Passager, for string orchestra

Hans Höglund 2012

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Title and note

Passager (sv. passages, paths)

Instrumentation

- Violin I-IV
- Viola I-II
- Cello I-II
- Double Bass

Timing

This piece makes use of both metrical and non-metrical passages.

- Metrical passages are played as usual and may be conducted.
- Non-metrical passages are approximate in duration and may be cued by the conductor. A slight drift from the tempi indicated in the score is perfectly acceptable.

Tuning

- Odd-numbered Vl, Vla and Vc parts tunes A4 to 443 Hz
- Even-numbered VI, Vla and Vc parts tunes A4 to 437 Hz
- Double bass tune A4 to 440 Hz (A1 to 55 Hz)

The other strings should be tuned in relation to the A-string as usual.

The tuning should require no special seating arrangement. Retuning from standard tuning to the tuning required by this piece should be as simple as retuning once for each section, using a tuning machine or similar device.

Intonation

As amost every chord in the piece use open strings or harmonics, harmonic intonation should not be much of an issue. Melodic intonation must be determined by context:

- Single melodic lines against open-string chords should follow the perceived fundamental of the harmonic background.
- Polyphonic passages should be intonated to sound well, i.e. slight adjustments may be added at the discretions of the ensemble and the conductor.

Doubling

All parts may be doubled. If several parts are doubled but not all, the musicians should strive for a balance between the two main tuning sections (i.e. avoid doubling just the upper parts or vice versa). As melodic lines are distributed roughly equally between parts, this should be reflected in the number of players in each part.

Certain cues are required to be played by a single musician even if the parts are doubled, as indicated by *solo* and *tutti*. Preferably, these passages should be distributed evenly among the musicians, instead of being played by designated soloists.

Miscellaneous

Vibrato