Singularity

by

Mark Ballora

For flute and live computer processing

Dedicated to Jui-Chih Wang

The precarious balance at an event horizon
Gradually succumbs and
Crosses the threshold
Beyond divisions and tensions
Only to yearn for their peculiar comforts

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State College, PA
Singularity
for Solo Flute and Live Computer Processing
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Performance instructions:

The boxed numbers throughout the score are cues to be executed by the computer operator.

Special score symbols:

♫ Tongue percussion

♩ Use tongue percussion and overblow to produce a harmonic at the octave

♩ Rotate the flute towards the mouth so that the pitch drops at the end of the note

♩ Rotate the flute away from the mouth so that the pitch rises at the end of the note

♫ Key click

Fingering suggestion:

The performer may wish to play G-Ab trills using the right second finger to play the Ab trill key to achieve greater speed and to avoid fatigue
Technical requirements

Singularity

The piece requires one person to act as computer operator and mixer.

The computer operator executes the computer processing states and mixes.

The computer sends audio via the MIDI mixer.

Theoutputs of the audio interface go to the mixer and the PA speakers.

The microphone signal is sent into a mixer and split, going both to the PA and into the computer audio interface.

Splitting the signal this way allows the unprocessed flute sound to blend with the processed sound, so the instrumentalist sounds integrated with the sound environment.

Performers should allow adequate time for setup and rehearsal prior to performances of the piece.
Exposition

\( \text{J} = 132 \) light, nervous and frenetic, "ahead" of the beat, with a bebop feel

Singularity
Transition

Playfully ("Blowing Bubbles")

The whole notes before the double bar line become the basis for computer-generated chords. They are like stepping stones.
The notes in between are to be played legere, molto espressivo, with flexibility of dynamic, duration, tempo, phrasing, and the presence or absence of rests.
They are like hopping and wading through a stream, from stepping stone to stepping stone.

Fade notes as soon as computer plays chord

Hold pitch through computer chord, then sing a gliss down an octave to the first note of the Cadenza
Cadenza

senza tempo, slow and meditative

Fl.

slow vibrato

somersaults

Fl.

whispering

Fl.

senza tempo, somewhat faster than before

Fl.
with trepidation

accent notes randomly

with increasing tension

cresc. poco a poco

\( \frac{3}{3} \) accel.

\( \frac{3}{3} \)

\( \frac{3}{3} \) accelerato poco a poco

\( \frac{3}{3} \)

\( \frac{3}{3} \) molto accelerato
accel. poco a poco

molto ritard

wait for CPU to drop

Coda

\[ \text{\textit{Drawn out in great sighs}} \]

Each note fades into a computer-generated chord

Tempo I