

Face value - identify or describe what the musical score is

This is a piece by Cornelius Cardew called "Treatise", a 193-page score of abstract symbols that give no specifications to performers. Any number of musicians, using any instrument, can interpret Cardew's score how they see fit.

Extensions or digging deeper

This graphic score can be interpreted in any way the performer feels, therefore it is a true testament to their creative, critical analysis and expression. One might assign a particular instrument to each large, black dot, and subsequently use the lines around each dot as dynamic indicators (volume) and / or pitch alteration. The straight line in the middle could represent a timeline, indicating when each element should be performed in relation to the others.

Wonderings?

- 1. What different combinations of instruments would sound unique with this score?
- 2. How would I interpret this score? What instrument, if any, would I choose to perform it?
- 3. What is this piece about? Why was it written?
- 4. Is this music?