

*Serenity Meditation*  
*(after Ives)*  
*for chamber orchestra*

*Kyle Gann*  
2011

## *Serenity Meditation* (2011)

"Serenity" (1919) is one of my favorite songs by Charles Ives, and one of the rare pieces in his output in which his mysticism achieved the state of a timeless continuum. I've always regretted its brevity, and the two perfunctory chords that bring it to a premature conclusion. One day it occurred to me to take the song's material and stretch it out over a longer period of time. I also added in a few motives from his last composed song, "Sunrise" (1926), which has a similarly aimless feel, plus a phrase from "General William Booth Enters into Heaven." I like to think I extracted what was Feldman-like from Ives's most Feldmanesque pieces, and turned it into something Gannian. I wrote the piece after Neely Bruce invited me to give the keynote address for a festival of Ives's songs, and I dedicate the piece to him.

Instrumentation: two flutes, two oboes, two clarinets in Bb, bass clarinet, two bassoons, solo horn, chimes, timpani, celesta, strings

Duration: 13 minutes

to Neely Bruce

# Serenity Meditation

Kyle Gann  
2011

Devout, reverent

$\text{♩} = 35$

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. It features the following instruments and parts:

- Flutes:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Oboes:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Clarinets in Bb:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Bass Clarinet in Bb:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Bassoon:** Bass clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Horn in F:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Chimes:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Timpani:** Bass clef, 2/2 time signature. Part begins with the instruction "medium mallets" and a dynamic marking of *p*. The notation shows a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes with accidentals: G4, A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5.
- Celesta:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Part begins with a dynamic marking of *p*. The notation shows a melodic line starting with a quarter rest, followed by a half note G4, and then a series of eighth notes: A4, B4, C5, D5, E5, F5, G5.
- Violin I:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Violin II:** Treble clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Viola:** Alto clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Violoncello:** Bass clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.
- Contrabass:** Bass clef, 2/2 time signature. Staff contains a whole rest.

A tempo marking  $\text{♩} = 35$  is placed below the Celesta staff.

*Serenity Meditation*

© Copyright 2011 by Smith Grabholz Music





22

Fl. *p*

Ob.

Cl. *p*

B. Cl.

Bsn. *mf* *p*

Hn. *mf* *p*

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. *mf* *p*

Cb.

Serenity Meditation

28

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mf* *p* *mf*<sup>3</sup>

*mf* *p* *mf*

*mf* *p* *mf*<sup>3</sup>

Serenity Meditation

35

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

A

a 2

*mp*

*mf*

*mf*

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 35, features a woodwind and string ensemble. The woodwinds include Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and Horn (Hn.). The strings consist of Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). Percussion includes Chimes, Timpani (Timp.), and Cymbals (Cel.). The score is divided into two systems. The first system (measures 35-40) includes a section marked 'A' (measures 37-38) and a first ending 'a 2' (measures 39-40). Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *p* (piano). The second system (measures 41-46) also includes a section marked 'A' (measures 43-44) and a first ending 'a 2' (measures 45-46). Dynamics include *p*. The Flute part has a first ending 'a 2' in measure 39. The Clarinet and Bass Clarinet parts have a first ending 'a 2' in measure 45. The Bassoon and Horn parts have a first ending 'a 2' in measure 45. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts have a first ending 'a 2' in measure 45.

*Serenity Meditation*

41

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

3

3

Detailed description: This is a page of a musical score for 'Serenity Meditation', page 7. The score is for a woodwind ensemble and includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Timpani (Timp.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute part begins at measure 41 with a triplet of eighth notes. The Clarinet and Bass Clarinet parts play a melodic line starting with a *mf* dynamic. The Bassoon part provides a harmonic accompaniment. The Timpani part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a triplet in the final measure. The string parts (Violins, Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass) are mostly silent, with the Violoncello part showing some activity in the lower register. The score is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C).

*Serenity Meditation*



**B** a tempo

53 rit. unis.

Fl. *mp*

Ob. *p* *mf*

Cl. *p*

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. *p*

Hn. *p*

Timp.

Cel. *mp*

Vln. I *mp* *p* *pp* div.

