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 (Unpublished Doctoral thesis, Guildhall School of Music and Drama)

This is the accepted version of the paper.

This version of the publication may differ from the final published version.

Permanent repository link: http://openaccess.city.ac.uk/17292/

Link to published version:

Copyright and reuse: City Research Online aims to make research outputs of City, University of London available to a wider audience. Copyright and Moral Rights remain with the author(s) and/or copyright holders. URLs from City Research Online may be freely distributed and linked to.
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.

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.

Instruments:

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

Pianissimo, \( \frac{3}{4} \)

\( \text{Flute} \)

\( \text{Clarinet in Bb} \)

\( \text{Bassoon} \)

\( \text{Trombone} \)

\( \text{Tuba} \)

\( \text{Violin} \)

\( \text{Cello} \)

\( \text{Piano} \)

\( \text{Very noble, marce} \)

\( \text{Col legno batt.} \)

\( \text{Getato} \)

\( \text{Muffle strings} \)

\( \text{Sul pont.} \)

\( \text{Sul A} \)

\( \text{Silently depress} \)
Tbn.  
Pno.  
Pno.  
Bsn.  

senza sord.

 senza sord.

ord.  

 arco  

con fuoco  

p  

con fuoco  

f  

con fuoco  

p  

f  

f  

f  

Pno.
molto rit.

125

pp

fff

solo al fine

ff

firmly