

*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. In a way I think I extracted what was Feldman-like from Ives's two most Feldmanesque pieces, and turned it into something Gannian.

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. The instruments are listed on the left side of the page, with their corresponding staves. The score is in 2/2 time and consists of six measures. The instruments and their parts are:

- Flute:** Rests in all six measures.
- Oboe:** Rests in all six measures.
- Clarinet in Bb:** Rests in all six measures.
- Bass Clarinet in Bb:** Rests in all six measures.
- Bassoon:** Rests in all six measures.
- Horn in F:** Rests in all six measures.
- Tubular Bells:** Rests in all six measures.
- Timpani:** Plays a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes with a sharp sign (F#) in the first five measures, followed by a quarter rest in the sixth measure. The dynamic is *p*.
- Celesta:** Rests in the first two measures, then plays a melodic line starting in the third measure. The dynamic is *p*. The tempo marking  $\text{♩} = 35$  is placed below the staff.
- Violin I:** Rests in all six measures.
- Violin II:** Rests in all six measures.
- Viola:** Rests in all six measures.
- Violoncello:** Rests in all six measures.
- Contrabass:** Rests in all six measures.

7

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

div. *pp*

div. *pp* *pp*

*pp*

14

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vc.

*mf*

*mf*

21

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vc.

*mf*

*mf*

Serenity Meditation

27

Timp. Cel. Vln. I Vln. II Vc.

*p* *mf* *p*



33

Timp. Cel. Vln. I Vln. II Vc.

*mf* *p*

Serenity Meditation

39 **A**

Fl. a 2 *mp* [3]

Cl. *mf* *mf*

B. Cl. *mf* *mf*

Timp. *mf* *mf*

Cel.

Vln. I **A**

Vln. II

Vc. *p*

45

Fl. [3]

Cl. *mf* *< mf*

B. Cl. *mf* *< mf*

Timp. [3]

Vc.

**B**

a tempo

50

Fl. *p*

Ob. *p* *a 2*

Clarinet: *p*

Cl. *p*

B. Cl. *p*

Hn. *p*

Timp.

Cel. *mp*

Vln. I

Vc.

*rit.*

**B**

*a tempo*

Serenity Meditation

55

Fl. *mp* 3

Cl.

B. Cl.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel. 5 3 *mf*

Vln. I div. *pp*

Vln. II *mf* *mf*

Vla. *mf* *mf*

Vc.

Cb. pizz. *p* *mf*

Serenity Meditation



61

Fl.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mf*

*mf*

The musical score is for a piece titled "Serenity Meditation". It features seven staves: Flute (Fl.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute part begins at measure 61 and includes three triplet markings. The Cello part also features a triplet. The Violin II and Viola parts are marked with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The Violoncello and Contrabass parts have rests in the first two measures. The score is written in a key with one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature.

*Serenity Meditation*

66

Fl.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

3

3

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 8, contains measures 66 through 70. The score is for a chamber ensemble consisting of Flute (Fl.), Clarinet (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute part begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. It features a melodic line with a trill in measure 67 and triplet markings in measures 68 and 69. The Clarinet part also uses a treble clef and F# key signature, playing a similar melodic line with trills. Violin I (Vln. I) is in treble clef with F# key signature, playing a sustained melodic line with a slur. Violin II (Vln. II) is in treble clef with F# key signature, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with a *mf* dynamic marking. Viola (Vla.) is in alto clef with F# key signature, playing a rhythmic accompaniment with a *mf* dynamic marking. Violoncello (Vc.) and Contrabass (Cb.) are in bass clef with F# key signature, playing a simple rhythmic accompaniment. The score is divided into five measures by vertical bar lines.

Serenity Meditation

71

Fl.

Bsn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

match volume with basses  
a 2  
mp

Serenity Meditation

76

Fl.

Bsn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

**C** 1.

*p*

*mp*

**C**

*p*

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format with eight staves. The Flute part (Fl.) begins at measure 76 with a melodic line, marked with a first ending bracket and a dynamic of *p*. The Bassoon (Bsn.) provides a harmonic accompaniment. The Clarinet (Cel.) enters in measure 76 with a melodic line, marked with a dynamic of *mp*. The Violin I (Vln. I) part features a melodic line with a first ending bracket and a dynamic of *p*. The Violin II (Vln. II) and Viola (Vla.) parts provide harmonic support. The Violoncello (Vc.) and Contrabass (Cb.) parts provide a steady bass line. The score includes dynamic markings (*p*, *mp*) and first ending brackets.