Vln. II *mp* *mf*

Vla. *mp* *mf*

Vc. *pizz.*

Cb. *p* *mf*







77 *b* *e* *C* 1. *p*

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel. *mp*

Vln. I *C*

Vln. II *pp*

Vla. *pp*

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*Serenity Meditation* *p*

84

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mf*

*mf*

*Serenity Meditation*

90

**D**

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mf*

*p*

*pp*

**D**

96

Fl. *mp* a 2

Ob. *p* a 2

Cl. *p* 1. 3 7

B. Cl. *p*

Bsn. 1. *p*

Hn.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 16, contains measures 96 through 100. The score is for a symphony or orchestra. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The string section includes Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute part begins at measure 96 with a dynamic of *mp* and a first ending marked 'a 2'. The Oboe part enters at measure 98 with a dynamic of *p* and a first ending marked 'a 2'. The Clarinet part has a first ending marked '1.' and a triplet of eighth notes. The Bassoon part has a first ending marked '1.' and a dynamic of *p*. The Horn part has a melodic line. The Violin I and II parts have a sustained melodic line. The Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass parts have a rhythmic accompaniment. The score is written in a key with one sharp (F#) and a common time signature.





113

Fl. *p* a 2 rit. **E** *a tempo*

Ob. *p* a 2

Cl. *p* a 2

B. Cl.

Bsn. *p* a 2

Hn.

Timp.

Cel. *mp*

Vln. I *mp* rit. **E** *a tempo*

Vln. II *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *p*

Cb. *p*

Serenity Meditation



125

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

130

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*f*

*a 2*

*mf*

5

3

3

3

5

5

5

5

5

5

*Serenity Meditation*

134

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*mf*

*f*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 134, features ten staves. The top five staves are for woodwinds: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The next two staves are for percussion: Horn (Hn.) and Timpani (Timp.). The following two staves are for strings: Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), and Cello (Vc.). The bottom staff is for the Double Bass (Cb.). The score begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The woodwinds and strings play a melodic line with various dynamics, including *p* (piano), *mf* (mezzo-forte), and *f* (forte). The cello part features a complex rhythmic pattern with many quintuplets. The bassoon and double bass parts have a more active, rhythmic accompaniment. The horn part has a few notes in the later measures, marked *f*. The timpani part has a simple rhythmic pattern. The overall texture is dense and melodic.

Serenity Meditation

139

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), and Cello (Cel.). The second system includes Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Cello (Cb.). The Flute part begins with a dynamic of *mp* and a fingering of *a 2*. The score features a dynamic shift from *mp* to *f* across the systems. The Cello and Viola parts play a complex, multi-layered texture with many beamed notes. The Bassoon and Cello parts in the second system have a similar multi-layered texture. The Horn part has a few notes in the first system and is silent in the second. The Violin and Viola parts have a melodic line with some rests. The Cello part in the second system has a melodic line with some rests.

Serenity Meditation

144

Fl. *p*

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Cel.

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p*

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

150 1.

Fl. *p*

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn. *p* *f* a 2

Hn. *pp* 3

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc. *f*

Cb. *p*

**F**

**F**

*Serenity Meditation*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 26, covers measures 150 to 155. The score is for a full orchestra and includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute part begins at measure 150 with a first ending bracket and a dynamic marking of *p*. The Bassoon part starts with a dynamic marking of *p* and ends with a dynamic marking of *f* and a second ending bracket labeled 'a 2'. The Horn part begins in measure 153 with a dynamic marking of *pp* and includes a triplet of eighth notes. The Cello part has a dynamic marking of *p*. The Violoncello part has a dynamic marking of *f*. The Contrabass part has a dynamic marking of *p*. There are two boxed 'F' markings above the Flute and Cello staves, indicating a first ending. The title 'Serenity Meditation' is centered at the bottom of the page.

156

Fl. *a 2*

Ob. *a 2*  
*mf*

Cl.

B. Cl. *a 2*  
*mf*

Bsn. *mf*

Hn.

Chimes

Timp. *mp*

Cel. *mf*

Vln. I *div.*

Vln. II *div.* *p*

Vla.

