto clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings of *p* and *pp* are used throughout the system.

128

Musical score for measures 128-131. The system consists of four staves. The top staff is in treble clef, the second in alto clef, the third in bass clef, and the fourth in bass clef. The music continues with complex rhythmic patterns. Dynamic markings of *p* and *pp* are used throughout the system.