Serenity Meditation

82

Fl.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*pp*

*pp*

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 82, features seven staves. The Flute (Fl.) staff at the top contains a melodic line with eighth-note patterns and slurs. The Cello (Cel.) staff follows with a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The Violin I (Vln. I) staff is mostly silent, indicated by horizontal lines. The Violin II (Vln. II) staff begins with a melodic phrase in the first measure, marked *pp*, and then remains silent. The Viola (Vla.) staff also begins with a melodic phrase in the first measure, marked *pp*, and then remains silent. The Violoncello (Vc.) staff is silent throughout. The Contrabass (Cb.) staff provides a steady bass line with eighth notes. The score is organized into measures by vertical bar lines.

*Serenity Meditation*

88

Fl.

Hn.

Tub. B.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

**D**

*mf*

*pp*

**D**

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 12, contains measures 88 through 93. The score is for a symphonic ensemble. The Flute (Fl.) part begins in measure 88 with a melodic line of eighth and sixteenth notes, marked with a dynamic of *mf*. The Horn (Hn.) and Trombone (Tub. B.) parts enter in measure 89 with a sustained, melodic line, also marked *mf*. The Cello (Cel.) part plays a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes with a dynamic of *mf*. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) parts are mostly silent, with Vln. II playing a few notes in measure 93 marked *pp*. The Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.) parts are also mostly silent, with the Cb. part playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. A section marker **D** is placed above the Flute staff in measure 90 and above the Violin II staff in measure 93.

94

Fl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*pp*

1.

1.

*p*

The musical score is for a piece titled "Serenity Meditation". It features nine staves: Flute (Fl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score begins at measure 94. The Flute part has a first ending (1.) starting in measure 94. The Bassoon part has a first ending (1.) starting in measure 95. The Horn part plays a melodic line starting in measure 94. The Cello part is silent. The Violin I part starts with a *pp* dynamic in measure 94. The Violin II part plays a melodic line. The Viola part is silent. The Violoncello part is silent. The Contrabass part plays a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes with a sharp sign. Dynamics include *p* and *pp*. First endings are marked with "1." and a repeat sign.

*Serenity Meditation*

100

Ob.

B. Cl.

Hn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*mp*

1. 3

3

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 14, contains measures 100 through 105. The score is for a full orchestra. The woodwind section includes Oboe (Ob.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Cello (Cel.). The string section includes Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Oboe part begins in measure 100 with a rest, then enters in measure 103 with a triplet of eighth notes marked *p* (piano). The Bass Clarinet part has a melodic line starting in measure 100, marked *p*. The Horn part has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The Cello part has a rest until measure 105, where it plays a triplet of eighth notes marked *mp* (mezzo-piano). The Violin I part has a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Violin II part has a similar melodic line. The Viola and Violoncello parts have rests. The Contrabass part has a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The tempo is marked 100.

*Serenity Meditation*



106

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*mp*

*a 2*

1. 3

3

3

3

Serenity Meditation

III

Fl. *a 2*

Ob.

Cl. *p*

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

The musical score is for a piece titled "Serenity Meditation". It features a woodwind section with Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), and Bassoon (Bsn.), and a string section with Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The score is marked with a Roman numeral "III" at the beginning. The Flute part has a dynamic marking of *p* and a first ending bracket labeled "a 2". The Clarinet part has a dynamic marking of *p* and a triplet of eighth notes. The Bass Clarinet and Bassoon parts have a dynamic marking of *p* and a triplet of eighth notes. The Horn part has a dynamic marking of *p* and a triplet of eighth notes. The Violin I and Violin II parts have a dynamic marking of *p* and a triplet of eighth notes. The Viola, Violoncello, and Contrabass parts have a dynamic marking of *p* and a triplet of eighth notes.

*Serenity Meditation*

116

Fl. *rit.* **E** *a tempo*

Ob. *a 2*

Cl. *p* *a 2*

Bsn. *a 2* *p* *mp*

Hn.

Tub. B.

Timp.

Cel. *mp* *rit.* **E** *a tempo*

Vln. I *p*

Vln. II *p*

Vla. *p*

Vc. *p* *p*

Cb. *p* *mp*

Serenity Meditation

121

Cl. *mf* a 2 3

B. Cl. *mf* 3 3

Bsn.

Timp.

