

Performing musical silence: markers, gestures, and embodiments Livingston, G.P.

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Performing Musical Silence: Propositions

- 1. Performers can employ many visible, audible, and contextual markers (such as gestures, breaths, rubato) to lead the audience to expect or experience silence.
- 2. Performers embody silence through a rich vocabulary of gestures, yet these are not notated and remain poorly documented.
- 3. Silence can serve a connective or a disconnective function in musical experience, sometimes simultaneously.
- 4. The visible gestures associated with musical silence can be as significant in conveying emotional and expressive intent as the silence itself.
- 5. Silence communicates in a way that sound cannot.
- 6. The tradition of performative decorum in Western classical music—which demands audience docility and silence as a mark of respect for the musicians, the score, and the composer—elevates silence to a status as sacred as the music.
- 7. Urban design that integrates quiet zones improves the quality of public life in noisy cities.
- 8. Mobile phones should be banned in the Concertgebouw because classical musicians want you to be present in person and spirit.
- 9. This room is designed to encourage audience silence.
- 10. Formula 1 racecar engines should be engineered to sound louder in order to improve the spectator's experience.