# Responses to imagined movements

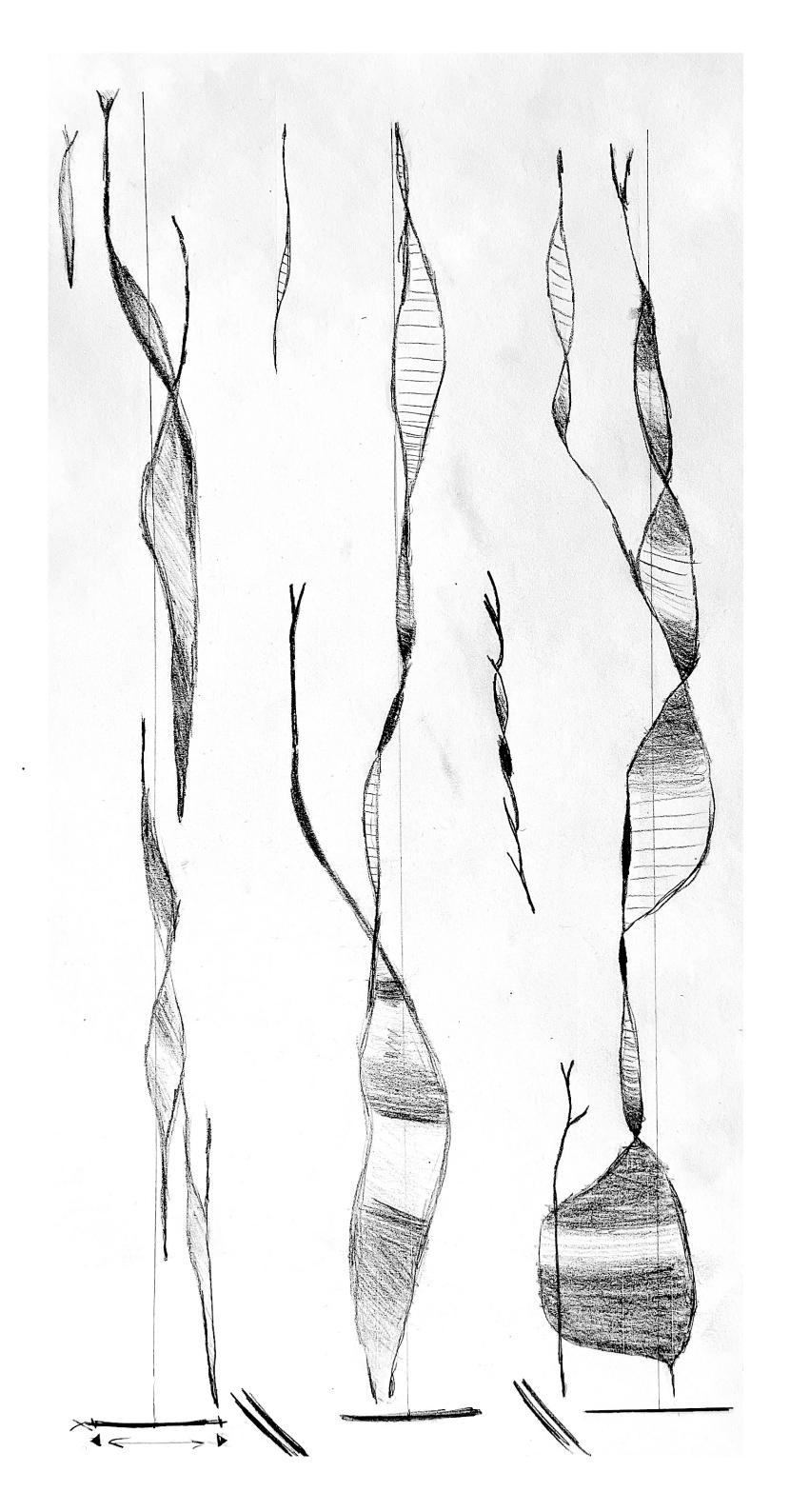
for 20 instruments

Jan Martin Smørdal

Commissioned by Telemark Chamber Orchestra &

Ensemble Kammerklang

2023



Drawing of imagined movements, from which "Responses" is created - Jan Martin Smørdal, 2023

#### Transposed score

# About the piece

This piece is compsed as a response, an interpretation, of a drawing inspired by imagined murmurations. At the same time it is also my response to Antonio Bibalo's piece "The Savage" (1983). Where Bibalo creates a fiction about the ur-Mench in 4 parts, I have tried to create a piece - as an experiment - for 20 musicians in an effort to describe something on the fundational behavioural responses.

The score alternates between graphical and traditional, sometimes both at the same time. I encourage the performers to listen for the present sounds as a whole, and - when aleatoric/improvisational parts occur - not overthink but rather react to the other performers.

# Remarks

Each measure has either a meter (conducted), or a duration (un-conducted, e.g. 5"). The duration is only applied to the full length of the measure; the tempo indications are meant to indicate the saturation of the motif/box/note(s), within in the bar(s).

The <u>beginning of unconducted measures</u> should not be precise; finish what is needed from last measure, then move on to the next. The same applies for new motifs appearing at the end of an unconducted measure; *aiming for* is better than *excact*. The conductor simply shows with the corresponding amount of fingers at each rehearsal mark. Where no number indication, but a split downwards arrow, the conductor give a downbeat.

#### Motif saturation:

**Ind** = Individual tempo

Synch = Synchronized (with spesific/all performers). Conducted

**Std** = Rhythm performed based on a steady pulse. **Ind** 

**Unstd** = Rhythm performed based on a un-steady/shifting pulse. **Ind** 

**f.a.p.** = fast as possible. Applies to motifs, but also different variants of trills.

Motivs framed in a **box** are to be <u>repeated</u>. The motive can be modulated (gliss./transitions, modulation), or extended for an suggested duration. The indications on lines: "**up**——" and "**down**——" simply mean repeat motif, and modulate, or gliss. up/down. If no indication (just line ——) = repeat.

#### **Headless notes without gliss. line** = repeat note(s)

**Headless notes with glissando line** = repeat note, and ad lib. microtonal changes from notated pitch to notated pitch.

# Strings techniques

 $\mathbf{m.s.t.} = \text{molto sul tast}$ 

 $\mathbf{m.s.p.} = \text{molto sul ponticello}$ 

**e.s.p.** = estremento sul ponticello, <u>on bridge</u>: barely a fundamental pitch, mostly random overtones

**x-noteheads** indicates dampened string(s), and no (specific) pitch, but string is indicated

**b.o.s.** = bow on string, dry on-and-off-sound, like a total beginner playing with bow.

**hammer-on** [always notated with noteheads in parenthesis, and with marcato symbol]= <u>no right hand</u> involved; firmly tap the indicated pitch to the fingerboard. The performer are encouraged to dampen strings as best as possible while using this technique; no adjecent string resonance.

slow wide vibrato = gliss. up/down major second/minor third

"f", "mp" etc indicates effort rather than audible dynamics.

**on 8va node** = bow placement exactly on the octave node of the current stopped note. E.g. if the performer holds an F on the D string, place the bow spot on the octave above the F. The result is a very soft sound, lacking overtones, almost panpipe like. This is a difficult technique, as it demands high precision to achieve this effect.

# Conductor:

Measures with duration in seconds (e.g. 10") must not be conducted. Only segments notated with **Synch** or a **tempo marking** are performed with conducting/traditionally. Still, it is encouraged to shape the music and guide the ensemble by other means throughout.

# Responses to imagined movements

Dry, rhythmic and forcefull No vibrato throughout