Cel. 5 5 5 5 5 5 5

Vln. I *mf* *p*

Vln. II *mf* *p*

Vla. *mf* *p*

Vc. *mf* *p*

Cb.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 121, features a woodwind and string ensemble. The woodwinds include Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), and Cello (Cel.). The strings consist of Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The percussion part includes a Timpani (Timp.). The score is written in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The woodwinds and strings play a melodic line starting at measure 121, marked with a dynamic of *mf* (mezzo-forte). The strings use a *mf* bowing technique. The woodwinds feature a triplet of eighth notes in measures 123 and 124. The cello part is characterized by a continuous pattern of five-fingered chords. The dynamic shifts to *p* (piano) in measure 125 for the string and woodwind parts. The bassoon and contrabass parts play a steady eighth-note accompaniment.

Serenity Meditation

126

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

3 a 2

3

3

3

5

5

5

5

5

5

5

*Serenity Meditation*

130

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*f*

*a2*

*mf*

3

5

Serenity Meditation

134

Fl.

Ob.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*mf*

*f*

*Serenity Meditation*

138

The musical score consists of seven staves. The Bsn. staff (top) is in bass clef and contains a melodic line with slurs and accents. The Hn. staff is in treble clef and contains a melodic line with a long rest. The Cel. staff is in treble clef and contains a complex texture of chords and arpeggios. The Vln. I, Vln. II, Vla., and Vc. staves are in treble, treble, alto, and bass clefs respectively, and contain melodic lines with dynamic markings of *mp* and *f*. The Cb. staff (bottom) is in bass clef and contains a melodic line with slurs and accents.

Serenity Meditation



143

Bsn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

Serenity Meditation

148

Fl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*pp*

*p*

1.

3

The musical score is for a piece titled "Serenity Meditation". It begins at measure 148. The instrumentation includes Flute (Fl.), Bassoon (Bsn.), Horn (Hn.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Contrabass (Cb.). The Flute part starts with a first ending bracket over a series of eighth notes, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The Bassoon part has a long note in the first measure, followed by rests, and then a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The Horn part has rests for the first three measures, followed by a triplet of eighth notes marked *pp*. The Cello part has a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure, followed by eighth notes and a triplet of eighth notes. The Violin I, Violin II, and Viola parts have a melodic line in the first measure, followed by rests. The Violoncello part has a melodic line in the first measure, followed by rests. The Contrabass part has a steady eighth-note accompaniment throughout, marked with a piano (*p*) dynamic.

Serenity Meditation

154

**F**

Fl. *mf*

Ob. *mf* a 2

Bsn. *f* a 2

Hn.

Timp. *mp*

Cel. *mp* 3 3

**F**

Vln. I *p* div.

Vln. II *p* div.

Vla.

Vc. *f*

Cb.

a 2

*mf*

*f*

*mp*

*mp*

*p*

*p*

*f*

Serenity Meditation

This musical score is for the piece "Serenity Meditation" and covers measures 159 through 162. The score is arranged for a full orchestra and includes the following parts:

- Flute (Fl.):** Measures 159-162. Starts with a melodic line in measure 159, followed by rests in 160 and 161, and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 162.
- Oboe (Ob.):** Rests throughout all four measures.
- Clarinet (Cl.):** Measures 159-162. Rests in 159 and 160, then plays a melodic line in 161 and 162, including a triplet in measure 162. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in measure 161.
- Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.):** Measures 159-162. Plays a melodic line throughout, including a triplet in measure 162.
- Bassoon (Bsn.):** Measures 159-162. Plays a melodic line throughout, including a triplet in measure 162. A dynamic marking of *f* is present in measure 161.
- Horn (Hn.):** Rests throughout all four measures.
- Timpani (Timp.):** Measures 159-162. Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes with a dynamic marking of *f* in measure 162.
- Cello (Cel.):** Measures 159-162. Plays a complex rhythmic pattern of triplets and eighth notes throughout.
- Violin I (Vln. I):** Measures 159-162. Plays a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f* in measure 161.
- Violin II (Vln. II):** Measures 159-162. Plays a melodic line with a dynamic marking of *f* in measure 161.
- Viola (Vla.):** Measures 159-162. Rests in 159 and 160, then plays a melodic line in 161 and 162.
- Violoncello (Vc.):** Measures 159-162. Plays a melodic line throughout, including a triplet in measure 162.
- Double Bass (Cb.):** Measures 159-162. Plays a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes throughout.

