

A Musical Review of the Empty Set

Anna-Laura Sattelberger

Abstract

In this article, we make the empty set conceptually accessible for musicians, without supposing any background in higher mathematics. We build on the three-movement composition *4'33"* of John Cage.

1 From math...

Definition. The *empty set*, denoted by \emptyset , is the unique set containing no elements.

2 ...to music.

We found an adequate counterpart of the empty set to be given by the three-movement composition *4'33"* of John Cage, composed in 1952 for any combination of instruments. The following figure depicts a free interpretation of that piece.



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References

Authors' address:

Anna-Laura Sattelberger, MPI-MiS Leipzig

anna-laura.sattelberger@mis.mpg.de