

Kory Reeder

The *Art* of Drowning

for string orchestra

(2021)

General Considerations:

For String Orchestra (at least 2 to a part)

Open Duration

Always quiet

Start anywhere, on any page, but always move adjacently: vertically, horizontally, or diagonally

In any octave

Harmonics and chords are okay

Always non-vibrato

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Each player

 a long tone

 perhaps one tone quickly moving to

another

 in a small motion

 a gesture

This is an instance a wave

 shaped from nowhere growing

 not loud but firm

 full broad

Returning to silence

 waiting

 patiently regarding

 - in stillness

 - in a stasis

 - in suspended motion

The Ensemble

 players sound together

 beginning at the same time

When all is still and all is silent

 all patiently waiting for some time

 perhaps a long time

When the moment is right someone begins again

 and all players play together again

Eventually, the silence begins to fill

 the faintest tones

 remembered

Over there

Do this again and again

 until stasis remains

 a single sound

 unchanging and still

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The image displays a musical score for string orchestra, consisting of eight staves of music. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is written in a minimalist style, featuring a sequence of notes across the staves. The notes are: Staff 1: B-flat, D-flat, F, G, A, B-flat; Staff 2: B-flat, D-flat, F, G, A, B; Staff 3: B-flat, D-flat, F, G, A, B-flat; Staff 4: B-flat, D-flat, F, G, A, B; Staff 5: B-flat, D-flat, F, G, A, B; Staff 6: B-flat, D-flat, F, G, A, B; Staff 7: B-flat, D-flat, F, G, A, B; Staff 8: B-flat, D-flat, F, G, A, B. The notes are placed on various lines and spaces of the staves, creating a descending and then ascending melodic line across the ensemble.