Vc. *f*

Cb.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 156, features ten staves. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.), with dynamic markings of *mf* and *a 2*. The string section consists of Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.), with dynamics ranging from *p* to *f*. The percussion section includes Timpani (Timp.) at *mp* and Celesta (Cel.) at *mf*. The score contains various musical notations such as triplets, slurs, and dynamic markings.

Serenity Meditation

161  $\flat$

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*f*

*Serenity Meditation*

165

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

169

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

173

Fl.  
Ob.  
Cl.  
B. Cl.  
Bsn.  
Hn.  
Timp.  
Cel.  
Vln. I  
Vln. II  
Vla.  
Vc.  
Cb.

The musical score is for a piece titled "Serenity Meditation". It begins at measure 173. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Timpani (Timp.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score features a variety of musical techniques: the Flute and Oboe play melodic lines with slurs and triplets; the Clarinet and Bass Clarinet provide harmonic support with sustained notes and slurs; the Bassoon has a melodic line with slurs; the Horn plays a steady melodic line; the Timpani provides a rhythmic accompaniment with sustained notes; the Cello plays a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets; the Violins and Viola play sustained chords and melodic fragments; the Violoncello and Contrabass provide a low-frequency accompaniment with slurs and triplets. The score is written in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The piece concludes with a *p* (piano) dynamic marking.

Serenity Meditation

The musical score is for a piece titled "Serenity Meditation". It is written for a full orchestra and includes the following parts: Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Timpani (Timp.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score begins at measure 177. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/4. The piece starts with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking, followed by a *div.* (divisi) instruction. A rehearsal mark **G** is placed above the first staff at the start of measure 200. The tempo changes from *rit.* to *a tempo* at measure 200. The dynamic marking *p* (piano) is used throughout. The woodwinds (Fl., Ob., Cl.) play a melodic line with a *p* dynamic. The strings (Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., Vc., Cb.) provide harmonic support, with Vln. I and Vln. II playing a *mp* (mezzo-piano) line. The percussion (Timp., Cel.) play a rhythmic pattern. The score ends with a *p* dynamic marking.

Serenity Meditation

183

Fl.

Ob. *mp*

Cl. 1. 3

B. Cl. *p* 3 3 3

Bsn.

Chimes *p*

Timp.

Cel. *p* 5 5 5

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

188

The musical score is arranged in a system of staves. The woodwind section includes Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.). The string section includes Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The percussion section includes Chimes, Timpani (Timp.), and Celesta (Cel.).

Key musical features include:

- Flute:** Starts with a rest, then plays a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp* and a *a 2* marking.
- Oboe:** Features a first ending (*1.*) and a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp*.
- Clarinet and Bass Clarinet:** Both play triplet patterns with a dynamic marking of *mp*.
- Bassoon:** Plays a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp*.
- Chimes:** Provides a sustained, atmospheric accompaniment.
- Timpani:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes.
- Celesta:** Plays a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *mp* and a *5* marking.
- Violin I and II:** Play sustained chords and melodic fragments.
- Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass:** Remain mostly silent, indicated by rests.

*Serenity Meditation*

192

Fl.

Ob.

Cl. 1. *mp*

B. Cl. *mp*

Bsn.

Hn. *mp*

Chimes

Timp.

Cel. 5

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

197

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mp*

*Serenity Meditation*

202 **H** a 2 warmly

Fl. *mp*

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn. *mp*

Hn. *mp*

Chimes *p*

Timp.

Cel.

**H** warmly unis.

Vln. I *ppp* *mp* unis.

Vln. II *ppp* *mp*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp* arco

Cb. *mp*

209

*molto rit.* *a tempo* *molto rit.* *a tempo*

Fl. *p*

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn. *mp*

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel. *mp* *p*

Vln. I *mp* *pp* *div.*

Vln. II *mp* *pp* *div.*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp* *arco*

Cb. *mp*

*a 2*

*Serenity Meditation*

216

3

1.

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

*mp*

3

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

222 Almost without ritard

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Chimes

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Almost without ritard

May 25-July 5, 2011  
Slight revisions Dec. 2024  
Germantown, NY

*Serenity Meditation*