

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA

to roll
to crease
to fold
to store
to bend
to shorten
to twist
to dapple
to crumple
to shave
to tear
to chip
to split
to cut
to sever
to drop
to remove
to simplify
to differ
to disarrange
to open
to mix
to splash
to smother
to spill
to droop
to flow

to curve
to lift
to inlay
to impress
to fire
to flood
to smear
to rotate
to swirl
to support
to hook
to suspend
to spread
to hang
to collect
of tension
of gravity
of entropy
of nature
of grouping
of layering
of jelling
to grasp
to tighten
to bundle
to heap
to gather

to scatter
to arrange
to repair
to discard
to pair
to distribute
to surfeit
to complement
to enclose
to surround
to encircle
to hide
to cover
to wrap
to dig
to tilt
to bind
to weave
to join
to match
to laminate
to bond
to hinge
to mark
to expand
to dilute
to light

to modulate
to distill
of waves
of electromagnetic
of inertia
of ionization
of polarization
of refraction
of simultaneity
of tides
of reflection
of equilibrium
of symmetry
of friction
to stretch
to bounce
to erase
to spray
to systematize
to refer
to force
of mapping
of location
of context
of time
of carbonization
to continue

ERIC SHANFIELD



SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA

Eric Shanfield | ENS.2014.6 | 12.10.14-11.3.16 | 14'

1. to roll
2. to curve
3. to scatter
4. to modulate

4 Sopranos

I am a great admirer of Richard Serra's work, and his famous "verb list" of 1967-68, which describes a multitude of ways things can be done to other things, seemed an excellent vehicle to pay tribute to his extraordinary influence, not only on my work but on pretty much everybody's.

Ostensibly the sixth in my ongoing series of "pocket symphonies", *Symphony for Richard Serra* differs from its predecessors not only in that it is composed for voices rather than instruments, but it for the first time (roughly) approximates classical symphonic form! The first movement is a kind of allegro, the second a slow movement, the third a scherzo, and the last a finale. Sort of.

In the opening movement, *to roll*, the four sopranos alternate articulating highly rhythmicized settings of each phrase. The second, *to curve*, is more meditative, drifting phrases gently overlapping. In the scherzo, *to scatter*, various contrasting little things are scattered here and there, each suddenly erupting from its predecessor, while the finale, *to modulate*, recalls and destabilizes ideas from each of the previous movements while also incorporating a few new things.

Although the first half of *Symphony for Richard Serra* was completed in December 2014, it took two years and numerous abandoned attempts before I figured out how to deal with the rest of the piece, and the 14-minute composition was (finally) completed in November 2016.

VERB LIST

Richard Serra (1967-68)

(1)

to roll
to crease
to fold
to store
to bend
to shorten
to twist
to dapple
to crumple
to shave
to tear
to chip
to split
to cut
to sever
to drop
to remove
to simplify
to differ
to disarrange
to open
to mix
to splash
to knot
to spill
to droop
to flow

(2)

to curve
to lift
to inlay
to impress
to fire
to flood
to smear
to rotate
to swirl
to support
to hook
to suspend
to spread
to hang
to collect
of tension
of gravity
of entropy
of nature
of grouping
of layering
of felting
to grasp
to tighten
to bundle
to heap
to gather

(3)

to scatter
to arrange
to repair
to discard
to pair
to distribute
to surfeit
to compliment
to enclose
to surround
to encircle
to hide
to cover
to wrap
to dig
to tie
to bind
to weave
to join
to match
to laminate
to bond
to hinge
to mark
to expand
to dilute
to light

(4)

to modulate
to distill
of waves
of electromagnetic
of inertia
of ionization
of polarization
of refraction
of simultaneity
of tides
of reflection
of equilibrium
of symmetry
of friction
to stretch
to bounce
to erase
to spray
to systematize
to refer
to force
of mapping
of location
of context
of time
of carbonization
to continue

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA

1. TO ROLL...

Richard Serra

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 152$ Rhythmic

5

Soprano 1
to roll to roll to roll to roll to crease

Soprano 2
to roll to roll to roll to roll to crease to

Soprano 3
to roll to roll to roll to roll to crease

Soprano 4
to roll to roll to roll to roll to crease to

Resultant Pattern
to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to crease to crease to



6

9

to crease to crease to crease to fold to fold to fold

crease to crease to crease to fold to fold to fold to

to crease to crease to crease to fold to fold to fold to

crease to crease to crease to fold to fold to fold

crease to crease to crease to crease to crease to crease to fold to fold to fold to fold to fold to

51 53

to shave to tear to tear

shave to tear to tear to

to shave to tear to tear

to shave to tear to tear

shave to shave to shave to shave to tear to tear to tear to tear to tear to tear to tear to



57 61

to chip_ to chip_ to to

chip to chip to to to

to chip to chip split_ split_

to chip_ to chip_ split split

chip to chip_ to chip to chip_ to chip to chip_ to chip to chip_ to split to split to split to split to

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA - 1. TO ROLL...

