

## RECONCILIATION FOR SPEAKER AND MUSICIANS

This work was written in 1970 to a commission from Radio Suisse Romande. It was given its first performance in Neuchatel and first broadcast in the same year. It is based on two of the 'Uneasy Love Songs' by the American poet Philip Oxman. The 'reconciliation' of the title is effected between the verbal texts of the speaker - which are themselves antithetical in expression and phonetic character - and the non-verbal sounds of the instruments. The speaker's text declaimed at the opening is gradually taken up by the instruments, who play with it, comment on it, break it down, examine its significance as sound and symbol. While the two poems are rendered down and brought into a closer relationship with each other, the speaker pits his words against the instruments; the words progressively disintegrate, eventually exposing their constituents as sound. In the final section the music itself dissolves into an endless melody, and ultimately a single sung tone.

If a quasi-'theatrical' presentation is planned, in the first place the two texts should be shown juxtaposed on two large brightly lit panels situated behind the players. A silent pause should precede the recitation by the speaker. A fairly elaborate lighting-scheme could accompany what ensues, highlighting the two poems in turn and marking their gradual synthesis. The final 'dissolve' should be reflected in a gradual extinguishing of light.

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