

The Machine Stops

for Flute, Piano and Video Conferencing Platform

Willyn Whiting

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Duration Approx. 8'30"

PROGRAM NOTE

The Machine Stops, for socially distanced duo and video conferencing software, is inspired by E.M.Forster's science fiction story of the same title (1909). Forster's dystopian vision is one of a global engineering failure which many people have likened to the Covid-19 pandemic. This work was written for an opportunity specific to the pandemic, but I also think that it should be used for commemorative purposes. If there is a moral to this story, behind the social critique, it is that we should preserve the information that is most vital to us.

PERFORMANCE NOTES

Both performers must be a significant distance away from one another, preferably in isolated rooms, coordinating their performance through a video conferencing platform such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, Discord etc...
The piece may be livestreamed or recorded and then streamed to a larger audience.

PERFORMANCE NOTES CONTINUED

Dur

At the top of each page of the score is an indication for the Duration of said page. This duration may deviate slightly.

It is not necessary that performers use stopwatches.

Both performers should read off the full score, preferably with personal tablets.

Flute Leads/Piano Leads

The performer who leads simply begins the section. The performer following will synchronize themselves to their partner's cue. In most cases this is for a single entrance, but at the end of the piece the follower must perceive themselves to be playing in time with their partner.

The Leader and the audience will not hear any synchronization because of lag from the video conferencing program.

X note-heads

indicate that the pianist should completely mute the strings with the palm of one hand.

Diamond note-heads

indicate that the pianist should mute the strings with their fingertips to create harmonics.

The desired sound of these harmonics may or may not be specified.

1 - Dur 30"

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Flute

$\text{♩} = 200$

mp *p* *mp* *f* *mf*

2-4x 2-4x 2-4x

PIANO LEADS - Flute starts when they hear the piano start after lag

Piano

$\text{♩} = 220$

Mute all the strings with R.H. fingertips near the hammers, move towards the middle of the strings.

fp *fp* *fp* *fp*

8^{va} Pedal (to end) *sim.*

2-4x 2-4x 2-4x