

Curved Form (No. 18)
for Three Tam-tams
& Live Electronics

Alex Groves

for Joby

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Instrumentation

Three Tam-tams
(Small, Medium & Large)

Live Electronics

Duration

8'

Notes

Curved Form (No. 18) is a slow motion wall of noise, created by looping and layering three tam-tams in a series of waves that converge at the centre of the piece. Starting with the low drone-like notes that the instruments produce, the piece gradually builds by adding more and more white noise to the mix until all six loops align. After this peak in intensity, the whole process is reversed and the loops are gradually stripped away again until you're left with just a single tam-tam played onstage.

In the score, the three tam-tams (small, medium and large) are laid out on the three lines of the staff with the smallest at the top and largest at the bottom. Any music enclosed by a 'R' and a bracket is being live recorded for use in the electronics.

The electronics require a stereo pair of microphones on the tam-tams and ideally a four-channel, surround sound PA (there is a stereo version available if necessary). The PA should totally enclose the audience so that they are fully immersed within the piece.

A pre-made Ableton Live is available from the composer to operate the electronics, please email music@alexgroves.co.uk for more information.

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Smooth and steady, like slow, unstoppable waves (♩ = 38)

System 1: Tam-tams (centre) *mp*

System 2: T-t. (centre) *mp*
Elec. *mp*
8

System 3: T-t. *mp*
Elec. *mp*
15

System 4: T-t. (centre) *mf*
Elec. *mp*
22

29 R (edge) R (edge)

T-t.

Elec.

mf

mf

mp

36 (edge)

T-t.

Elec.

f

ff

f

f

mf

mf

mp

mp

43

T-t.

Elec.

mf

mf

mp

mp