Serenity Meditation

163

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

167  $\flat$

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

The musical score is arranged in a standard orchestral format. The Flute (Fl.) part begins with a measure containing a whole note G4 with a flat sign and a fermata. The Oboe (Ob.) part has a melodic line starting with a whole note G4 with a flat sign, followed by eighth notes. The Clarinet (Cl.) part is mostly silent, with a few notes at the end. The Bassoon (Bsn.) part has a melodic line starting with a whole note G2 with a flat sign. The Horn (Hn.) part has a few notes in the first measure. The Timpani (Timp.) part has a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes with a sharp sign. The Cello (Cel.) part has a complex rhythmic pattern with triplets. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) parts have a melodic line starting with a whole note G4 with a sharp sign. The Viola (Vla.) part is mostly silent. The Violoncello (Vc.) part has a melodic line starting with a whole note G2 with a flat sign. The Contrabass (Cb.) part has a rhythmic pattern of quarter notes with a sharp sign.

*Serenity Meditation*

171

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Bsn.

Hn.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

Detailed description: This page of a musical score, numbered 171, features a variety of instruments. The Flute (Fl.) part begins with a melodic line in the final measure. The Oboe (Ob.) and Clarinet (Cl.) parts include triplet markings. The Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.) and Bassoon (Bsn.) parts have sparse notes. The Horn (Hn.) part plays a steady eighth-note pattern. The Timpani (Timp.) part features a rhythmic pattern with sharp notes. The Cello (Cel.) part is characterized by complex triplet patterns. The Violin I (Vln. I) and Violin II (Vln. II) parts play sustained chords with some movement. The Viola (Vla.) part has a melodic line. The Violoncello (Vc.) part has a few notes. The Contrabass (Cb.) part plays a rhythmic pattern similar to the timpani.

*Serenity Meditation*

This musical score is for the piece "Serenity Meditation". It features a woodwind section with Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Clarinet (Cl.), Bass Clarinet (B. Cl.), Horn (Hn.), and Trombone (Timp.). The brass section includes Trumpet (Tr.), Trombone (Tbn.), and Cymbal (Cb.). The string section consists of Violin I (Vln. I), Violin II (Vln. II), Viola (Vla.), Violoncello (Vc.), and Double Bass (Cb.). The score is in 6/4 time and includes a key signature of one sharp (F#). It begins at measure 175. The woodwinds play a melodic line with triplets and slurs. The strings provide a harmonic accompaniment with sustained notes and some rhythmic patterns. The score includes dynamic markings such as *p* (piano) and *rit.* (ritardando). A section marked **G** *a tempo* begins at measure 200. The piece concludes with a final chord in the strings.



179

Fl.

Ob.

Cl.

Tub. B.

Timp.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*p*

*p*

*p*

*p*

185

Fl.

Ob.

Tub. B.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mp*

*p*

1.

1.

5

5

5

5

5

5

5

5

5

Serenity Meditation

191

Fl.

Cl.

B. Cl.

Hn.

Tub. B.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

3

1.

3

3

5

5

*Serenity Meditation*

196

Hn.

Tub. B.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*Serenity Meditation*

201

Fl. **H** *warmly*  
*mp*

Hn. *mp*

Tub. B.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I **H** *warmly unis.*  
*ppp* *mp*

Vln. II *ppp* *mp*  
*unis.*

Vla. *mp*

Vc. *mp*

Cb. *arco*  
*mp*

Serenity Meditation

207

Fl.

Hn.

Tub. B.

Timp.

Cel.

Vln. I

Vln. II

Vla.

Vc.

Cb.

*molto rit.* . . . *a tempo* 1.

*p*

*mp*

*a tempo*

*pp*

*pp*

div.

Serenity Meditation

Musical score for measures 213-218. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Tympani (Timp.), Cello (Cel.), Violin I (Vln. I), and Violin II (Vln. II). The Flute part features a triplet of eighth notes at the beginning of measure 213. The Cello part has a piano (*p*) dynamic marking and a triplet of eighth notes in measure 216. The Violin I and II parts have a *p* dynamic marking and play sustained chords.



Musical score for measures 219-224. The score includes parts for Flute (Fl.), Oboe (Ob.), Tympani (Timp.), and Cello (Cel.). The Flute part has a triplet of eighth notes at the start of measure 219. The Cello part has a triplet of eighth notes in measure 222. The instruction "Almost without ritard" is written above the Flute staff in measure 220. The score concludes with a double bar line at the end of measure 224.