

Classroom Online Resource Document (CORD)

Christine Lee, Gluck Fellow in Music

SHORT PATTERNS WITH VARIATION

An introduction to an exemplary piece of Minimalist music, *Clapping Music*. This piece is composed by musician Steve Reich. The piece is played using 2 people's clapping hands. It starts with one beat pattern and ends with the same pattern, but the piece is extended with a form of processing by shifting a beat ahead in each section.

Minimalism

Minimalism is an art form using limited/minimal materials developed primarily in the 1960s and 1970s. Minimalism can be found in visual art, literature, music, and other forms.

Key Minimalist composers include : Steve Reich, Terry Riley, Philip Glass, etc.

Clapping Music (1972)

Steve Reich –American Composer



Steve Reich is considered as one of the leading minimalist composers from the mid 20th century to present. He often creates music with repetition, including a technique called phase shifting by placing two identical figures in different speeds or placements in the same piece of music.

A whole section in *Clapping Music* is based on one rhythmic pattern__no.1 in measure 1. Performers will be divided into two groups and assigned to clap according to the beats notated as below. The performers of measure 2 move on to the next section after repeating a pattern for a designated length of time. Then they clap on a pattern, which is shifted to the left by an eighth note for each section as they progress, but the clap 1 keeps clapping on the same pattern the entire time.

♩ = 160-184 Repeat each bar 12 times/Répétez chaque mesure 12 fois/Jeden takt zwölfmal wiederholen

clap 1
clap 2

YouTube link to an illustrated performance of *Clapping Music*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzkOFJMI5i8&t=98s>