6

63 65 *ff* 69 *ff*

to to split split split split split split

to cut to cut to cut to cut to cut to cut to cut to cut

to se-ver to se-ver to se-ver to se-ver to se-ver to se-ver to se-ver to se-ver



70 73 *mf*

to se-ver to se-ver to se-ver to drop

to drop

se-ver to se-ver to se-ver to drop to

to drop to drop to drop to drop to

75 77

to drop_ to re-move

to drop to re-move to re-

drop to re-move to re-move

to drop_ to re-move to re-move

drop to drop_ to drop to drop_ to re-move to re-move to re-move to re-move to re-move to re-



80 81 85

to re-move to sim - pli - fy

move to sim - pli - fy

to sim - pli - fy to dif - fer_

to sim - pli - fy to

move to re - move to sim - pli - fy to sim - pli - fy to sim - pli - fy to sim - pli - fy to dif - fer_ to

122 125

to droop to flow to flow

to droop to flow

to droop to droop to flow to flow

droop to droop to droop to droop to droop to droop to droop to droop to flow to flow to flow to flow flow to flow to



128 129

to roll to roll roll to roll to roll roll

to flow roll roll to roll roll roll roll

to roll roll to roll to roll roll to roll

flow to roll to roll roll roll to roll

flow to flow to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll to roll

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA

2. TO CURVE...

Richard Serra

Eric Shanfield

mp $\text{♩} = 112$

1. 2.

Soprano 1
to curve to lift to in - lay to

Soprano 2
to curve to lift to in - lay to *mp* to im -

Soprano 3
mp to im -

Soprano 4

6 1. 2.

press to fire to flood to im *mp*

press to fire to flood to im *mp*

to

11 1. 2. *mf*

smear to ro - tate to swirl to *mf*

smear to ro - tate to swirl to *mf* to sup

16

port to hook to sus - pend to sup port to hook to sus - pend

port to hook to sus - pend to sup port to hook to sus - pend

24

to spread to hang to col - lect spread to

to spread to hang to col - lect spread to

to spread to

32

hang to col - lect of ten - sion to gra - vi - ty of en - tro - py

hang to col - lect of ten - sion to gra - vi - ty of en - tro - py

hang to col - lect of ten - sion gra - vi - ty — en - tro - py

hang to col - lect of ten - sion gra - vi - ty — en - tro - py

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA - 2. TO CURVE...

14

40

35

of ten - sion to gra - vi - ty of en - tro - py of na - ture
of ten - sion to gra - vi - ty of en - tro - py of na - ture of
of na - ture of
of na - ture

41

group - ing lay - er - ing_
group - ing of lay - er - ing_ of na - ture of group - ing of lay - er - ing_
group - ing of lay - er - ing_ of na - ture of group - ing of lay - er - ing_
group - ing lay - er - ing_

48

47

of felt - ing
of felt - ing
of felt - ing_ to grasp to tight - en_ of felt - ing_ to
of felt - ing_ to grasp to tight - en_ of felt - ing_ to

