

Cross-Town Traffic

(Elevator Music #2)

For the Great Learning Orchestra

1. The Orchestra assembles at a busy intersection at the centre of town that has a pedestrian crossing.
2. At the appointed time, the Conductor presses the button to operate the lights, thus stopping the traffic.
3. The Orchestra calmly walks onto the pedestrian crossing, sets up, and starts to play.
4. **Musical Material:** The choice of musical material and instrumentation is left open. In the original conception (which occurred to the composer in a kind of "Road to Damascus" incident at the intersection of Kungsgatan and Sveavägen in Stockholm at 11:26 on 2004-08-27) the ensemble was a Classical String Quartet playing Haydn.
 - 4a. Whatever musical material is chosen, it's probably best to make it something that is calming and serene, oblivious to the surrounding situation. This also gives space and consideration for the ensemble of motorists who will, no doubt, complete the soundworld of the piece with their own cadenzas and improvised passages, spontaneously orchestrated for car horns and verbal abuse.
5. **Duration:** The shorter the better is probably wise in this case. The point will more than likely be made after one cycle of the traffic lights. At which point, the Orchestra should vacate the crossing. It is advisable that the Orchestra does not hang around long enough for anybody present to call the law.
6. This piece may form the second movement of Elevator Music.

Robin McGinley
Stockholm
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