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Gonçalo Gato

Dégradé
Program notes

Dégradé is a french term that we use in Portugal to describe a gradual shift from one colour to another. This work for ensemble conveys a shift of composition focus from figure to sound. In the beginning, I focused on shapes of melodic figuration and their orchestration. Gradually, the focus on harmonic colour and overall sound shape becomes more important. I guess one can also hear these 'gradations' on a smaller scale.

London, 11th of June of 2012

This piece was premiered in London, UK, at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama’s Music Hall on the 5th of July of 2012 by the Chroma Ensemble, conducted by Christopher Austin.

Execution notes:

- Accidentals last one bar, affecting only the octave on which they appear.
- In this piece, the changes of harmonic 'colour' and musical texture are of paramount importance. Many times they occur as a kind of fade-out/fade-in.
- There are two main characters in this piece. From the beginning to F the music is energetic, eventful, a little agitated. From F onwards the music is soft, sensitive, "silky", even a little lyrical. From E to F a sort of transition exists.
Dégradé

Score in C
at concert pitch

Gonçalo Gato

Flute
Bass Clarinet in B
Violin
Violoncello
Piano

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accel. . . . . . . . Tempo primo
(\( \omega = 100 \))

rit.

A tempo
(\( \omega = 100 \))
Meno mosso

To Fl.

Bass Clarinet in Bb