John Cage

Music of Changes

Book 4

solo piano
THE RHYTHMIC STRUCTURE, 3-5-6½-6½-5-3½, IS EXPRESSED IN CHANGING TEMPO (INDICATED BY LARGE NUMBERS) (BEATS PER MINUTE). A NUMBER REPEATED AT THE SUCCESSING STRUCTURAL POINT INDICATES A MAINTAINED TEMPO. ACCELERANDOS AND RITARDOS ARE TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RHYTHMIC STRUCTURE, RATHER THAN WITH THE SOUNDS THAT HAPPEN IN IT.


PEDALS ARE INDICATED: — = SUSTAINING; — = AFTER THE ATTACK, SUSTAINING-OVERTONES; — — = UNA CORDA; — — = SOSTENUTO.

NOTE:
ACCIDENTALS APPLY ONLY TO THE TONES THEY DIRECTLY PRECEDE. ♭ (A DIAMOND) = A KEY DEPRESSED BUT NOT SOUNDED. TONE-CLUSTERS ARE NOTATED AS IN THE WORK OF HENRY COWELL.

DYNAMICS ARE BETWEEN FFF AND F. ACCENTS ARE INDICATED BY A LOUDER DYNAMIC FOLLOWED BY A SOFTER ONE; E.G. F - F IS A F SOUND ACCENTED LESS THAN F. F-

IT WILL BE FOUND IN MANY PLACES THAT THE NOTATION IS IRATIONAL; IN SUCH INSTANCES THE PERFORMER IS TO EMPLOY HIS OWN DISCRETION.