

recursive retent (2016)

for two pianists, with one piano
by luke martin and aaron foster breilyn

dedicated to michael pisaro
(but only because he watched - and liked - star wars)

program notes:

retent - something that is retained especially in the mind

recursive - a possibly infinite procedure that is determined according to a to a rule or formula

definitions:

block >> phrase >> note

a block consists of a phrase from each of the players
phrases are of any number of notes

instructions:

the piece should last a long time.

notes should played softly and allowed to decay fully before the next note
(the pedal ought to be held down by something for the full performance)

each phrase must be made up of intervals of a 2nd (m/M) or 3rd (m/M).
each phrase must be followed by a silence approximately equal to its full duration.

a block must be followed by at least 2 minutes of silence.
each block begins with a phrase from player 1 in their register, followed by its repetition
by player 2 in their, opposite, register (the players should be positioned like piano duet players).
these roles should reverse at least once during the performance.

rules:

if player 2 deviates from player 1's phrase, player 1 must begin the phrase again immediately.
player 2 should still try to complete their repetition of the first phrase before beginning their,
corrected, repeat of the original phrase. if they make another error, player 1 again repeats the
correct version of the phrase, and so on.

should player 1 also fail to replicate their first phrase they should stop immediately and fall
silent. player 2 then may begin a new phrase.