

Ricercare

for three or more players

Any performer may start a phrase.

After the first performer starts playing, all performers enter at their own pace, until all are playing, after which players drop out one by one, each at their own pace.

The phrase is followed by a silence of indeterminate duration, after which another phrase may begin.

Material played is any simple motive of 2-5 notes within the range of a fourth. The specific fourth is agreed upon in advance; it is the same for all parts, and remains the same throughout the performance. Pitches may be from the chromatic gamut or microtonal; rhythms to be kept simple, mostly just a regular pulse. Each performer chooses his or her own material.

The motives are repeated throughout the phrase and may undergo a subtle shift in tempo, timbre, articulation, intonation, rhythmical timing (rubato) etcetera in the course of the phrase.

Dynamics are always very soft.

The material for a new phrase is at most slightly different from that of the previous phrase.

When no performer chooses to start a new phrase the piece finds its end.