53 56

grasp to tight - en to bun - dle to heap to

grasp to tight - en to (oo) to

grasp to tight - en to (oo) to

grasp to tight - en to bun - dle to heap to

59

ga - ther to ga - ther to ga - ther

(oo) to ga - ther

(oo) to ga - ther

ga - ther to ga - ther to ga - ther

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA

3. TO SCATTER...

Richard Serra

$\text{♩} = 144$

Eric Shanfield

1

p < *f* > *p* *p* < *f* > *p* *p* < *f* > *p* *p* < *f* > *p* *p* <

Soprano 1
to scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to

Soprano 2
to scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to

Soprano 3
p to ar - range

Soprano 4
p to ar - range

7

f > *p* *p* < *f* > *p* 9

scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to

scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to scat-ter to

to ar - range

pp pitched whisper
to re-pair to re-pair to re-pair to re-pair

pp pitched whisper
to re-pair to re-pair to re-pair to re-pair

to ar - range to re-pair to re-pair to re-pair to re-pair

12

f > *p* *p* < *f* > *p* *p* < *f* > *p* *f* > *p*

to re - pair to re - pair to re - pair to re - pair

to re - pair to re - pair to re - pair to re - pair

p norm. > *f* *p* < *f* > *p* *f* > *p*

to dis - card to dis - card to dis - card to dis - card

p norm. > *f* *p* < *f* > *p* *f* > *p*

to dis - card to dis - card to dis - card to dis - card

18

21

pp pitched whisper
 to dis - tri - bute to dis - tri - bute to dis - tri - bute
pp pitched whisper
 to dis - tri - bute to dis - tri - bute to dis - tri - bute
p norm. *f*
 to sur - feit to sur - feit
p norm. *f*
 to sur - feit to sur - feit
f
 to pli to pli
f
 com ment com ment

23
 1.
 to sur - feit
 to sur - feit
 to pli
 to en - close to en - close to en - close
 com ment to en - close to en - close to en - close

28
 2.
 to en - close to en - close to en - close to sur -
 to en - close to en - close to en - close to sur -
pp pitched whisper
 to sur - feit to sur - feit to sur - feit to sur - feit
pp pitched whisper
 to sur - feit to sur - feit to sur - feit to sur - feit

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA - 3. TO SCATTER...

32

round to sur - round to sur - round to sur - round

round to sur - round to sur - round to sur - round

f pitched whisper

to en - cir - cle to en - cir - cle

f pitched whisper

to en - cir - cle to en - cir - cle

39 *p* to sur - round *mp* 41 to hide to co-ver *f* to hide to co-ver to *ff*

p to sur - round *mp* to hide to co-ver *f* to hide to co-ver to *ff*

p *f* *mf* norm. *ff*

to en - cir - cle to en - cir - cle to hide to co-ver to

p *f* *mf* norm. *ff*

to en - cir - cle to en - cir - cle to hide to co-ver to

45 *p* co - ver to co - ver to to *p* to to *p* to to

co - ver to co - ver wrap wrap wrap wrap

co - ver to co - ver to to to to

co - ver to co - ver wrap wrap wrap wrap

54 *f fp* *ff* *mf* **56** **60**

to dig to tie to tie to tie
 to dig to tie to tie to tie
 to dig to tie to tie to to to to
 to dig to tie to tie bind bind bind bind

61 *mp*

to bind to bind to bind to bind
 to bind to bind to bind to bind
 to to to to to to to to to to to to to to
 bind bind bind bind bind bind bind bind bind bind bind bind bind bind

66 *f*

to to to to to to to to to to to to to
 weave weave weave weave weave weave weave weave weave weave
 weave to weave to weave to weave to weave to weave to weave
 weave to weave to weave to weave to weave to weave to weave

71

73

to to to to to to to to

join join join join join join join join

match match match match match match

to join to join

to join to join

to

79

to to to to

match match match match

to la-mi-nate to la-mi-nate to la-mi-nate to la-mi-nate

to la-mi-nate to la-mi-nate to la-mi-nate to la-mi-nate

83

la - mi - nate

to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate

to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate to la - mi - nate

89

to bond to hinge to mark to mark to

bond to bond to hinge to hinge to mark to mark to mark to mark to

bond to bond to hinge to hinge to mark to mark to mark to mark

to bond to hinge to mark to mark

97

ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to

ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to

to di - lute

to di - lute

100

ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to di - lute to di - lute to di - lute to di - lute

ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to ex - pand to di - lute to di - lute to di - lute to di - lute

to di - lute to di - lute to di - lute to di - lute

to di - lute to di - lute to di - lute to di - lute

pp pitched whisper

pp pitched whisper

105

to to to to to to to light
light light light light light light light

(hum)
(hum)

