

Quatuor pour l'Aurore des Temps

I CELL

Interphase:

- G 1 growth
- S synthesis of DNA (firstly DNA unzips then forms two new strands)
- G 2 growth

During Mitosis:

prophase: condensing of material

metaphase: chromosome align in the middle, centromeres fasten chromosomes to the spindles (in the piano, arpeggios and chords bar 46-7)

anaphase: chromosome halves are pulled apart (glissandi from bar 54) and attach to centrosomes (both extremes of the piano register)

telophase and cytokinesis: forming of two new cells from the original one, two new cell envelopes are created.

II CRYSTALS

The forming of crystals takes a long time and needs special care and environment.

The notion of time and eternity is expressed by regular sounds (clarinet, pizzicati strings).

The fluid, aquatic character is expressed by glissandi on the strings of the piano.

Although many things happen, we can only guess at them (mysterious low register).

When crystals appear, they may be flooded with colors in the most beautiful and pure geometric forms.

At the end, crystals die out - they shrink and disappear.

III VIRUS

Here a cell is attacked by a virus. The virus enters surreptitiously through a lock (bar 21), explodes into many parts (bar 24) which are then multiplied as if by a copy machine.

These parts then reassemble to form new baby viruses, reach the surface of the cell and rush out to further attack. There is a short period of respite: a summer break, viruses being dormant whilst the clarinet enjoys light and freedom. This is followed by an even more violent attack leading to a pandemic influenza. The cell, so weakened, can no longer survive and dies off.

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