

Listening Log – Pulse

Peter Rauscher

“I pledge my honor that I have abided by the Stevens Honor System.”

Introduction.

The track “Data.Hypercomplex” by Ryoji Ikeda comes off the album titled *Dataplex* – released in 2005 – an experimental compilation of digitally recorded songs mimicking the mass amount of digital data which we utilize daily on our many devices. Ryoji Ikeda is a Japanese electronic composer and visual artist known for his minimalistic and mathematical approach to music, often using data and technology in his works.

Description.

The track begins with a high-pitched, very quickly repeating beeping noise interjected occasionally by a lower-pitched but equally fast thumping sound. The beeping sound is occasionally **accented** by an even higher-pitched tone in the same **pattern**. The beeping **pattern** continues throughout the course of the song, at the same **BPM** and in the same **pattern**, until the very end, when the volume of the song increases alongside the noise becoming increasingly more distorted for about 10 seconds. Judging based on the “percussion” track (if you want to call it that), the sound does appear to be in a **discrete time sense**, and I personally heard it as having a 6 time signature. Towards this very end of the song, as the noises all fade to static, the **meter** changes, and the song starts to pulse at a slower rate.

Personal Perceptions.

Despite its seemingly flat first appearance, this track actually began to evoke more and more emotion and imagery from me the more I listened to it. Originally, it was hard to look past the minimalism, but the second time around, I started to appreciate the minimalism, the texture of the sound, and the way it blurred the line between music and noise. Now, each time I listen I’m met with an image of endless office space, with printers and fax machines buzzing away.