p norm. *mf* *p*

to light to light to light to light
light light light light light light light

f *p sub.* *ff*

to light to light to light to light
light light light light light light light

p *f* *fff*

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA

4. TO MODULATE...

Richard Serra

Eric Shanfield

$\text{♩} = 138$ *ff*

Soprano 1
late late to to to to to late late

Soprano 2
ff
du du du mod mod mod mod du du du

Soprano 3
ff
mod mod mod mod du du du mod mod mod mod

Soprano 4
ff
to to to to to late late to to to to to

Resultant Pattern
to mo - du - late to mo - du - late to mo - du - late



3 *ff* 7 *ff*

till till to to to to to till till waves of waves of

ff
till till dis dis dis till till waves waves waves waves

ff
dis dis dis till till dis dis dis waves waves waves waves

ff
to to to to to till till to to to to to of waves of waves

to dis - till to dis - till to dis - till of waves of waves of waves of waves

11 14

waves of mag-net of e lec-tro-mag-ne-tic
 waves waves tro-mag-ne-tic lec-tro-mag-ne-tic
 waves waves lec-tro-mag-ne-tic tro-mag-ne-tic
 of waves of waves of e-lec-tro-mag-ne-tic mag-net
 of waves of waves of e-lec-tro-mag-ne-tic of e-lec-tro-mag-ne-tic



19 *f* *p* 22 *fp* < *f* *fp*

tia of of of of of of of
 ner ner ner ner in in in in in
 in in in in in ner ner ner ner
 of of of of of of of
 of i
 ni tion o
 o ni tion
 of i za
 of i-ner-tia of i-ner-tia of i-o-ni-za-tion of i-o-ni-za-tion

25 *mf* 29 *mf* *p*

po - la - ri - za - tion of po - la - ri - za - tion po - la - ri - za - tion of of re - frac frac-tion tion

po - la - ri - za - tion po - la - ri - za - tion po - la - ri - za - tion frac frac-tion tion

po - la - ri - za - tion po - la - ri - za - tion po - la - ri - za - tion frac frac-tion tion

of po - la - ri - za - tion po - la - ri - za - tion of po - la - ri - za - tion frac frac-tion tion

of po - la - ri - za - tion of po - la - ri - za - tion of po - la - ri - za - tion of re - frac - tion

30 *mf* *p* *mf* *p* 33 *mf*

frac frac-tion tion frac frac-tion tion si

of of re - frac frac-tion tion frac frac-tion tion mul

frac frac-tion tion of of re - frac frac-tion tion ta

frac frac-tion tion frac frac-tion tion of ne - i - ty

of re - frac - tion of re - frac - tion of si - mul - ta - ne - i - ty

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA - 4. TO MODULATE...

35 *mf* *mf* **40** *mp*

mul ta tides tides

ta of ne - i - ty tides tides

of ne - i - ty si tides tides

si mul of tides of tides

of si - mul - ta - ne - i - ty of si - mul - ta - ne - i - ty of tides of tides



42 **45** *mp* *pp* *mp*

of tides of tides flec - tion re re re re re flec - tion

tides tides flec - tion re re re re re flec - tion

tides tides flec - tion flec - tion

tides of re - flec - tion of re - flec - tion

of tides of tides of re - flec - tion of re - flec - tion

49 *mp* *p* 52 *pp echo*

e - qui - lib - ri - um of sym - me - try sym - me - try

qui - sym - me - try sym - me - try

lib - sym - me - try sym - me - try

of ri - um sym - me - try sym - me - try

of e - qui - lib - ri - um of sym - me - try sym - me - try



57 *p* *p* 59 *mp* 62 *mp*

fric - tion to stretch to to to to

fric - tion stretch bounce bounce bounce

fric - tion stretch to to to

of fric - tion stretch bounce bounce

of fric - tion to stretch to bounce to bounce

73

to sys - tem - a - tize to sys - tem - a - tize to sys - tem - a - tize



80

84

to re - fer to re - fer to re - fer to force to force to force to force

SYMPHONY FOR RICHARD SERRA - 4. TO MODULATE...

30

88 91 94

to force to force of map ping of map ping of lo ca tion of lo ca tion



96 99

of lo ca tion of lo ca tion of con text of con text of con text of con text

104

ff time time time of of time time time

ff of of time time time time time time of of

ff time time time of of of of time time time time time time

ff of of time time time time time time of of time time time

of time of time of time of time of time of time



111

109 ff time time time of car - bo - ni - za - tion of car - bo - ni - za - tion

ff of of time time time car - bo - ni - za - tion car - bo - ni - za - tion

ff of of bo - ni - za - tion bo - ni - za - tion

ff ni - za - tion ni - za - tion

of time of car - bo - ni - za - tion of car - bo - ni - za - tion

118

115

ff

of car - bo - ni - za - tion to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue

car - bo - ni - za - tion to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue

bo - ni - za - tion to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue

ni - za - tion to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue

of car - bo - ni - za - tion to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue



121

p sub.

to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue ue

to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue ue

to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue ue

to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue ue

to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue to con - tin - ue ue