POLARITY

+ | -

and

Selected Excerpts from John Cage’s
Lecture on Nothing

Senior Thesis Recital by Benjamin Manning
POLARITY

Prelude

I. +

II. –

III. +

IV. –

V. +

Postlude

Modality, tonality, polarity are merely provisional means that are passing by, and will even pass away. What survives every change of system is melody. The masters of the Middle Ages and of the Renaissance were no less concerned over melody than were Bach and Mozart. But my musical topography does not reserve a place for melody alone. It reserves for melody the same position that developed upon it under the modal and diatonic systems.

Igor Stravinsky

Selected Excerpts from John Cage’s Lecture on Nothing

Our poetry now is the realization that we possess nothing. Anything therefore is a delight (since we do not possess it) and thus need not fear its loss. We need not destroy the past: it is gone; at any moment, it might reappear and seem to be and be the present. Would it be a repetition? Only if we thought we owned it, but since we don’t, it is free and so are we.

John Cage
Benjamin Manning  
guitar
Matthew Chilton  
horns and woodwinds
John Gilmore  
bass
Jonah Wolfson  
drums

Hi,

Thanks to Matt, Johnnie, and Jonah for all their time and effort. Thanks to Ron for advising me and for lunch. Thanks to John Cage. Thanks to my guitar teachers Frank and Tony. Thanks to everybody who loves music. Thanks to you for coming and reading this. Thanks to the Wesleyan University Music Department and the CFA/chapel staff and anyone who helped make this concert happen. Thanks to Mom, Dad & Tyge. //