

Initiation: Music for Full Orchestra by Richard Wilson

I tried in this piece to set in contrast two musical ideas or textures. The first consists of atmospheric, sustained sonorities against which abrupt punctuations sound at irregular intervals of time. Generally the strings sustain and the winds and brasses attempt to interrupt. The second idea, which introduces the first clear pulse, takes on the character of a processional in which the lower brasses assume principal importance. This second idea is transformed in the coda into a somewhat faster march that, because of its asymmetrical meter, seems here and there to teeter. Well before this, the first idea has recurred as a sort of reprise, its sequence of events rearranged, individual woodwind solos extended and weighted, and its opening bell considerably elaborated upon.

--RW